



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Lands Building, Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth**, commencing at **6.30pm**.

ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

30 JUNE 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, 10 June 2025, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interest

Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Political Donations

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED LOCALITY BOUNDARY AMENDMENT BETWEEN DARUKA AND KOOTINGAL - RN2024-0023

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Kathleen See-Kee, Development Support Officer

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Proposed Locality Boundary Amendment between Daruka and Kootingal - RN2024-0023”, Council approves the extension of the locality boundary of Daruka to the North-Eastern cul-de-sac end of Woonooka Road in the locality of Kootingal.

SUMMARY

Identifying localities (suburbs) enables addresses to be uniquely identified. To achieve addressing objectives it is vital that locality boundaries are clear, unambiguous, easy to

identify and readily able to be interpreted by the community.

‘Woonooka’ Road currently extends across the two existing suburb localities of Daruka and Kootingal. It is proposed that all of ‘Woonooka’ Road and the side road of ‘Comleroy’ Place be contained within the locality of Daruka. This will ensure that emergency services, utility, postal and goods delivery services can find properties without the confusion of suburb boundaries dividing the road extent of ‘Woonooka’ Road.

COMMENTARY

An address locality is a named geographical area with defined boundaries that represent a community or area of interest, and may be rural or urban in character (where urban it is usually defined as a ‘suburb’). Address localities enable addresses to be uniquely identified.

The Geographical Names Board manages address locality names and boundaries for NSW. To achieve comprehensive addressing objectives, it is vital that address locality names and boundaries are clear and unambiguous.

Proposals to amend address locality boundaries or names must be lodged with the Geographical Names Board by the relevant Council and with the Council’s endorsement.

All affected land owners of properties located in ‘Woonooka’ Road Kootingal and ‘Comleroy’ Place Kootingal were notified of the proposal to extend the suburb boundary of Daruka through to the north-eastern cul-de-sac end of Woonooka Road. Council has received endorsement for the proposal from all notified property owners.

This report seeks Council’s approval as the local Authority, to amend the locality boundary of Daruka as **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Amendments to locality boundaries must be approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board.

(d) Community Consultation

The affected land owners have been consulted during this process and no objections were received in response.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A Liveable Built Environment

7.2 2025 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION 81ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GRIFFITH FROM 29 SEPTEMBER TO 2 OCTOBER 2025

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2025 Murray Darling Association 81st National Conference to be Held in Griffith from 29 September to 2 October 2025”, Council nominates representatives to attend this Conference.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the Murray Darling Association will be holding their 81st National Conference from 29 September to 2 October 2025, hosted by Griffith City Council. Authorisation is being sought for the Mayor, and any other Councillors who may wish to, to attend this event.

COMMENTARY

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), of which Tamworth Regional Council is a member and the Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb, is the Chair of the MDA’s Region 11 group of Councils, will be holding its 81st National Conference from 29 September to 2 October 2025, in Griffith NSW. The Conference will be hosted by Griffith City Council.

The purpose of the MDA is to provide effective representation of Local Government and communities at State and Federal level in the management of Basin resources by exchanging information, facilitating debate, and seeking to influence Government policy.

The National Conference is an opportunity for local leaders to come together from across the Murray Darling Basin to be part of initiatives to improve water management within the basin. The Conference will feature keynote speakers and panel sessions including industry heads, State and Federal Government Ministers and representatives, as well as scientists and educators presenting on topical issues that affect the Murray Darling Basin water resources and communities.

Councillors may recall that the 80th National Conference was held in Tamworth in 2024.

The Conference program is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. At this time the program includes the following guest speakers, although this may be subject to change:

- Federal Minister for the Environment and Water;
- Hon. Rose Jackson MLC – NSW Minister for Water;
- Hon. Gayle Tierney – VIC State Minister for Water;
- Hon. Susan Close MP – SA State Minister for Water;
- Ann Leahy MP – QLD State Minister for Water;
- Dr. Alex Held – CSIRO – AquaWatch Mission Lead;
- Andrew McConville – Murray-Darling Basin Authority – CEO;
- Hon. Troy Grant – Inspector-General of Water Compliance;
- Dr. Simon Banks – Commonwealth Environment Water Holder;
- Prof. Mike Stewardson – One Basin CRC- CEO;
- Federal Shadow Minister for Water;
- Steph Cooke MP – NSW Shadow Minister for Water;

- Tim McCurdy – VIC State Shadow minister for Water;
- Nikki Boyd – QLD State Shadow Minister for Water;
- Hon. Nicola Centofanti MCL – SA Shadow Minister for Water;
- National Irrigators council – Irrigator's perspective; and
- Rice Industry Perspective – Industry Perspective.

A Civic Reception will commence from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Yoogali Club, Griffith, on Monday, 29 September 2025. A study tour will take place on Tuesday, 30 September from 8:00am departing from the Yoogali Club. Study tour attendees will explore critical water infrastructure and delve into the importance of water for the community and industry. Conference Day 1 will commence on Wednesday, 1 October at the Yoogali Club with registrations opening at 8:00am. The Annual General Meeting of the Association will commence at 3.30 on Day 1. Conference Day 2 will consist of the remaining guest speakers from 9:00am and conclude at 1:00pm Thursday, 2 October 2025.

