



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

29 APRIL 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, 8 April 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 RYAN BROOKE - ENDORSE A POSITION OF ADVOCATING FOR THE OLD BANKSIA MENTAL HEALTH UNIT BUILDING TO BE REPURPOSED AS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL DETOXIFICATION CENTRE – FILE NO**

Reference: Item 10.1 to Ordinary Council 14 May 2024 - Minute No 97/24
 Item 10.2 to Ordinary Council 14 May 2024 - Minute No 98/24

MOTION

That Council:

- (i) endorse the position that the site of the current Banksia Mental Health Unit could be repurposed as a drug and alcohol detoxification centre once the new Banksia Mental Health Unit is operational;*
- (ii) write to the NSW Premier, NSW Minister for Health and the Local State Member the Hon. Kevin Anderson advocating for the repurposing of the current Banksia Mental Health building for this purpose;*
- (iii) request a report on actions taken by Council to assist in building a business case for a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in relation to the Council resolution made at the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 14 May 2024, as detailed in supporting commentary; and*

(iv) request that the facility, once operational, be appropriately staffed and serviced.

SUMMARY

The Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group, The Tamworth Regional Youth Council, and Tamworth Regional Council have previously endorsed Uniting's Fair Treatment Tamworth Region campaign calling for, amongst other things, the creation of a drug and alcohol detoxification centre as well as a separate rehabilitation facility within the Tamworth Region.

A group of the Fair Treatment Tamworth Region campaign volunteers have since split off from Uniting, as they wanted to focus their efforts on the Tamworth Region as opposed to larger lobbying efforts affecting the entire state. They established a new group: Drug & Alcohol Recovery & Treatment New England North West (DART).

DART have now launched a campaign calling for the site of the current Banksia Mental Health Unit to be repurposed as a drug and alcohol detoxification centre once the new Banksia Mental Health Unit is operational and the current site is vacated, with the support of State Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson. DART has also approached Councillors seeking Council's support for this campaign.

COMMENTARY

Uniting's Fair Treatment Tamworth Region campaign and previous endorsement by Council

At the meeting of the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group (TRCSWG) on the 22 February 2024, a presentation was given by a member of the Uniting Advocacy Team detailing the organisation's Fair Treatment Tamworth Region campaign, and subsequently TRCSWG endorsed the overwhelming need to establish a drug and alcohol detoxification centre as well as a separate rehabilitation facility within the Tamworth Region.

Following this TRCSWG meeting, a report came before Council at the 14 May 2024, Ordinary Council Meeting in relation to the TRCSWG meeting, in which the following motion was adopted by resolution:

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group Meeting - 22 February 2024 - Minutes", Council:

- (i) receive and note the Minutes;*
- (ii) in regards to the potential establishment of a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility within the Tamworth Region:*
 - (a) consider a review of Council owned land to determine any sites that may be suitable for such a facility;*
 - (b) investigate any funding options that may be available, particularly in relation to potential funding to develop a business case; and*
 - (c) write to the NSW Premier, NSW Minister for Health and the Local State Member the Hon. Kevin Anderson advocating for the establishment of such a facility in Tamworth.*

From the report on that item of business:

Fair Treatment Tamworth Region Campaign – a presentation was given by Alexandra Hogan representing the Uniting Advocacy Team. The Fair Treatment Tamworth Region campaign has been working with the community since 2021 to push for more local alcohol

and other drug treatment facilities within the Tamworth Region. This came about after members of a local Tamworth Uniting Church congregation recognised the gap in support options available and reached out to Uniting's Fair Treatment Team to support a local advocacy campaign.

The presentation was well received with a resolution recommending that Council investigate how it could assist in the establishment of a residential rehabilitation facility in Tamworth.

Over the past few years, the campaign has worked with local volunteers, service providers, community groups, councillors, and politicians. In 2022, the campaign conducted a survey in Tamworth of approx. 300 community members to better understand what key values underpin this community, what the alcohol and other drug (AOD) and health needs are for local people and what kinds of services local people want to see. Findings included:

- 71% of respondents were not satisfied with access to health care in their community; and*
- 98% of respondents said the community would be better off with more access to AOD treatment service.*

As for what types of services local people believe will meet the needs in the community, survey respondents and community consultation identified the following:

- mentoring programs;*
- residential rehab and local detox; and*
- a culturally appropriate trauma informed wellness centre (to treat both AOD and mental health issues).*

These have become the three guiding asks of the campaign and have formed the basis of the Fair Treatment Tamworth Region Pledge for people to sign up, show their support and keep updated on its progress.

Furthermore, at the same Council Meeting, a report of the minutes of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council meeting held on the 4 April 2024, came before Council. At this Meeting, Cr Impey (who at the time was not an elected Councillor) made a representation to the Youth Council as an advocate of the Fair Treatment Tamworth Region Campaign. The following items (amongst other orders of business resulting from the minutes) were adopted via resolution:

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Youth Council - Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4 April 2024", Council:

- (i) receive and note the minutes;*
- (ii) issue a letter on behalf of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council in support of the "Fair Treatment for Tamworth Campaign";*

From the report on that item of business:

Youth Councillors have pledged to provide a letter of support to the "Fair Treatment for Tamworth Campaign". The campaign aims to improve the level of resources available to youth affected by drugs and alcohol abuse in the Tamworth LGA while advocating for funding to service providers;

So while Council has been supportive of the Fair Treatment for Tamworth Campaign, our actions in the past have been in relation to assisting with building a business case for a potential residential rehabilitation facility within the Tamworth region. While these actions are

in support of one of the three guiding asks of the campaign, the identified need for a detoxification centre within the region is the other half of that particular ask.

Developments since Council's endorsement

Since the Council Meeting on the 14 May 2024, local volunteers involved in Uniting's Fair Treatment for Tamworth Campaign made an amicable split from Uniting as Uniting was embarking upon a wider campaign to the NSW Government advocating for drug decriminalisation, and local volunteers wanted to instead focus on initiatives to advance access to support and services for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction within the Tamworth and surrounding regions.

In October 2024, these local volunteers established a new organisation called Drug & Alcohol Recovery & Treatment New England North West (DART), and kicked off a campaign calling for the current Banksia Mental Health Unit facility within Tamworth Base Hospital to be converted to a drug and alcohol detoxification centre after construction on the new Banksia Mental Health Unit building at Tamworth Hospital is completed (which is due by the end of 2025), and the current building is vacated.

