



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

8 JULY 2025

PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

Order of Business

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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 Monday, 30 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

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR MATT SHARPHAM - DELEGATES REPORT - GORE

MOTION

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report.

Notice is given that I intend to present this Delegates Report at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 8 July 2025.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

From the 28 May to 1 June 2025, the Mayor Russell Webb, General Manager Paul Bennett and myself attended the Gore Tussocks Country Music Festival as guests of the Mayor of Gore Cr Ben Bell. This was 50th Anniversary of the Festival in Gore and there were many events packed into just a few days.

From the moment the delegation arrived in Gore, we were welcomed with open arms. The hospitality shown by our hosts set the tone for the entire trip. Gore's population is approximately 8,300, but the warmth of its people and pride in their town made it feel so much bigger.

The delegation toured their modern Council Chambers and library (built with COVID-era "Shovel Ready" funding at a cost of about \$6M), exchanged books that reflect our local

cultures, and were shown how greenery is used throughout their Council building to create a vibrant, healthy workspace. It was a small detail, but one that really stood out.

One of the highlights was the launch of the Resolution Farm Management App - an incredibly intuitive tool built by farmers, for farmers. It's packed with features and constantly evolving based on real-world feedback. I also had the chance to speak on a panel about agritech, sharing how drone technology is being used in our region, while Russell and Paul spoke about Tamworth's economy and opportunities for collaboration at the Southland Business Chamber Forum.

Music was at the heart of the visit and we were treated to performances from 22 of the past Gold Guitar winners, local school buskers braving the cold on the streets of Gore and an intimate acoustic night at the Eastern Southland Gallery featuring artists from both NZ and Australia (including Rufus Whistler and John Collins). Saturday night was particularly special as we presented the Junior Gold Guitar Award - sponsored by Tamworth Regional Council - to Cleo Fitzgerald-Lyttelton, who, along with Intermediate winner Maddison Connor-Nelson, who will be joining us in Tamworth for the 2026 Country Music Festival.

We took part in the Gore Truck Show Parade, walked the streets chatting with locals (many of whom had already visited Tamworth), and planted a tree outside the Council Chambers to symbolise our growing relationship. Despite the cold, wet weather, the spirit of the town and the Festival was still warm and welcoming.

As a new Councillor, observing the General Manager and the Mayor on this delegation gave me invaluable experience in dealing with community and our Sister Cities. The benefits to Council including economic, cultural, and relational will realised in the years to come. The annual delegation from Gore to the Tamworth Country Music Festival is already well into planning for visit. I'm incredibly grateful to the Council for the opportunity, and to the people of Gore for making us feel so welcome. It is hoped the Council can return the favour in January.

Cr Matt Sharpham

16 June 2025

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAME FOR EXISTING PRIVATE ROAD OFF PHOENIX STREET, WESTDALE - RN2024-0035

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Kathleen See-Kee, Development Support Officer

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Proposed Road Name for Existing Private Road off Phoenix Street, Westdale - RN2024-0035", Council endorses the road name of

‘Livestock’ Lane.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the proposed road name for the existing private road off Phoenix Street, Westdale as ‘Livestock’ Lane.

COMMENTARY

All formed roads, including private roads (meaning roads for which the care and maintenance is not the responsibility of a Local Government) that are generally open to the public or to services, should be named, as the delivery of emergency and other services are often impeded when private roads are not named or officially recorded.

Access to the properties and businesses, including the Tamworth Regional Livestock Exchange, is from this un-named private road off Phoenix Street which has been formed over a Right of Carriageway. Owners of properties which are serviced by this private road are responsible for the maintenance of the road.

The NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) has advised that the Roads Regulation 2018 does not require private roads to be gazetted, however, it is considered best practice for names to be proposed, endorsed by the GNB Secretariat and included in NSW Spatial Services systems.

The GNB has also advised that for the endorsement of the names of private roads, it is only necessary for the Local Government to consult with affected land owners. Notification of the proposal to name this existing private road ‘Livestock’ Lane was carried out by Council to all affected land owners and no objections were received.

This report seeks Council’s endorsement, as the local Authority, to name this private road ‘Livestock’ Lane as **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Proposed road name: ‘Livestock’ Lane

Theme or origin of proposed name: To reflect the agricultural industries of the surrounding properties

Geographical Names Board 7 December 2023

Approval Date:

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(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 affected land owners were notified and no objections were received in response.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – a Liveable Built Environment

7.2 DRAFT TAMWORTH REGIONAL STRUCTURE PLANS - PROPOSED PUBLIC EXHIBITION

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Mitchell Gillogly, Team Leader – Strategic Planning

5 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans - Proposed Public Exhibition”, Council:

- (i) approve the public exhibition of the Draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans 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 Draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans.*

SUMMARY

Council has engaged Urbis, an urban design consultant, to prepare three structure plans for the following precincts:

- Precinct 1: Southern Gateway Activation Precinct;
- Precinct 2: Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct; and
- Precinct 3: Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

The draft structure plans provide a high-level framework for development, housing, transport, open space, and land use in three key precincts to accommodate population growth, facilitate infrastructure delivery, and enhance liveability. The draft structure plans seek to inform the community and landowners of the future direction and vision for the three precincts during and beyond the next 20 years. Therefore, the structure plans should be considered the first step, with technical studies, amendments to planning provisions and significant infrastructure upgrades required to facilitate the long-term vision for the precincts.