It is proposed the Mayor, as Chair of Region 11, and the Director Water and Waste attend the Conference, with other Councillors welcome to attend as appropriate.

(a) Policy Implications

Councillors authorised to attend the Murray Darling Association 81st National Conference, in accordance with Council's policy relating to the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors*.

Approval arrangements for Councillor discretionary trips, attendance of Councillors at conferences, seminars, forums, workshops, professional development programs and/or other significant expenses and facilities under this policy and for insurance purposes must be authorised by way of a formal resolution of an Ordinary Meeting of Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Funds have been allocated specifically to provide attendance to Local Government Sector Conferences, workshop, industry working parties and community non-Council functions and events.

Authorisation of the attendance of Councillors is by way of resolution of Council. Authorisation and the payment of the expenses involved will only be provided by Council where the conference, workshop or industry working party is directly related to the Councillor's Civic Functions and responsibilities and/or the Local Government Sector.

Member rates for the full Conference early bird registration which includes Conference Day 1 and 2, Gala Dinner and Study Tour, is \$790.00 per person.

(c) Legal Implications

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership.

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE - ALBURY 9 SEPTEMBER TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Samantha Ward, Executive Assistant Water and Waste
Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

Reference: Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 11 June 2024 - Minute No 164/23

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

CECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2025 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference - Albury 9 September to 11 September 2025”, Council nominates representatives to attend this Conference as appropriate.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the 2025 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference will be hosted by Albury City Council at the Commercial Club, Albury from 9 September to 11 September 2025. This report has been prepared for Council to nominate Councillor representatives to attend this Conference as appropriate.

COMMENTARY

The 2025 Local Government NSW Water Management Conference will be hosted by Albury City Council at the Commercial Club, Albury from 9 September to 11 September 2025. The LGNSW Water Management Conference presents a broad range of information from a local government perspective on water management, issues associated with the water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities. In addition, the Conference provides insights in to the latest water policy and government priorities, as well as strategies for planning for future droughts and disaster management.

The Conference commences at the Commercial Club, Albury from 2:00pm on 9 September 2025 with the NSW Water Directorate conducting a Local Water Utility Forum focusing on regulatory reform. The Director Water and Waste, is a member of the NSW Water Directorate Executive Committee and would like to attend this forum. A Welcome Reception will be held at the Albury Club between 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday, 9 September 2025. Day two of the Conference commences at 8:00am on Wednesday, 10 September 2025, at the Commercial Club Albury and concludes at 5:30pm. The Conference dinner will be held at SS&A Club from 6:30pm. Day three of the Conference will commence at 8:15am on Thursday, 11 September 2025, and concludes at 2:30pm.

The Draft Conference Program is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. Among others, the program includes the following speakers and topics:

- Cr Phyllis Miller OAM – LGNSW President – LGNSW President address;
- Cr Kevin Mack, Mayor Albury City Council – Address from host Council;
- The Hon Rose Jackson, MLS, NSW Minister for Water – Pre-recorded message NSW Minister for Water address;

- Brendan Guiney, Executive Officer, Water Directorate – Where to from here with regulatory reform in the LWU sector? A council perspective;
- Jane Shepherd, Director, Local Water Utilities - Current status of the LWU Sector – Reform and Review; and

Council's Director Water and Waste, Manager – Water and perhaps two other staff, depending on the number of Councillors that may wish to attend, are proposing to attend the conference.

(a) Policy Implications

Councillors authorised to attend the 2025 Local Government Water Management Conference, in accordance with Council's policy relating to the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors*.

Approval arrangements for Councillor discretionary trips, attendance of Councillors at conferences, seminars, forums, workshops, professional development programs and/or other significant expenses and facilities under this policy and for insurance purposes must be authorised by way of a formal resolution of an Ordinary Meeting of Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Councillors have been allocated funds to specifically provide for attendance at Local Government Sector Conferences, Workshops, industry working parties and Community Non-Council functions and events.

Authorisation of the attendance of Councillors is by way of resolution of Council. Authorisation and the payment of the expenses involved will only be provided by Council where the conference, workshop or industry working party is directly related to the Councillor's Civic Functions and responsibilities and/or the Local Government Sector.

The cost of registration, if registered prior to June 30, is \$800 per person. After June 30 the cost rises to \$980 per person. As a result, 3 registrations have been purchased to take advantage of the lower cost. Once Council attendees have been confirmed registration will be finalised.

(c) Legal Implications

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

8.2 IPART's DETERMINATION OF WATER NSW's AND THE WATER ADMINISTRATION MINISTERIAL CORPORATION'S BULK WATER CHARGES TO 30 JUNE 2028

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

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

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “IPART’s Determination of Water NSW’s and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation’s Bulk Water Charges to 30 June 2028”, Council receive and note the report.