DART has gained the support of the Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson MP in this campaign. And they have made a representation to Councillors asking for Council's support as well. Although the decision on the future of the current Banksia building will be a decision for NSW Health, the combined support of both the local State Parliament member and the Local Government would be a powerful lobbying tool to show broad support for the repurposing of the old Banksia Unit to become a new detoxification centre in our region.

a. Policy Implications

Although there are no formalised policy implications, if supported this motion is calling on Council to take a position of being supportive of calls from DART to establish a detox centre at the site of the current Banksia Mental Health Centre once it is vacated.

b. Financial Implications

Nil

c. Legal Implications

Nil

d. Community Consultation

DART (and previously The Fair Treatment Tamworth Region Campaign) has undertaken community consultation in relation to the proposal for the establishment of a regional residential drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation facilities.

e. Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership.

Cr Ryan Brooke

Cr Charles Impey

24 April 2025

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAMES FOR APPROVED STAGED SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS ARCADIA WEST - DA2023-0232 DURI ROAD, HILLVUE (LOT 6 DP 1211122) - RN2025-0085

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES
AUTHOR: Sam Lobsey, Manager - Development

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That, in relation to the report 'Proposed Road Names for Approved Staged Subdivision known as Arcadia West - DA2023-0232 Duri Road, Hillvue (Lot 6 DP 1211122) - RN2025-0085', Council:

- (i) approve in principle the road names 'Cinnibar' Street, 'Bloodstone' Circuit, 'Obsidian' Place, 'Diamond' Drive, 'Vulcanite' Street, 'Moonstone' Way, 'Ammolite' Street, 'Hematite' Street, 'Aquamarine' Way, 'Tourmaline' Drive, 'Schorl' Drive, 'Onyx' Drive, 'Epidote' Street, 'Sunstone' Way, 'Malachite' Street, 'Grandite' Way, 'Pearl' Drive and 'Natrolite' Way;*
- (ii) advertise the proposed road names as required by the Roads Act 1993 Section 162, Roads Regulation 2018 Part 2 Division 1 Section 7 to enable interested parties the opportunity to make comment; and*
- (iii) provided no submissions are made which object to the proposed road names, proceed to publish the adopted names in the Government Gazette.*

SUMMARY

Development Application (DA2023-0232) for a 961 lot Torrens Title Subdivision was recently approved by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP). The purpose of this report is to recommend road names for the approved subdivision 'Arcadia West', identified as Lot 6 in Deposited Plan 1211122, Hillvue.

The proposed new roads will be formed off the already named entrance road of Opal Way, Hillvue.

Council has pre-approval from the Geographical Names Board to name the proposed new roads 'Cinnibar' Street, 'Bloodstone' Circuit, 'Obsidian' Place, 'Diamond' Drive, 'Vulcanite' Street, 'Moonstone' Way, 'Ammolite' Street, 'Hematite' Street, 'Aquamarine' Way, 'Tourmaline' Drive, 'Schorl' Drive, 'Onyx' Drive, 'Epidote' Street, 'Sunstone' Way, 'Malachite' Street, 'Grandite' Way, 'Pearl' Drive and 'Natrolite' Way which will be consistent with the developer's nominated road name theme being 'Gemstones and Minerals'.

COMMENTARY

Proposed Road Names: 'Cinnibar' Street, 'Bloodstone' Circuit, 'Obsidian' Place, 'Diamond' Drive, 'Vulcanite' Street,

‘Moonstone’ Way, ‘Ammolite’ Street, ‘Hematite’ Street, ‘Aquamarine’ Way, ‘Tourmaline’ Drive, ‘Schorl’ Drive, ‘Onyx’ Drive, ‘Epidote’ Street, ‘Sunstone’ Way, ‘Malachite’ Street, ‘Grandite’ Way, ‘Pearl’ Drive and ‘Natrolite’ Way.

Development Consent: DA2023-0232
Approval Date: 24 October 2024
Theme or origin of proposed names: Gemstones and Minerals
Geographical Names Board
Approval Date: Pre-approval 29 November 2024

The map **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, illustrates the subdivision layout and proposed road name locations.

(a) Policy Implications

Council's policy enables developers to propose a road naming theme for a new subdivision and to propose names for each individual road within the subdivision/precinct, prior to consideration by the Geographical Names Board.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

All new road names or changes to existing road names must be approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board.

(d) Community Consultation

The proposed road names will be exhibited for public comment in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993* Section 162, *Roads Regulation 2018* Part 2 Division 1 Section 7.

Should no submissions be lodged in objection to the proposed road names, Council will proceed to publish the adopted names in the Government Gazette.

In the instance that one or more valid objections are received in respect of the proposed road names, the matter will be reported to a subsequent Council Meeting for Council's further consideration.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities

7.2 PROPOSED ROAD NAMES FOR APPROVED SUBDIVISION - FOREST ROAD, MOORE CREEK (LOT 307 DP 1103639 AND LOT 69 DP 753851)

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES
AUTHOR: Sam Lobsey, Manager - Development

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That, in relation to the report 'Proposed Road Names for Approved Subdivision -

Forest Road, Moore Creek (Lot 307 DP 1103639 and Lot 69 DP 753851)', Council:

- (i) approve in principle the road names:***
 - a. 'Penrose' Drive;***
 - b. 'Bodalla' Close; and***
 - c. 'Kerewong' Close.***
- (ii) advertise the proposed road names as required by the Roads Act 1993 Section 162, Roads Regulation 2018 Part 2 Division 1 Section 7 to enable interested parties the opportunity to make comment; and***
- (iii) provided no submissions are made which object to the proposed road name, proceed to publish the adopted name in the Government Gazette.***

SUMMARY

Consents for the following Development Applications, DA0287/2006 (granted 3 February 2006); DA288/2006 (granted 5 May 2006); and DA435/2008 (granted 15 April 2008) all relate to the subject subdivision. Works are considered to have substantially commenced prior to the lapsing of each consent pursuant to Section 4.53 of Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The purpose of this report is to nominate new road names for the approved subdivision, identified on Lot 307 DP 1103639 and Lot 69 DP 753851, Forest Road, Moore Creek. Council has approval from the Geographical Names Board to name the proposed new roads 'Penrose' Drive, 'Bodalla' Close and 'Kerewong' Close. The road names are selected from NSW State Forests list and conform with the allocated Road Naming theme being 'Forests and Flora'.

COMMENTARY

Proposed Road Name:	'Penrose' Drive, "Bodalla' Close and 'Kerewong' Close.
Development Consent:	DA0287/2006; DA288/2006; DA435/2008
Approval Date:	3 February 2006; 5 May 2006; 15 April 2008
Theme or origin of proposed names:	Forests and Flora
Geographical Names Board Approval Date:	Approved 20 February 2025

The map **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, illustrates the subdivision layout and proposed road name locations.