The draft structure plans have been developed in response to key actions in the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DHPI) - *New England North West Regional Plan 2041, Council's Blueprint 100: Part 1 and Part 2 – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020* and the *Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy 2024*.

The purpose of this report is to obtain a resolution of Council to proceed to public exhibition of the Draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans.

COMMENTARY

Background

Tamworth Regional Council's land use vision for the future of the Tamworth Regional LGA, is identified in the *New England North West Regional Plan 2041 (NENW Regional Plan 2041)* and Council's *Blueprint 100: Part 1, Blueprint 100: Part 2 LSPS 2020 (Blueprint: Part 2 LSPS 2020)* and *Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy 2024 (TRHS 2024)*. These

strategic planning documents guide planning decisions and growth management for the Tamworth region.

Consequently, the draft structure plans have been developed in response to key actions from the *NENW Regional Plan 2041* and Council's *Blueprint 100: Part 1, Blueprint 100: Part 2 LSPS 2020 and TRHS 2024*.

Council has received several Expressions of Interest from landowners seeking to explore opportunities for their land in response to being identified in strategic documents. In order to facilitate the orderly development of land for future growth, Council has engaged Urbis, an urban design consultant, to prepare structure plans for the three precincts to guide future development and infrastructure delivery.

The future adoption and implementation of the draft structure plans will assist Council in implementing the strategic intent of NSW State, Regional and Council strategic planning documents.

Structure Plans

Council has engaged Urbis, an urban design consultant, to prepare three structure plans for the following precincts:

- Precinct 1: Southern Gateway Activation Precinct;
- Precinct 2: Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct; and
- Precinct 3: Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

A locality plan is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

A structure plan is a planning document used in urban planning to guide the future growth and development of a specific area. It sets out a broad framework for land use, infrastructure, transport, community facilities, and environmental management. It is a high-level framework that is not intended to resolve all issues.

The draft structure plans do not amend current planning controls such as zoning and minimum lot sizes. Instead, the outcomes of the structure plans are implemented through Planning Proposals, Development Applications and Council's Development Control Plan. The future development of the precincts will be supported by a number of technical studies, where relevant, relating to traffic, flooding, drainage, contamination, bushfire, ecology, infrastructure servicing, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and so on.

The draft structure plans are supported by a report which provides the background, key outcomes and detailed analysis of how each structure plan was developed in consultation with landowners and Government agencies. The report also sets out the vision for each precinct.

The draft structure plan report is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

The three structure plans are discussed in further detail below.

Southern Gateway Activation Precinct

The Southern Gateway Activation Precinct is strategically important to cater for the long-term growth of Tamworth. This precinct is located on the southern fringe of Tamworth and is bounded by Burgmanns Lane, Duri Road, Spains Lane and the New England Highway. It surrounds the existing Kingswood Estate to the north, east and west.

The subject lands are generally identified in the *Regional Plan 2041* and *Blueprint: Part 2 LSPS 2020* as a future large lot residential investigation area.

The key outcomes for the precinct include;

- **Housing Diversity** – Provide a range of housing options to meet various needs and preferences of future residents, whilst addressing both immediate shortages and long-term demands. The structure plan responds by incorporating large lots (4000m²) as part of Stage 1 and a variety of standard urban lots (450m² – 2000m²) and medium density development as part of Stage 2 to cater for future demand.
- **Infrastructure Delivery** – Stage the delivery of the precinct in consideration of expected population and infrastructure demand. It is envisaged the staged development will comprise;
 - **Stage 1 (5+ years)** – Large lot residential (4000m²) which will be serviced with reticulated water and Onsite Sewerage Management Systems (OSSM); and
 - **Stage 2 (20+ years)** – Full urban residential (450m² – 2000m²) and potential civic centre which will be serviced with reticulated water, gravity sewer, stormwater infrastructure and public open space. This will require significant investment in new and augmented infrastructure.
- **Protection of Burgmanns Lane** – Restrict the number of access points onto Burgmanns Lane to protect the future Western Freight Link.
- **Connectivity** – Provide a robust transport network which enhances connectivity throughout the precinct linking back into Kingswood and adjoining road network. Provide a connected active transport network which links into open space, civic centre and the wider Tamworth active transport network.
- **Character Response** - Respond to the existing Kingswood Estate by continuing the existing large lot residential lot size (4,000m²) along Burgmanns Lane to the existing ridgeline. This ensures the existing visual character will be maintained and provides a clear delineation between Stages 1 and 2.
- **Future proof** – Council's TRHS 2024 identifies that Tamworth has capacity under the existing urban land use planning controls to meet demand for the next 20 years, therefore Stage 2 will be protected as the long-term growth area to meet the future demand for urban residential land.
- **Community Facilities** – Ensure Stage 2 caters for future residents by providing community facilities such as parks and a potential civic precinct.