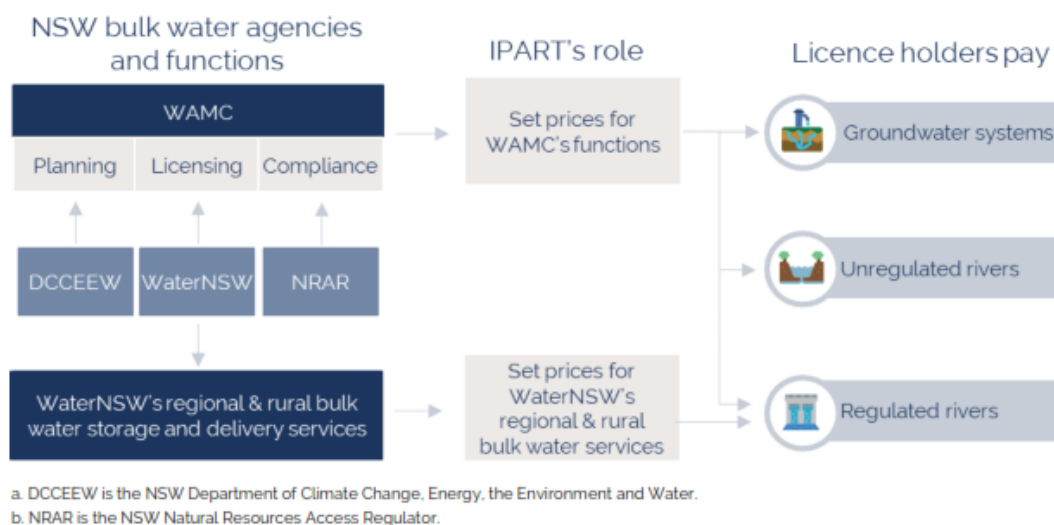
SUMMARY

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has released two documents in relation to its determination of the charges Water NSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) will levy for bulk water across NSW commencing 1 July 2025.

COMMENTARY

Council pays charges to two State Government entities for access to bulk water, both surface and groundwater – Water NSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC). As both entities are monopoly providers, the charges levied are subject to review by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

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



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

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

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

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

Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC)

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

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

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

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

Water NSW

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

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

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

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

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

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

The IPART Information Paper proposes limits on price increases, for Water NSW charges, over the next three years to June 2028. In summary, it is proposed to set a 3-year draft determination for Rural Valleys based on WaterNSW's current prices indexed for inflation plus some key safety expenditure priorities. For rural valley customers the proposed increases are as follows:

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

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

Any new determinations would be made by the Tribunal only after IPART issues a draft report, seeks and considers submissions and holds a public hearing. IPART is able to commence this process at any time during the determination period. With a 3-year pricing determination the next WaterNSW operating licence review and pricing review would be scheduled to be conducted in 2027-2028. IPART will engage with WaterNSW and other stakeholders to look at options so that there is sufficient time and resources for both reviews to be completed. In IPART's draft determination, IPART is limiting price increases to CPI, plus specific increases for key safety upgrades including crane and electrical safety, the new Dams Safety Levy, and initial funding to progress safety works at Warragamba Dam (Sydney Catchment stakeholders only).

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

Charges levied by Water NSW (based on average annual volumes of water accessed from Water NSW Dams) and assuming an annual inflation figure of 3% will increase as follows:

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

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

The new Water NSW charges will begin 1 July 2025.

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

In summary, IPART propose to:

- constrain the increase in WAMC's water management component charges to a maximum of 5% per year and a total of 15.8% from 2024–25 to 2027–28 (before inflation) to mitigate the extent of price increases for WAMC's customers;
- constrain the increase in WAMC's water management component charges for customers paying the Minimum Annual Charge (MAC) to a maximum of 2.5% per year and a total of 7.7% from 2024–25 to 2027–28 (before inflation);
- maintain Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Border Rivers Commission (BRC) charges in line with inflation only from 2024-25 to 2027-28;
- continue to apply the water take charges (water management services, MDBA and BRC) to floodplain harvesting licences;

- introduce an additional water management charge for floodplain harvesting to help recover WaterNSW's incremental floodplain harvesting costs;
- revise the structure of metering charges and update metering charges to reflect IPART's assessment of efficient costs;
- delay the introduction of new WAMC prices until 1 October 2025, which means existing 2024-25 prices will continue to apply over the 3 months from 1 July to 30 September 2025 and new WAMC prices would apply over the 9 months from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026. IPART proposes to adjust WAMC prices to apply over the 9 months from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026, to account for the difference in revenue WAMC would expect to recover as a result of the 3-month delay; and
- change some of the charging categories and some charges in relation to metering.

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

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

The increase over three years is 25.4%, including an assumed inflation figure of 3% per annum.

IPART has requested feedback on the draft proposal in relation to WAMC charges, with submissions closing 1 July 2025. IPART will consider any submissions before handing down its final determination for WAMC charges in September, with the new WAMC charges starting from 1 October 2025.

Given that:

- the reduction in charges from what was originally proposed;
- IPART has never changed its draft determination despite Council and others making submissions;
- the total value of the annual charges paid by Council to WAMC; and
- all of Council's relevant arguments were included in Council's original submission.