(a) Policy Implications

Council's Policy enables developers to propose a road naming theme for a new subdivision and to propose names for each individual road within the subdivision/precinct, prior to consideration by the Geographical Names Board.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

All new road names or changes to existing road names must be approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board.

(d) Community Consultation

The proposed road names will be exhibited for public comment in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993* Section 162, *Roads Regulation 2018* Part 2 Division 1 Section 7.

Should no submissions be lodged in objection to the proposed road names, Council will proceed to publish the adopted names in the Government Gazette.

In the instance that one or more valid objections are received in respect of the proposed road names, the matter will be reported to a subsequent Council Meeting for Council's further consideration.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities

7.3 DRAFT TAMWORTH REGIONAL RURAL LANDS STRATEGY - PROPOSED PUBLIC EXHIBITION

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Mitchell Gillogly, Team Leader – Strategic Planning

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

- (i) approve the public exhibition of the Draft Tamworth Regional Rural Lands Strategy for a period of 28 days; and**
- (ii) receive a subsequent report to a future Meeting of Council to detail the outcomes of the public exhibition process with a recommendation as to the potential adoption of the Tamworth Regional Rural Lands Strategy.**

SUMMARY

A draft Tamworth Regional Rural Lands Strategy (draft Strategy) has been developed to determine a 20-year strategic approach for the management and protection of the social, economic and environmental values of rural lands within the Tamworth Region. The draft Strategy will also provide a framework for land use planning to underpin the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 (TRLEP 2010)* and the implementation of Local, Regional and State Government strategic plans.

The purpose of this report is to obtain a resolution of Council to proceed to public exhibition of the draft Strategy.

COMMENTARY

Background

The rural lands of the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (Tamworth LGA) are an important part of the New England North West region and broader New South Wales. The development of the draft Strategy provides a framework to guide decision making for the ongoing planning and management of the rural lands within the Tamworth LGA.

Tamworth Regional Council's land use vision for the future of the LGA, is identified in *Blueprint 100 – Part 1 and Part 2, (LSPS 2020)*. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) *New England North West Regional Plan 2041 (Regional Plan 2041)* sets a 20-year strategic land use planning framework for the region. These strategic planning documents guide planning decisions and growth management for the Tamworth Region.

The future adoption and implementation of the Tamworth Regional Rural Lands Strategy will assist Council in implementing the strategic intent of the *Regional Plan 2041* and Local Strategic Planning Statement (*LSPS 2020*).

Draft Rural Lands Strategy

The draft Strategy has been prepared to provide a framework to guide decision making for the ongoing planning and management of the rural lands within the Tamworth Region. Rural lands are a crucial part of the Tamworth LGA's economy and character. With a growing population, a range of diverse rural industries, important biodiversity, and emerging development including significant renewable energy and transmission line projects, within the region, Council needs to ensure that land use policy continues to support existing and future rural land uses, while providing for the needs of rural communities.

The draft Strategy is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The draft Strategy identifies eight Focus Areas and 28 associated actions. These actions are listed in full and comprise the final section of the draft document. A high level overview of the Focus Areas is provided below.

Focus Area 1: Prioritise agriculture and preserve the productivity of our rural lands

- consider changes to minimum lot size in consideration of landscape characteristics, viability of agricultural productivity and strategic objectives for the rural zones.
- implement measures to ensure State Significant Agricultural Land, Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land and Important Agricultural Land are used as key criteria in the decision-making process.

Focus Area 2: Reduce and manage land use conflicts

- implement measures to reduce land use conflicts including protecting established intensive agricultural clusters.
- advocate for renewable energy, extractive industries and mines to be located away from the Tamworth Regional LGA's highest quality agricultural lands in order to retain their use for primary production.

Focus Area 3: Improve safety and efficiency of inter- and intra-regional linkages

- identify opportunities for rural industries that may benefit from the Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility including the export of local agricultural products.
- collaborate with Transport for NSW to deliver the Western Freight Link and Eastern Detour to enable freight to move safely and efficiently throughout the region.

Focus Area 4: Support and diversify the rural economy

- promote attractions to encourage growth in key tourism market segments such as food and agritourism, farm-stay, or experience-based holidaymaking.

- continue to work with stakeholders to support initiatives, research, innovation, training and education in the agricultural industries.

Focus Area 5: Support rural housing in the right locations

- implement controls to unlock existing large lot residential zoned land.
- identify appropriate locations for Temporary Workforce Accommodation to support the livestock processing industry, rural industries and the New England Renewable Energy Zone (NEREZ).

Focus Area 6: Facilitate the prosperity of our rural communities

- continue to support Council's Place Managers to develop place-making opportunities that enhance local character, reinforce a sense of community and foster growth in our rural communities.
- continue to monitor future opportunities for rural communities to facilitate growth.

Focus Area 7: Protect and improve environmental, scenic and heritage values in rural areas

- enhance protection of environmental and scenic amenity for land that is of high biodiversity and scenic value.
- enhance protection of heritage items, landscapes and curtilages on rural lands.

Focus Area 8: Encourage sustainable and resilient rural land practices to strengthen the region's ability to respond to a changing climate

- consider natural hazards and the impact of climate change on rural lands and industries.
- collaborate with key stakeholders to secure reliable access to water in the region.

Community Consultation

As part of the comprehensive review of the *TRLEP 2010*, Council received 74 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from residents in relation to rural lands. The EOIs provide a valuable insight into the views of residents and have been used to inform the Focus Areas of this draft Strategy in connection with other key considerations and drivers of change.

It is intended to place the draft Strategy on public exhibition for 28 days. Community consultation will comprise:

- a dedicated 'Have your say' page on Council's website;
- targeted notification to members of the community, including those who lodged an EOI;
- community drop-in sessions at Tamworth, Kootingal, Nundle, Manilla and Barraba;
- a stakeholder engagement session with key industry and agency stakeholders;
- a notice on Council's social media;
- notices on television, radio and print media; and
- a physical display at all of Council's local branch offices.

(a) Policy Implications

The draft Tamworth Regional Rural Lands Strategy, if adopted by Council, would become a Council strategy.