It is considered there is little value in preparing a submission on the WAMC charges.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

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

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

| | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Assume inflation is 3% | Assume inflation is 3% | Assume inflation is 3% |
| Water NSW Charges | \$1,343,320 | \$1,409,143 | \$1,451,417 | \$1,494,959 |
| WAMC Charges | \$129,327 | \$139,999 | \$150,818 | \$161,165 |
| Total | \$1,472,647 | \$1,549,141 | \$1,602,235 | \$1,657,124 |

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

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 1 – Our Water Security

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 SUNDRY DEBTOR WRITE OFF FOR 2024/2025 – FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Tiffany Pugh, Rates Accountant

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Sundry Debtor Write Off for 2024/2025”, Council approve the writing off of sundry debtors totalling \$94,009.95 in accordance with Section 131 and 213 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of sundry debtor bad debts which have been identified as uncollectable and should be written off in accordance with Section 131 and 213 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

COMMENTARY

The writing off of these general debtors for user charges, fees and other income is submitted for approval.

The amounts written off are summarised as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Uneconomical to recover | \$ 3,162.22 |
| Legal grounds to recover exhausted | <u>\$ 90,847.73</u> |

\$ 94,009.95

The debts listed in **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1** are unsecured debts, for this reason recovery is not always possible. In accordance with Section 213(5) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, it is considered reasonable, that any further attempt to recover these debts would not be cost effective.

The table listing the proposed write offs are **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**, and includes:

- the name of the person/business whose debt is being written off;
- the details of the amount concerned; and
- the amount of the debt.

The fact that a debt has been written off does not prevent Council initiating legal proceedings in the future to recover the debt. Any amount written off will be adjusted if part or all of the debt is subsequently recovered.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The writing off of the amounts shown in the attachment will reduce the balance of outstanding receivables.

If the recommendation to write off these debts is approved this amount will be expensed in the current financial year.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership

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

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during May 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 May, the Community Safety and Wellbeing division received a new grant from the Department of Communities and Justice, as part of the Youth Opportunities Round 13 Grant, for the Youthie Grub Hub for the amount of \$35,000.

An additional \$15,000 from general fund was allocated to a new project to undertake a desktop audit of Council's current salary system to determine the efficacy of the current salary system and seek recommendations. There was also an additional cost of \$33,200 to the current Development Contributions Scheme Review, as a land valuer and quantity surveyor is required to be engaged by the current consultant Urbis in order to determine the cost of the existing and new infrastructure to be included in the new Contributions Plan.

As we draw closer to the end of financial year, a number of projects across the organisation have been completed, including two projects at the airport, renovations to the accommodation B Block, as well as a technical report of the air conditioning system at the Pilot Training Facility, along with various projects in the water and wastewater division. Budget adjustments have been processed to reflect final actual costs.

Incomplete works totalling \$458,181 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 transfer these budgets to the 2025/26 financial year.

A reallocation of LRCI Round 4 grant funding was applied to existing projects, which resulted in an increase to the budget for the Tamworth Regional Council Entrance Strategy and Pavement Renewal for Carthage Street, whilst there was a reduction to the budgets for the Tamworth Pound Upgrade and the Tamworth Toy Library Relocation project.

An increase to the budget for the Calala Water Treatment Plant Polymer System Upgrade project was funded from the Water Reserve for the amount of \$250,000 as a result of a determination from recent design works to effectively renew a major electrical switchboard that supplies power and control to the water treatment plant chemical dosing systems.

A new project was identified to the amount of \$47,000 to be funded by the laboratory reserve for the Laboratory Mantech Instrumentation Upgrade, which is a result of laboratory equipment no longer being IT compatible. The equipment is required to perform a variety of tests necessary for water and wastewater compliance monitoring.

An additional \$118,424 in grant income, as a result of an approved variation request for the Mick Mahers' Bridge renewal, resulted in a reduction in the Council contribution required.

May 2025 Budget Variations

| Description | Budget Variation | Operating Income | Operating Expenses | Capital Income | Capital Expenses |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| People & Culture | 15,000 | 0 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Safety & Wellbeing | 0 | -35,000 | 35,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Future Communities | 33,200 | 0 | 33,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Airport & Aviation | -313,716 | 0 | 0 | 198,275 | -511,991 |
| Pilot Training Facility | -6,940 | 0 | 1,430 | 0 | -8,370 |
| Sports & Recreation Services | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Operations | 118,424 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 118,424 |
| Project Costing | -363,780 | 0 | 0 | -118,424 | -245,356 |
| Water & Wastewater | -201,404 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -201,404 |
| TOTAL | -619,216 | -35,000 | 84,630 | 79,851 | -748,697 |

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 | -35,000 | 84,630 | 79,851 | -500,293 |
| Water | 0 | 0 | 0 | -248,404 |
| Sewer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | -35,000 | 84,630 | 79,851 | -748,697 |

(c) Legal Implications

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

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.3 WRITING OFF OF POSTPONED RATES, CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS AND CHARGES FOR 2024/2025 – FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Tiffany Pugh, Rates Accountant

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Writing Off of Postponed Rates, Conservation Agreements and Charges for 2024/2025”, Council approves the writing off of Rates and Charges totalling \$162,604.47 in accordance with Section 131 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of Rates and Charges to be written off during the 2024/2025 financial year with regards to Postponed Rates and Conservation Agreements. In accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council approval is required for the writing off of rates and charges.

COMMENTARY

In accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the writing off of Rates and Charges during 2024/2025 totalling \$162,604.40 is submitted for approval.

The amounts written off are summarised as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2020/2021 Postponed Rates/Interest | \$ 103,447.93 |
| 2021/2022 Conservation Agreements | \$ 10,444.42 |
| 2022/2023 Conservation Agreements | \$ 10,669.04 |
| 2023/2024 Conservation Agreements | \$ 12,162.95 |
| 2024/2025 Conservation Agreements | <u>\$ 25,880.13</u> |
| | <u>\$ 162,604.47</u> |

Postponed Rates are covered under Section 585-598 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and relate to land that is zoned to permit commercial, multi-residential or subdivision development, but is currently used for a single dwelling-house or rural land. A factor of the rates is postponed each year and written off after five years if the use has not changed.

Conservation Agreements are covered under Section 555 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and relate to land that has some part included in a Conservation Agreement within the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Rates are reduced each year based on the portion of the land area under the agreement.

The Rates and Charges Abandonment Register, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**, provides full details of each individual rate and/or charge written off during the 2024/2025 financial year.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Abandonments for Postponed Rates and Conservation Agreements are allowed for in annual budgets.

(c) Legal Implications

Conservation Agreement

In accordance with Section 555(1)(b1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, land that is the subject of a conservation agreement is exempt from all rates. Section 555(3) provides for rates being made and levied proportionately on the part of a parcel not subject to the Conservation Agreement.

Postponed Rates and Charges

In accordance with Section 595 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, if five years have elapsed since the commencement of a rating year for which part of the rates levied on land have been postponed under this Division, the part postponed and any interest accrued on that part **must** be written off by Council.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.4 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MAY 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 May 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 May 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 May 2025.

During the month, Council's portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 4.81% against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 3.73%.

(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

9.5 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL - INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Katie Alchin, Manager Strategy & Performance

Reference: Item 9.1 to Ordinary Council 13 May 2025 - Minute No 108/25
Item 9.8 to Ordinary Council 25 March 2025 - Minute No 68/25

6 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Council - Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents", Council makes the following determinations:

- (i) in relation to ordinary rates, Council adopts the Special Variation Scenario of 15.0% (inclusive of a 3.8% rate peg increase) annual maximum rate peg, as*
-

approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART);

- (ii) in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the ordinary rates for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, refer ANNEXURE 4;*
- (iii) in accordance with Part 9, Division 5, clause 211(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council approves expenditure and vote funds as detailed in the DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26;*
- (iv) Council authorises the affixing of the Seal of the Council to all Loan Documents relating to 2025/2026 loan funding for:*
 - Aquatic, Education and Health Centre of Excellence;*
 - Digital Transformation;*
 - Organic Recycling Facility (subject to Capital Expenditure Review Approval)*
 - Tamworth Regional Skywalk*
 - Tamworth Global Gateway Park**as detailed in DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029 and DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26, and DRAFT 2025/26 Statement of Revenue Policy, refer ANNEXURE 3 and ANNEXURE 4;*
- (v) in relation to water supply charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Water Supply Services in 2025/2026, refer ANNEXURE 4;*
- (vi) in relation to sewerage service charges; in accordance with Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the charges for Sewerage Services in 2025/2026, refer ANNEXURE 4;*
- (vii) in relation to waste management charges, in accordance with Section 496 and Section 501 and Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and levy the annual charges for Waste Management Services in 2025/2026, refer ANNEXURE 4;*
- (viii) in relation to stormwater management service charges, in accordance with Section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council make and impose the charges for the purpose of construction of Stormwater Management Services identified in Council's Urban Area Stormwater Management Plan(s), refer ANNEXURE 4;*
- (ix) in relation to interest on overdue rates and charges, Council make and impose the maximum charge for interest of 10.5% on overdue rates and charges as determined by the Minister for Local Government, in accordance with Section 566 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993;*
- (x) in relation to the exhibited fees and charges; fees and charges for the actual use of services provided by Council as detailed in DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029 and DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/2026 be adopted in accordance with Section 502 of the Local Government Act 1993, refer ANNEXURE 3 and ANNEXURE 4;*

- (xi) *in accordance with Section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council endorse the DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 2*
- (xii) *in accordance with Section 403, 404, 405 and 406 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council adopt DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029 ATTACHED refer ANNEXURE 3, DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 4, DRAFT Resourcing Strategy 2025-2036 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 5, and DRAFT Fees & Charges 2025/26 ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 6.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council endorse and adopt the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents as follows:

Endorse:

- DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035;

Adopt:

- DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029;
- DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/26 (including Draft Statement of Revenue Policy);
- DRAFT Resourcing Strategy 2025-2036; and
- DRAFT Fees and Charges 2025/26.