(b) Financial Implications

Gyde Consulting were engaged to assist Council with the preparation of the draft Strategy. Funding for this is covered by the Future Communities budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Community and stakeholder consultation has occurred in the formulation of the draft Strategy as outlined in this report. Public exhibition will provide another opportunity for input into the draft strategy from interested parties. Furthermore, it is intended to concurrently exhibit the Planning Proposal for Secondary dwellings in certain rural lands to reduce the potential overlap of community consultation for these related projects.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A liveable built environment

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 2 APRIL 2025

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Graeme McKenzie, Manager - Strategy, Assets and Design

6 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 2 April 2025”, Council:

- (i) approve the reduction in loading zone hours fronting West Tamworth Bowling Club on Belmore Street, West Tamworth;*
 - (ii) approve the installation of 90 degree ‘rear to kerb’ parking bays and associated signage (as per the attached signage plan) on Bourke Street, Tamworth between Marius Street and the railway line;*
 - (iii) approve the installation of two disabled parking bays and formalised line marked parking bays fronting Tamworth Public School on Bourke Street, East Tamworth;*
 - (iv) approve the installation of a BL2 centre-line marking on Moore Creek Road, Moore Creek between Maysteers Lane and Davidsons Lane;*
 - (v) approve the installation of an additional Give Way (R1-2) sign at the intersection of Marsden Park Road and Whitehouse Lane, Calala; and*
 - (vi) approve the installation of a larger ‘kiss and drop’ area on Rowan Street, Manilla and a new disabled parking bay on Court Street, Manilla, along with various sign relocations as per the attached signage plan.*
-

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 2 April 2025.

COMMENTARY

The minutes from the Committee meeting held on 2 April 2025, are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

27/2025 – West Tamworth Bowling Club Loading Zone, Belmore Street, West Tamworth

Management of the West Tamworth Bowling Club have reached out to Tamworth Regional Council staff regarding a change to the Loading Zone on Belmore Street, West Tamworth. Figure 1 below shows the location of the West Tamworth Bowling Club.



Figure 1: West Tamworth Bowling Club, Belmore Street, West Tamworth

As there are a number of elderly patrons, the West Tamworth Bowling Club is requesting the existing Loading Zone (R5-23) signs be updated to restrict the loading zone to between 11am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. This will enable an extra four parking spaces close to the entrance of the club.

Details of the proposed signage change are shown on the **ATTACHED** signage plan, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support reducing the Loading Zone (R5-23) to between 11am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

28/2025 - On Street Car Park Line Marking, Bourke Street, Tamworth between Marius Street to the railway line

Council has received a request regarding the installation of car park line marking within the Tamworth central business district (CBD). Figure 2 below shows the location on Bourke Street, Tamworth.



Figure 2: Bourke Street parking spaces between Marius Street and the railway line, Tamworth

Council staff have investigated the site and observed that the site is currently sign posted as 45 degree 'rear to kerb' parking. If Council was to formalise the parking bays in their current arrangement, each bay would need to 3.7m wide, and would result in a maximum of eight bays installed. As shown within the **ATTACHED** signage and line marking plan, refer **ANNEXURE 2**, Council is proposing to change the configuration to 90 degree 'rear to kerb' parking to ensure at least twelve bays could be installed. An alternative option for 60 degree parking was also investigated, resulting in ten parking bays.

New No Stopping (R5-400) signs and Angle Parking [Rear to Kerb] (R5-505) signs will also be required on site to define the start of the parking bays.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the formal installation of 90 degree 'rear to kerb' parking bays (in lieu of existing 45 degree bays) and associated signage on Bourke Street, Tamworth between Marius Street and the railway line.

30/2025 – Tamworth Public School requesting Disabled Parking Spaces on Bourke Street, East Tamworth

Council has received a request from Tamworth Public School for three new disabled parking spaces to be installed around the school (one in Bourke Street, one in Napier Street and one in Brisbane Street). Figure 3 below shows the location of Tamworth Public School.



Figure 3: Tamworth Public School, East Tamworth

Following discussions with the School, and a site visit with staff from the School, Council advised the School that its preference was for visitors that required an accessible parking space to utilise two existing disabled parking bays within the School's own off-street car park, shown in Figure 4 below.



Figure 4: Two disabled parking spaces within school's off-street car park on Brisbane Street.

On Napier Street, only parallel car parking is allowed on both sides of the street. As the minimum width of a parallel accessible parking space is 3.2m, Council advised the School that its preference was not to install a parking space on Napier Street as it would be encroaching into the travel lane.

As a result, to ensure the School has four disabled parking spaces available for visitors, Council is proposing to install two new accessible parking spaces on Bourke Street in accordance with the **ATTACHED** signage and line marking plan, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

In addition to the disabled bays, Council is also recommending the adjoining car parking area (between the disabled bays and Upper Street) be line marked.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the installation of two new disabled parking bays and formalised car parking bays for Tamworth Public School on Bourke Street, East Tamworth.

32/2025 – BL2 Line marking, Moore Creek Road, Moore Creek

A member of the public has raised some concerns with Council regarding some near-misses on Moore Creek Road with overtaking movements between Maysteers Lane and Davidsons Lane. Figure 5 below shows the location on Moore Creek Road.



Figure 5: Moore Creek Road, Moore Creek between Maysteers Lane and Davidsons Lane

As per the **ATTACHED** line marking plan, refer **ANNEXURE 4**, Council is proposing to upgrade the existing road centreline to a Double Two-Way Barrier Line (BL2) to restrict vehicles from overtaking between Maysteers Lane and Davidsons Lane.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the installation of a Double Two-Way Barrier Line (BL2) on Moore Creek Road, Moore Creek between Maysteers Lane and Davidsons Lane.

66/2024 – Intersection - Marsden Park Road and Whitehouse Lane, Calala

During the June 2024 Committee meeting, a resident raised safety concerns associated with the intersection between Whitehouse Lane and Marsden Park Road in Calala. As seen in Figure 6 below, the intersection is an unsealed, T intersection with Give Way control on Marsden Park Road.



Figure 6: Street view imagery of Marsden Park Road and Whitehouse Lane intersection, Calala

Vehicles have been observed not obeying the Give Way control when entering the intersection on Marsden Park Road.

Council can advise between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2023; two accidents have reported at this intersection.

Following the meeting in June 2024, the Committee advised Council staff to:

- 1) consider installing additional warning signs on approach to the intersection including Give Way ahead signage; and
- 2) investigate the position of the existing Give Way sign and whether it can be relocated or duplicated to improve visibility.

Council has since completed an investigation into both outstanding actions and propose to install new signage as per the **ATTACHED** signage plan, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

The new signage includes two new Give Way Sign Ahead (W3-2) signs in advance of the intersection and an additional Give Way (R1-2) sign at the intersection.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the installation of an additional Give Way (R1-2) sign at the intersection of Marsden Park Road and Whitehouse Lane, Calala.

70/2024 - Pedestrian Safety Concerns, St Michaels Primary School

During the March 2025 Committee meeting, Council advised the Committee of its proposal to address safety concerns associated with pedestrians outside of St Michaels Primary School and Manilla Central School in Manilla. Figure 7 below shows the location of St Michaels Primary School and Manilla Central School.

This included large scale items such as:

- converting the existing pedestrian refuge at the Court Street and Rowan Street intersection to a children's crossing;
- installing a raised "wombat" crossing on Court Street with appropriate kerb extensions;

- relocating the existing pedestrian crossing on Arthur Street away from the intersection; and
- installing pedestrian fencing between the new pedestrian crossing to restrict pedestrians to the new infrastructure.

These items will be funded through external grant opportunities as they arise.



Figure 7: St. Michaels Catholic School and Manilla Central School in Manilla

However, as mentioned during the Committee meeting, Council has identified some items that need to be immediately addressed to clear up sign conflicts and improve the safety of the community. These items include:

- relocating the No Parking (R5-40) signs to allow more room for 'kiss and drop' arrangements on the school side of Rowan Street;
- installing a disabled parking bay on Court Street with compliant kerb access ramp and shared zone;
- installing compliant pedestrian crossing signage on the Court Street pedestrian crossing;
- installing the correct No Stopping (R5-400) signs at the Court Street and Rowan Street intersection;
- installing No Stopping (R5-400) signs at the Court Street and Northbrook Lane intersection;

- relocating the No Stopping (R5-400) signs around the Court Street pedestrian refuge to ensure appropriate sighting distance;
- relocating the No Stopping (R5-400) signs around the Arthur Street pedestrian crossing to ensure appropriate sighting distance; and
- correcting the Bus Zone (R5-20) signage on Court Street.

All of these proposed changes can be found in the **ATTACHED** signage and line marking plan, refer **ANNEXURE 6**.

In addition to these works, Council is proposing to install School Drop-Off Pick-Up Zone (R9-303n) signs to advertise the 'kiss and drop' zone.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the installation of a larger 'kiss and drop' area on Rowan Street, a new disabled parking bay on Court Street and various sign relocations in accordance with the updated plan (following Transport for NSW's comments) to clear up sign conflicts and improve the safety of the community.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

All items shall be funded by the road infrastructure maintenance budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Key stakeholders have been consulted throughout the project development phase including impacted (benefitted) schools.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and its citizens

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MARCH 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 March 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 March 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 31 March 2025.

Following its April 2025 meeting the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to leave interest rates on hold due to the substantial fall in inflation, though the RBA is determined to ensure it sustainably reaches target levels. Globally the RBA has concerns with regards to the impact of the United States tariff shifts and resultant extreme movements in stock markets, all of this activity and market shocks could see interest rate decreases come back into vogue.

During the month, Council's portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 5.0% against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 4.13%.

(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

9.2 DRAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Social Media Policy”, Council:

- (i) endorse the Draft Social Media Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and*
- (ii) request a further report to Council to consider any feedback received throughout the public exhibition period and present for formal adoption of the final Social Media Policy.*

SUMMARY

The draft Social Media Policy is based on the model policy released by the Office of Local Government. This report seeks Council approval of the draft Social Media Policy and seeks approval to place it on public exhibition for 28 days so the Community can review and offer feedback before a final Social Media Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

COMMENTARY

The Office of Local Government released a model Social Media Policy in 2022. Council currently has it's own Social Media Policy however, it is best practice for Council to adopt the model policy provided by the Office of Local Government.

The draft Social Media Policy is **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**, for Council consideration and is based on the model policy.

(a) Policy Implications

The Office of Local Government has a model policy, and the draft Policy is considered to meet this requirement. Upon adoption by Council the Policy will be placed on the General Policy Register.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Exhibition of the Policy is recommended for a period of 28 days. A further report will be prepared for Council's consideration following the public exhibition period.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.3 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - MARCH 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 - March 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 March 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 March, Council received a new Grant from Transport for NSW under the Road Safety Program for works to install a shared path and wombat crossing at Longyard Drive, Hillvue. At this stage Council will receive \$10,000 in the current financial year and the remainder of the \$287,000 grant to be received at a future date.

A review of the existing budget for Developer Contributions across all funds resulted in an increase to Capital Income of \$2,432,500.

Following the recent natural disaster in Lismore and Tweed LGA's, Council has provided assistance by sending staff to the affected areas to help with the clean-up. The intention is that Council will be reimbursed by grant funds awarded to the impacted Council's. Many thanks to Council staff for travelling to these areas and assisting with the necessary works.

Funding was required to undertake works on the Woolomin Evacuation Centre ramps, as well as urgent works on the sewer pump station at the Sports Dome; both projects were funded by the Council Building Reserve. Funds were returned to the Village Improvement Reserve in relation to the hall improvement works. More work will be undertaken pending the next round of hall improvement grant funding opportunities which are likely to become available in future years.

March 2025 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
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Future Communities	-2,469,806	0	0	-2,432,500	-37,306
Sports & Recreation Services	50,678	0	0	0	50,678
Civil Construction	0	-200,000	200,000	0	0
Project Costing	0	0	0	-10,000	10,000
TOTAL	-2,419,128	-200,000	200,000	-2,442,500	23,372

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	-200,000	200,000	-942,500	23,372
Water	0	0	-1,100,000	0
Sewer	0	0	-400,000	0
Total	-200,000	200,000	-2,442,500	23,372

(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

9.4 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR TO AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Appointment of Independent Chair to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee”, Council appoint Mr Robert Lagaida as Chair to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee until April 2029.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to appoint an independent Chair to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee following the resignation of the previous Chair.

COMMENTARY

Council is required under S428A of the *Local Governance Act 1993* to have an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee. Tamworth Regional Council has operated an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee since 2012, with three independent members and currently staggers the membership of the Committee to ensure continuation of the knowledge of Council operations, financial reporting and structure.

The current Chair of the Committee is Mr Ron Gillard and the external members are Dr Meredith Caelli and Mr Glenn Inglis. Mr Gillard resigned from the Committee at the February ARIC meeting and Council has undertaken an Expression of Interest process to select a new Chair.