COMMENTARY

Background

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework, Council is required to prepare a suite of documents to facilitate integration of long-term planning and implementation of Council activities.

In the period following an ordinary election of Council, the IP&R cycle requires the review of its complete suite to ensure the visions continue to represent the wants and needs of the community.

These documents required are described below:

| Plan | Purpose | Timeframe/ horizon | Reviewed |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035 | Identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. | 10 years | After every ordinary Council election |

| | | | |
|--|---|------------|----------|
| Delivery Program 2025-2029 | A statement of commitment to the community from the newly elected Council, and translates the community's strategic goals into actions | Four years | Annually |
| Operational Plan and Budget 2025/2026 | An action plan for achieving the community's priorities, including operational and capital works budgets | One year | Annually |
| Resourcing Strategy 2025-2036 | Articulates how Council will implement and resource the aspirations of the community set out in the Community Strategic Plan Consists of three components: | | |
| | 1. Long Term Financial Plan- A rolling plan that informs decision making and demonstrates how commitments will be funded | 10 years | Annually |
| | 2. Workforce Management Strategy- A proactive plan that shapes the capacity and capability of the workforce to achieve Council's strategic goals | Four years | Annually |
| | 3. Asset Management Strategy- A plan to ensure Council's assets are managed and accounted for in an efficient and sustainable way | Four years | Annually |
| Statement of Revenue Policy 2025/26 | The proposed Statement of Revenue Policy which includes the schedule of rates | One year | Annually |
| Fees and Charges 2025-2026 | Contains the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for Council services for the period | One year | Annually |

Public Exhibition and Survey Responses

Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 25 March 2025, resolved to place the Community Strategic Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 27 March, 2025 to 24 April 2025.

Additionally, Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 13 May 2025, resolved to place the remaining IP&R documents on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 14 May 2025 to 13 June 2025.

During the exhibition periods, Council received 38 submissions for the Community Strategic Plan and 14 submissions for the remaining suite of documents.

Submissions for the Community Strategic Plan varied with a strong emphasis on continued support for a Performing Arts and Culture Centre. A portion of submissions pertained to the operations of Council and were subsequently referred to the relevant teams for consideration in future operational plans.

Analysis of the submissions prompted minor changes to wording to the Community Strategic Plan, which have been documented along with additional administrative changes, **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Submissions received for the remaining IP&R documents varied across operational areas with a portion relating to the Special Variation. Assessment of the submissions determined no changes were required for the remaining suite; however operational feedback has now been forwarded to relevant divisions for consideration.

Submissions received from Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (TACCO) for the Community Strategic Plan and IP&R suite have been received and noted. Council will work with TACCO following the signing of the Mara Ngali Partnership Agreement, to develop actions and measures for future IP&R documents.

Additional modifications to the suite of documents are recorded in **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. These changes reflect updates and corrections made within the exhibition period and are considered minor. Amendments and updates to the draft documents will be finalised upon endorsement/adoption of the suite.

DRAFT Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035

In accordance with Section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must prepare and implement a Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the community. The Community Strategic Plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the local government area, covering a period of at least 10 years. As responsibility for the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan does not lie solely with Council, it is Council's role to endorse the plan rather than adopt it.

DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029

Council's DRAFT Delivery Program 2025-2029 **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3** conforms to the legislative requirements of Section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993.

DRAFT Resourcing Strategy 2025-2036

Council's DRAFT Resourcing Strategy 2025-2036, **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5** conforms to the legislative requirements of Section 403 of the Local Government Act 1993.

DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/2026

The DRAFT Operational Plan and Budget 2025/2026 **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 4**

includes the Statement of Revenue Policy (refer to part 2). It is recommended that Council adopt the 15.0% annual maximum rate peg (inclusive of a 3.8% rate peg increase), as approved by IPART, and in accordance with Section 494 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Operational Plan and Budget conforms to the legislative requirements of Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993.

DRAFT Fees and Charges 2025/26

Fees and charges for the actual use of services provided by Council, as detailed in the DRAFT Fees and Charges 2025/2026, **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 6** be adopted in accordance with Section 502 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. **ANNEXURE 1** details a list of changes to the Fees and Charges document.

The adoption of the IP&R suite of documents will provide Council with a direction during its term in council, and the service activities and actions that it plans to undertake over the next financial year. Once adopted, copies will be made available on Council's website and provided to the Office of Local Government.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

As detailed in **ANNEXURES 3,4 and 6**

(c) Legal Implications

Our Integrated Planning and Reporting Suite meets the statutory requirements of Sections 402, 403, 404, 405 and 406 of the Local Government Act 1993.

(d) Community Consultation

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Council, at a minimum, to place the draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.

The draft Community Strategic Plan was placed on public exhibition from 27 March to 24 April 2025. The remaining IP&R documents were placed on public exhibition from 14 May to 13 June 2025. Advertisements were placed across print, radio and digital media. Electronic feedback forms were provided via Council's "Have Your Say" website.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership.