Mr Robert Lagaida is recommended to Council to be the new ARIC Chair for an initial term of four years. Mr Lagaida’s nomination is **ENCLOSED** refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Chairpersons must demonstrate the following:

- leadership qualities and the ability to promote effective working relationships in complex organisations;
- an ability to communicate complex and sensitive assessments in a tactful manner to the Council’s Internal Audit Coordinator, senior management and the Mayor and Councillors;
- a sound understanding of:
 - the principles of good organisational governance and capacity to understand local government accountability, including financial reporting;
 - the business of the council or the environment in which it operates;
 - internal audit operations, including selection and review of the Council’s Internal Audit Coordinator; and
 - risk management principles;
- extensive senior level experience in governance and management of complex organisations, an ability to read and understand financial statements and a capacity to understand the ethical requirements of government (including potential conflicts of interest);

- functional knowledge in areas such as risk management, performance management, human resources management, internal and external auditing, financial reporting, accounting, management control frameworks, internal financial controls, governance (including planning, reporting and oversight), or business operations;
- a capacity to form independent judgements and a willingness to constructively challenge/question management practices and information; and
- a professional, ethical approach to the exercise of their duties and the capacity to devote the necessary time and effort to the responsibilities of the Chairperson of an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Chairs have following desirable criteria:

- Possession of a relevant professional qualification or membership (e.g., Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), CPA Australia (CPA) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA)) is desirable.

(a) Policy Implications

External Members are paid a fee plus travel and accommodation in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

(b) Financial Implications

Costs associated with the Internal Audit function are included in the 2024/2025 Annual Operational Plan.

(c) Legal Implications

Council is required under S428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* to have an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Group 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership.

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 NSWRL FUNDING REQUEST

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES
AUTHOR: Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “NSWRL Funding Request”, Council approves the request of \$20,000 for the NSWRL Regional Magic Round 2025.

SUMMARY

NSWRL has requested a \$20,000 sponsorship from Tamworth Regional Council to support the hosting of the Regional Magic Round 2025.

COMMENTARY

The NSWRL Regional Magic Round 2025 is a three-day Rugby League festival scheduled to take place from 9-11 May 2025, at Scully Park, West Tamworth. Organised by New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL), the event will feature a full round of Group 4 competition alongside five Knock-On Effect NSW Cup matches. In addition to on-field action, the event will include community engagement activities such as school visits, road safety education, and mental fitness programs.

The NSWRL Regional Magic Round is a premier Rugby League festival celebrating the contributions of Regional NSW to the sport. This three-day event will bring together local and professional teams, fans, and the community for a series of competitive matches and engagement activities. The event will also promote community programs focused on road safety and mental fitness.

The weekend of activities includes:

Showcased Competitions

- knock-On Effect NSW Cup: Premier men's competition serving as a feeder to the NRL, featuring top teams such as the North Sydney Bears and Newtown Jets.
- group 4 Rugby League: A full round of matches from the regional Group 4 competition, known for its strong fan base and local rivalries.

Community Engagement Activities

- sportsman's Lunch: An exclusive event attended by NSW True Blues and local community members.
- school Visits & Clinics: Educational programs and training sessions aimed at local youth.
- the Knock-On Effect Program: A road safety initiative sharing real-life experiences from Origin legends to educate youth (16-18 years) on responsible driving.
- changing Rooms Mental Fitness Program: Led by former Bulldogs Premiership winner Paul Langmack, this initiative promotes mental well-being and resilience, benefiting over 11,000 participants since inception.

Supporting the NSWRL Regional Magic Round will provide several key benefits to Tamworth, including:

- economic Growth: Increased visitation will benefit local businesses, including hospitality, accommodation, and retail.
- community Engagement: The event will offer educational and development programs that directly benefit local youth.
- tourism Exposure: Media coverage and digital reach (over 5 million impressions) will showcase Tamworth as a premier regional sporting destination.
- long-Term Impact: Programs such as The Knock-On Effect and Changing Rooms will have a lasting influence on youth safety and mental well-being.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

NSWRL estimate expected crowd each day at 3,500 of which would be 70% local and 30% visitors. The estimated Visitor Spend for the event is \$1,026,200 with a total economic impact of \$1,472,074 as noted in the economic summary below:

Impact of Overnight Visitors:

The proposed NSWRL Magic Round event is planned to run for 2 days. It is an event of State significance and is estimated to attract 1050 visitors per day over the 2 days, with an average spend per person per day of \$232. This equals a total visitor spend of \$487,200 attributed to this event. Assuming the event will be held in Tamworth Regional Council, it is calculated to have the following potential impact:

Event Impact Summary export			
Tamworth Regional Council - Modelling the effect of \$487,200 from a Sports and Recreation Activities event with State significance			
	Output (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)
Direct impact	389,760	159,927	2.5
Industrial impact	191,777	78,203	0.7
Consumption impact	117,347	56,422	0.6
Total impact on Tamworth Regional Council economy	698,884	294,552	4
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).			

Impact of Day visitors:

The proposed NSWRL Magic Round event is planned to run for 1 day. It is an event of State significance and is estimated to attract 2450 visitors during the day, with an average spend per person per day of \$220. This equals a total visitor spend of \$539,000 attributed to this event. Assuming the event will be held in Tamworth Regional Council, it is calculated to have the following potential impact:

Event Impact Summary export			
Tamworth Regional Council - Modelling the effect of \$539,000 from a Sports and Recreation Activities event with State significance			
	Output (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)
Direct impact	431,200	176,931	2.8
Industrial impact	212,167	86,518	0.8
Consumption impact	129,823	62,421	0.7
Total impact on Tamworth Regional Council economy	773,190	325,870	4
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).			

The NSWRL Regional Magic Round 2025 represents an excellent opportunity for Tamworth to host a high-profile sporting event that delivers economic, social, and community benefits. Council support will ensure the success of the event while reinforcing Tamworth's reputation as a hub for regional sport.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Funding for the event will be from the General Fund.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and innovation

Focus Area 8 – A strong and vibrant identity

10.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEES - DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Precinct Advisory Committees - Draft Terms of Reference and Operational Arrangements.”, Council:

- (i) adopt the Terms of Reference for Tamworth Regional Precinct Advisory Committees;*
- (ii) commences the process to establish the following Precinct Advisory Committees in:*
 - Barraba;*
 - Dungowan;*
 - Kootingal;*
 - Manilla; and*
 - Nundle.*
- (iii) adopt the boundaries and localities contained within each precinct as indicated on the region map attached to this report;*
- (iv) undertake a broad reaching Expression of Interest process to invite community members to apply for membership of each Precinct Advisory Committee; and*
- (v) acknowledge that the required support and management of the new Precinct Advisory Committees will necessitate an additional staff resource within Council’s Place Management team with the budget to be sourced from the General Fund.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a draft Terms of Reference and proposed operational arrangements for Council’s new Regional Precinct Advisory Committees. The draft Terms of Reference is generally consistent with the governance model established in respect of Council’s Special Purpose community committees and working groups. The Terms of Reference and operational arrangements proposed also reflect the outcomes of the

Councillor Workshop held on 18 December 2024.

This report also highlights the staff resources required to manage the establishment of these committees, the operational demands involved in sourcing appropriate locations, including particularly noting the intention to rotate Advisory Committee meetings amongst villages and towns within each precinct as well as the work involved in servicing an additional five committees with agenda and minute production, as well as the follow-up and implementation of actions.

COMMENTARY

At a Councillor Workshop held on 18 December 2024, Councillors received a presentation in relation to the concept of regional precinct committees and a potential model for the operation of those committees.

The presentation outlined options for the number, size, location and regularity of community committees, as well as a potential model for the operation of the committees.

The workshop discussion clarified Councillors' preferences in relation to the intent of the committees and what is now proposed reflects that intent, while ensuring an appropriate level of governance is applied and that all members of the community (not just committee members) are able to attend and participate in committee meetings.

Precinct Advisory Committees - Operational Matters

Purpose

- strengthen community connection with Council;
- enable direct access to Councillors (the decision makers);
- increased opportunity for community members to be involved in issues of significance that are regional or local; and
- remove onerous governance burden from community volunteers.

Focus/ Characteristics

- strategic rather than operational (other avenues exist for operational matters such as the TRC App, Councillor catchups or direct to Council's Place Management team or Customer Services);
- targets and initiatives based on Blueprint 100 and the Community Strategic Plan;
- input into regional town/village Resilience Plans; and
- funding of priorities linked to establishment of a Regional ("Village") Improvement Fund in accordance with Council's adopted policy on Voluntary Planning Agreements for Renewable Energy Projects.

Membership

- two Councillors on each committee, including one as Chair;
- Councillor representation to be rotated on an annual basis;
- a maximum of five community members on each committee, appointed for two years;
- no community executive positions;
- Council's Volunteer Services Officer; and

- one Place Manager.

Meetings

- four meetings annually – avoiding mid-winter (based on WH&S night travel concerns);
- agenda set four weeks in advance;
- agenda items may be lodged by any community member direct with Council via a webpage/social media page set up for that purpose; or via a committee member;
- standard agenda inclusions – New Business, including both “with Notice” and “Without Notice”;
- attendance and participation open to all community members.

Locations and rotation

- five committee precincts – Barraba, Manilla, Dungowan, Kootingal and Nundle;
- rotation of meetings within each precinct as indicated on the precinct map, see **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Benefits

- no executive committee structures;
- potential for broader representation across the community; and
- no governance responsibilities placed on community committee members.

It is important to note that it is not intended that Precinct Advisory Committees will replace single purpose/facility-based committees, such as those formed for the purpose of managing a showground or sports field. Existing Section 355 Committees will also continue to operate under current arrangements, however, acknowledging the governance impost on Section 355 Committee executive members, it could be anticipated that Precinct Advisory Committees may replace some Section 355 Committees in the future.

Terms of Reference

A draft Terms of Reference applicable to each Precinct Advisory Committee has been prepared and is recommended for Council’s adoption.

The draft Terms of Reference are outlined in the **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

The proposed Terms of Reference is generally consistent with those previously adopted in relation to Council’s Special Purpose Committees and Working Groups and includes matters such as governance requirements, selection criteria for community members and clarification of the maximum number of community members.

Should the proposed model for Precinct Advisory Committees be adopted, it is also recommended that Council commence an Expression of Interest process to invite community members to apply for membership of each Precinct Advisory Committee.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Precinct Advisory Committees will have no financial delegations. Any recommendations proposing the expenditure of Council funds will be reported to an Ordinary Council Meeting as part of the adoption of Precinct Advisory meeting minutes.

However, it is intended that the Precinct Advisory Committees provide input and recommendations to Council regarding priorities for the expenditure of funds collected by Council as an outcome of VPA (Voluntary Planning Agreement) negotiations in relation to renewable energy projects. This policy is already established in Council's adopted VPA Policy. A further report outlining a proposed methodology for implementing the policy will be presented to Council at a future Council Meeting.

Resourcing Implications

It is anticipated that a significant staff resource will be required to establish, implement, manage and report on the Regional Precinct Advisory Committees. It is considered appropriate that this resource sit within Council's Place Management team which forms part of the Liveable Communities directorate. Place Management currently consists of two fulltime positions and a Team Leader covering the entire Tamworth Region. The responsibilities of the team include supporting 27 existing Section 355 Committees, including assistance with committee events and initiatives, preparation of external grant applications and collaboration with other council teams to ensure priority maintenance etc., is given attention. The Team also manages Council's Facility Improvement Fund.

Acknowledging the above, it is considered that current staff numbers within the Place Management Team will be inadequate to meet the needs of the new Precinct Advisory Committees. An additional resource will be necessary to manage not only the initial establishment of the Advisory Committees including induction of community members, but also the ongoing operational demands of managing a quarterly meeting of each of the five groups. Responsibilities will include sourcing appropriate venues, particularly noting the intention to rotate Advisory Committee meetings amongst villages and towns within each precinct; agenda coordination, minute taking and production, reports to Council, and implementation and follow-up of actions and Council resolutions.

This report therefore recommends that Council acknowledges the need for one additional staff resource to service the new Precinct Advisory Committees, with the cost (approximately \$99k) to be sourced from Council's General Fund.

(c) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in respect to the establishment of Precinct Advisory Committees. Committees will have no delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of Council, rather, any recommendations will be reported to Council as part of the adoption of meeting minutes under the Management Accountability of the Director Liveable Communities.

Unlike Council's existing Section 355 Committees, the Precinct Advisory Committees will also have no financial delegation undertake any functions on behalf of Council, therefore the Committee will not be subject to the governance provisions of the Local Government Act, which have proved time consuming and onerous for Section 355 Committee members.

(d) Community Consultation

One of the ways Council has responded to a widely expressed community desire for increased and more direct contact with Councillors is by its commitment to establish community participation forums across the region.

The invitation to members of the community to lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate as a local representative of one of Council's Precinct Advisory Committees will be well communicated to the general public through Council's various media channels.

However, beyond the opportunity to represent a specific regional community as an appointed member, the intent of the Precinct Advisory Committees is to enable any member of the public residing within a precinct to attend the relevant precinct meeting and raise a strategic initiative or issue. Therefore, while the Precinct Advisory Committee members will act as conduits in relation to strategic precinct issues, committee meetings will be open any resident of the precinct to both attend and take part.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities

Focus Area 7 – Celebrate our cultures and heritage

10.3 TENNIS AUSTRALIA FUNDING REQUEST

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

AUTHOR: Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Tennis Australia Funding Request", Council approves the request of \$50,000 to host the ITF World Tennis Tour Men's 25 event in Tamworth.