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 2025 TAMWORTH NAIDOC COMMITTEE FEE WAIVER REQUEST

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Haley Fenn, Team Leader, Inclusive Community

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "2025 Tamworth NAIDOC Committee Fee Waiver

Request”, Council subsidise the fees associated with the hire of Tamworth Regional Council facilities and services by the amount disclosed in this report.

SUMMARY

The Tamworth NAIDOC Committee is again organising events for the 2025 NAIDOC week celebrations from Sunday, 6 July to Sunday, 13 July 2025.

Building on the success of the 2024 events, the Tamworth NAIDOC Committee requires the use of multiple Tamworth Regional Council operated facilities to meet the community needs of these events. Given the importance of NAIDOC week for the local Aboriginal community, and the social benefits associated with these events, it is recommended that Council provide some level of financial support as has occurred in previous years.

COMMENTARY

The Tamworth NAIDOC Committee (the Committee) will again host the following NAIDOC events:

- Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 6 July at Tamworth Botanic Gardens;
- Tamworth NAIDOC Leaders Photographic Exhibition at Tamworth Regional Gallery;
- NAIDOC Disco Thursday, 10 July at Tamworth Regional Youth Centre
- The NAIDOC March on Friday, 11 July commencing at Viaduct Park, continuing along Peel Street and finishing at Bicentennial Park;
- Family Fun Day at Bicentennial Park Friday, 11 July;
- Debutante Ball on Saturday, 12 July at Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC); and
- Elders Lunch to be held on Thursday, 25 September 2025.

The Committee is comprised of local organisations including eight Aboriginal organisations and representatives from a range of local NGOs, community members and Council.

This year's celebrations will align with the National NAIDOC theme *"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy"*. The Committee considers that a strong partnership with Council supporting event logistics and promotion could broaden the appeal, awareness and participation of the broader community across these NAIDOC Week events.

The Committee has identified Bicentennial Park and the TRECC as the most suitable venues for the Family Fun Day, NAIDOC Debutante Ball and Elders Lunch events, and is seeking a full fee waiver for hire fees, amenities, cleaning and waste removal and audio-visual production fees.

A letter of request from the Committee is **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The estimated fees for the use of Council facilities and venues as well as the fee for service are outlined in Table 1:

| Description | Estimated fee (GST inc.) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Hire of Bicentennial Park on 11 July 2025 – NAIDOC Family Fun Day | \$471.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Additional bin and amenities cleaning services Bicentennial Park – Family Fun Day | \$600.00 |
| Sound and stage – Events Tech staff | \$996.00 |
| Traffic management and rolling road closures for the NAIDOC March on 11 July 2025 | \$5,500.00 |
| Youth Centre – Committee Meeting, Dance Practice, Debutante Ball workshops, Disco (24 sessions) | \$3,562.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Venue hire (TRECC) | \$6058.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Cleaning (TRECC) | \$1,178.00 |
| Debutante Ball – Décor (TRECC) | \$470.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Staging and equipment (TRECC) | \$5,740.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Tableware and linen (TRECC) | \$787.50 |
| Debutante Ball - Furniture (TRECC) | \$2,240.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Technical staffing (TRECC) | \$2,508.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Production package (TRECC) | \$3,500.00 |
| Debutante Ball - TRECC Other charges (TRECC) | \$1,200.00 |
| Debutante Ball - Production A/V Supplied (TRECC) | \$1000.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Venue hire (TRECC) | \$2396.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Cleaning (TRECC) | \$199.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Staging and equipment (TRECC) | \$2700.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Tableware and linen (TRECC) | \$562.50 |
| Elders Lunch - Furniture (TRECC) | \$1100.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Technical staffing (TRECC) | \$392.00 |
| Elders Lunch - Production A/V Supplied (TRECC) | \$1188.00 |
| Elders Lunch - TRECC Other charges (TRECC) | \$400.00 |
| Estimated Total Fees | \$44,748.00 |

Table 1. 2025 NAIDOC events estimated fees

It is acknowledged that these events will create no direct economic impact for the region due to the community-based nature of the events. However, it is anticipated there will be a significant social return on investment.

These events are fun, family-friendly celebrations of Aboriginal culture, and align with Council's Blueprint 100 Our Delivery Plan 2023/2025 - Focus Area 7, by supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the preservation and celebration of their cultures.

Given the social value and benefit of these events to the local Aboriginal community it is recommended that Council support the events with a 100% fee subsidisation for hire of the TRECC and fee waiver for hire and service fees. It is therefore recommended that Council support these events with a fee subsidy of \$44,748.00.

While NAIDOC week each year celebrates and acknowledges our past and our present, it also looks with hope towards the future. The sheer numbers of events and activities the Tamworth NAIDOC Committee continues to deliver each year emphasises the growing success and importance of NAIDOC Week for our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

(a) Policy Implications

Council's support for the recommended subsidy aligns with Blueprint 100 Focus Area 7, by supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the preservation and celebration of their cultures.

It also aligns with Council's adoption of Closing the Gap and is part of Council's commitment to advancing Closing the Gap goals within the Tamworth Region.