SUMMARY

Tennis Australia has requested a \$50,000 sponsorship from Tamworth Regional Council to support the hosting of the ITF World Tennis Tour Men's 25.

COMMENTARY

Tennis Australia (TA) holds 26 Pro and 18 Junior Tournaments across 12 venues nationwide. These tournaments play a crucial role in the tennis ecosystem of the country, offering players competitive pathways, opportunities for earnings (total prize pool of US\$1.1M), and ATP/WTB Tour world ranking points.

The financial commitment from Tennis Australia to host and stage this level of professional tennis for the week in Tamworth includes all prize money, travel, accommodation and operational costs.

Tennis Australia are seeking a financial commitment of \$50,000 for the two weeks of Pro Tennis which is consistent with the financial support received from other Councils across the country for this level of event.

Staff are working on the opportunity to forge a long-term partnership with Tamworth Regional Council and secure the hosting of this tournament in the region for the next three years (2025 – 2027).

Hosting a major event in a regional city delivers significant economic benefits and stimulates overnight visitation both immediately and in the long term. During the event, the influx of attendees—including participants, officials, and spectators—drives demand for local accommodation, dining, and retail, providing an immediate boost to businesses and injecting revenue into the regional economy. Local service providers and vendors also benefit from increased activity, supporting job creation and economic growth.

Beyond the event itself, the heightened visibility of the region often attracts future visitors. Exposure through national broadcasting, media coverage and marketing efforts puts the city on the map as a destination for tourism. Positive experiences by attendees generate word-of-mouth recommendations and repeat visitation.

Additionally, improvements made to infrastructure and facilities have enhanced the region's capacity to host future events and create a foundation for sustained tourism growth.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Based on the valuation report for Tennis Australia events, a single occurrence of a typical high-profile event (such as a Pro Tour Challenger) is estimated to generate the following economic impacts:

Visitor Metrics provided by Tennis Australia:

- o total attendance of about 2,279 people.
- o approximately 279 visitors traveling from outside the host region.

Tennis Australia estimate expected crowd at 2000 of which 279 will stay for 11 nights. The estimated Visitor Spend for the event is \$1,196,008 with a total economic impact of \$1,715,656 as noted in the economic summary below:

Impact of Overnight Visitors:

The proposed Tennis Australia Pro Tennis event is planned to run for 11 days. It is an event of State significance and is estimated to attract 279 visitors per day over the 11 days, with an average spend per person per day of \$232. This equals a total visitor spend of \$712,008 attributed to this event. Assuming the event will be held in Tamworth Regional Council, it is calculated to have the following potential impact:

Event Impact Summary				export
Tamworth Regional Council - Modelling the effect of \$712,008 from a Sports and Recreation Activities event with State significance				
	Output (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)	
Direct impact	569,606	233,723	3.7	
Industrial impact	280,268	114,288	1.0	
Consumption impact	171,494	82,456	0.9	
Total impact on Tamworth Regional Council economy	1,021,368	430,467	6	
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).				

Impact of Day visitors:

The proposed Tennis Australia Pro Tennis event is planned to run for 11 days. It is an event of State significance and is estimated to attract 200 visitors per day over the 11 days, with an average spend per person per day of \$220. This equals a total visitor spend of \$484,000 attributed to this event. Assuming the event will be held in Tamworth Regional Council, it is calculated to have the following potential impact:

Event Impact Summary

export 

Tamworth Regional Council - Modelling the effect of \$484,000 from a Sports and Recreation Activities event with State significance

	Output (\$)	Value-added (\$)	Local Jobs (annual jobs)
Direct impact	387,200	158,877	2.5
Industrial impact	190,517	77,690	0.7
Consumption impact	116,576	56,051	0.6
Total impact on Tamworth Regional Council economy	694,293	292,618	4

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Given the economic benefits generated by the event—such as an 11-night stay per athlete, increased local hospitality spending, and tourism exposure—there is a strong case to consider supporting Tennis Australia, through financial sponsorship.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The cost to support the Tennis Australia event is \$50,000. Funding for the event will be \$25,000 allocated via the Event Reserve and the remaining \$25,000 funded from the General Fund.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and innovation

Focus Area 8 – A strong and vibrant identity

11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

11.1 PROPOSED LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND - VRA RESCUE SHED IN BARRABA

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer

Reference: Item 12.2 to Ordinary Council 6 June 2023 - Minute No 132/23

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 advise Council of a request made by VRA Rescue NSW to grant a lease over Council owned land in Barraba and to seek authorisation to grant such a lease.

11.2 PROPOSED LICENCE AGREEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION BLOCKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINING TAMWORTH (IFTT) FACILITY - TAMWORTH REGIONAL AIRPORT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer
Billy Gleeson-Barker, Manager Aviation Precinct

Reference: Item 12.1 to Ordinary Council 10 October 2023 - Minute No 261/23
Item 12.5 to Ordinary Council 13 August 2024 - Minute No. 223/24

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation to negotiate and enter into a licence agreement for a pilot training school to occupy part of the Accommodation Blocks located at the International Flight Training Tamworth (IFTT) Facility at the Tamworth Regional Airport.

11.3 TENDER T062/2025 - COOPER STREET BARRABA SEWER PUMP STATION ELECTRICAL UPGRADE

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Benjamin Sharpham, Water Engineer - Roatation
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

The Cooper Street Sewer Pump Station, located in Barraba was initially constructed in the 1950's. The pump station is the primary sewage pump station in Barraba collecting and transferring over 80 percent of the sewage flows in Barraba. The pump station is in excess of eight metres deep and consists of two pumps and associated electrical, civil, electrical and building infrastructure. The pump station has had minor renewals completed during its operational life but requires significant refurbishment to ensure ongoing operation and improve site operational safety. Council has allocated funding to undertake the following works:

- removal of the existing building infrastructure which is no longer required for the planned upgrade;
- replacement of all electrical and control equipment and installation to Council's design standards which includes the new equipment must be a minimum 600 millimetres above the 1 in 100-year flood levels; and
- upgrade of pump station access and site safety equipment.

The purpose of this report is to consider tender submissions received and to recommend the acceptance of a Tender for the upgrade of the Cooper Street Barraba Sewer Pump Station Electrical Upgrade.

11.4 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - E060/2025 - 428 WALLAMORE ROAD WESTDALE PROPOSED LEASE OR LICENCE AGREEMENT OF RURAL LAND

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer
Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations
Reference: Item 12.2 to Ordinary Council 13 August 2024 - Minute No 219/24

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 note the outcome of Expression of Interest E060-2025 and seek Council's authorisation to enter into a licence agreement for part of 428 Wallamore Road, Westdale with the party identified in the body of this report.