(b) Financial Implications

It is noted that last year (2024), Council subsidised the NAIDOC week events to the total of \$20,614.60, following the Committee's successful grant submission which provided \$50,000. Unfortunately, the maximum grant that could be applied for in 2025 was \$30,000 and the Tamworth NAIDOC Committee only received \$8,500. The Committee also received an amount of \$5,000 from another funding body, however, in order to deliver the span of events proposed, it has requested that Council subsidise the events to the amount of \$44,748. Should Council support this fee waiver proposal, \$44,748 will be deducted from the General Fund.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities.

Focus Area 7 – Celebrate our Cultures and Heritage.

10.2 2025/2026 REGIONAL EVENTS MARKETING SUPPORT PROGRAM

DIRECTORATE:

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

AUTHOR:

Linda Bridges, Coordinator Visitor Economy

1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2025/2026 Regional Events Marketing Support Program”, Council:

- (i) support the recommended events as noted within the body of this report; and;***
- (ii) approve the allocation of funds as outlined in the body of the report.***

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation to allocate \$30,000 from the 2025/2026 Regional Events Marketing Support Program budget to support local regional events.

COMMENTARY

Applications under the 2025/2026 Regional Events Marketing Support Program were invited from 6 May to 31 May 2025, inclusive. Promotion of the funding program included a media release, direct email to database of previous applicants, e-news, social posts. There were 15 applications received this year.

Council's Regional Events Marketing Support Program provides financial and/or in-kind marketing support for marketing activity for events and festivals held within the Tamworth region. Applicants are required to complete a Regional Events Marketing Support Program application in full, including all supporting documentation as listed in the checklist on the application form.

In order to qualify for funding, an event must exhibit and be able to report back on three key focus areas:

- the economic benefit of the event to the Tamworth region;
- an increase in overnight visitation to the Tamworth region, and
- event feasibility for new events, or for existing/established events demonstrate how the event will grow.

There are 3 tiers of funding available, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per event.

1. \$100 - \$1000
2. \$1001 - \$2,500
3. \$2,501 - \$5,000 (maximum)

All applications are assessed against information provided in their final event report which includes how the event increases visitation to the region, how the organisation intends to grow their attendance, how previous funding assisted to market their event and also includes an economic impact assessment to determine the benefit to the region. Based on this assessment the applications, including the recommended offer of marketing support, see **ATTACHED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

Due to the number of applications received this year and the limited resources available to provide assistance, all events that have applied have not been successful with funding.

This year we are prioritising support for new and emerging events, particularly those in greater need of exposure and those being held in our outlying towns and villages. This direction is aimed at fostering growth and opportunity in areas that may not yet have established audiences or promotional reach.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- Council supports the following applications and associated events:

| Event | Applicant | Recommended Support (ex GST) | Economic Impact |
|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Rise: Future Stars Pro-Am Fight Night | One 2 Boxing Westside | \$1,500.00 | \$330,671 |
| Tamworth Mountain Biking Festival - Triple Event Weekend | Tamworth Mountain Bikers | \$1,500.00 | \$53,894 |
| Kootingal Country Fair | Kootingal Recreational Reserve Committee | \$5,000.00 | \$919,007 |
| ADAA National Grand Prix | Agility Dog Association of Australia Ltd | \$2,000.00 | \$76,508 |
| Inter Schools Horse Extravaganza | ISHE-Tamworth | \$5,000.00 | \$856,061 |
| One of a Kind Annual Fashion Parade | One Of A Kind Community Support Incorporated | \$1,000.00 | \$58,798 |
| Back to the Bush | Aircooled Assembly Inc | \$3,000.00 | \$200,360 |
| Nundle Twilight Christmas Market | Nundle Woollen Mill | \$3,000.00 | \$375,676 |
| Barraba Show | Barraba PA&H Association Inc. | \$3,000.00 | \$459,503 |
| Q26 AQHA National Show | Australian Quarter Horse Association | \$2,000.00 | \$131,646 |
| 2026 Bendemeer 'Colours of Autumn' Art Show | Bendemeer Art Show | \$3,000.00 | \$221,283 |

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Creative Communities and Experiences directorate has an Event Support Marketing Program budget. Funding of \$30,000 will be deducted from this budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Direct marketing, social and advertising were conducted to promote the availability of the program. A full marketing report is available on request.

(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 TENDER P00824 - TENDER FOR COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF SCRAP METAL, BATTERIES, E-WASTE, CAR BODY AND REFRIGERANT DE-GASSING

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Doug Hughes, Manager - Waste & Resource Recovery

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the acceptance of a Tender for the Processing of Scrap Metal at Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Facilities. The report discusses the merits of the Tenders received via Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) on behalf of the NIRW member Councils and recommends a preferred Tenderer.

11.2 PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF A SEWER EASEMENT - CALALA LANE

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Ian Cross, Senior Project Engineer

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c),(d)i&(d)ii of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter

and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to gain Council approval in relation to the establishment of two easements for the installation of sewer infrastructure to allow the development of the Goonoo Goonoo Commercial Precinct to proceed. One easement is located on private land requiring Council approval for the acquisition of the subject land, whilst the other easement is located on land already owned by Council.