Overall, Stage 1 will contribute in meeting the expected shortfall of 4000m² lots identified in *Blueprint: Part 2 LSPS 2020*. The *TRHS 2024* identifies sufficient capacity under existing urban land use planning controls to meet demand for the next 23 years. Therefore, Stage 2 is identified as the strategic long term growth area for Tamworth to meet future population demands once the existing urban growth areas are nearing capacity.

The draft Southern Growth Activation Precinct structure plan is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct

The Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct is well placed close to services and amenities and is strategically important to cater for the future growth of Kootingal. The precinct is located to the east of the existing Kootingal urban area and enjoys frontage to Limbri Road.

The *Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy 2024*, identifies the precinct as a future residential investigation area.

The key outcomes for the precinct include;

- **Character Response** – Respond to the surrounding character which includes the Kootingal urban area to the west, State Heritage Listed Moonby House to the north and large lot residential to the east.
- **Housing Diversity** - Offer a mix of housing lots that respect the varying character of the surrounding area. The structure plan responds by incorporating larger lots (1000m²) along the western boundary and standard urban lots (450m² – 800m²) for the balance of the precinct.
- **Connectivity** – Provide a direct road connection to Limbri Road with potential for a northern connection via an extension of Grant Street. Integrate the active transport network into the Kootingal urban area and existing passive recreation area.
- **Open Space** – Identify two parks to service the precinct. The southern park will leverage the existing vegetation cluster to provide a unique integrated open space area.
- **Infrastructure Delivery** – The precinct will be serviced with reticulated water, gravity sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The change of zoning to enable the structure plan will trigger a significant upgrade to the existing Kootingal Sewerage Treatment Plant.

The timing of this precinct is dependent on the upgrade of the Kootingal Sewerage Treatment Plant. The upgrade is in the early stages of investigation, and any upgrade would be a minimum of five (5) years away.

The draft Kootingal Residential Growth Precinct Structure Plan is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 4**.

Tamworth Regional Sports and Entertainment Precinct

The Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct comprises the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC), Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC), Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE), Former Athletics Track, Longyard Golf Course, Longyard Commercial Centre and adjoining rural and residential lands. This precinct comprises a highly diverse mix of land uses which require careful consideration, with the structure plan providing a high-level framework for the precinct.

The precinct is bounded by the existing Tamworth urban area to the north, Goonoo Goonoo Road to the east, Burgmanns Lane to the south and Arcadia residential estate to the west.

The structure plan has been informed by direct actions from the *Regional Plan 2041*, Council's *Blueprint 100: Part 1, Blueprint: Part 2 LSPS 2020 and TRHS 2024*.

The key outcomes for the precinct include;

- **Former Athletics Track** - Identify the Former Athletics Track as a key site which would include uses such as tourist and visitor accommodation, food and drink premises and other landuses which support the AELEC and surrounding sporting precinct in accordance with the zone objectives.
- **Tourism and Entertainment** – Facilitate a vibrant precinct which offers a dynamic mix of experiences that appeal to both visitors and locals. This requires a mixture of tourist and visitor related land use such as tourist accommodation and food and drink premises which leverage the existing regional sporting facilities and entertainment

venues. A Special Entertainment Precinct is proposed which aims to promote and balance nightlife vibrancy with community amenity.

- **Connectivity** – Identify a potential new road connection to Greg Norman Drive to alleviate congestion when events are held at the sporting and entertainment facilities. Establish an active transport network within the precinct that connects to the wider area, including the Longyard Commercial Centre and Arcadia Estate.
- **Housing Diversity** - Promote medium-density housing within the precinct given proximity to the Longyard commercial area, regional sporting facilities, entertainment venues and transport links.
- **Regional Sporting Facilities** – Promote and protect the regional sporting facilities.
- **Future investigation Area** - Identify the existing RU4 – Primary Production Small Lot zone located within the precinct as future investigation in consideration of several constraints, including access, infrastructure servicing and land use conflict.

This precinct includes a mix of short-term and long-term aspirations which will be largely driven by infrastructure requirements, funding and future land uses within the precinct.

The draft Tamworth Regional Sports and Entertainment Precinct Structure Plan and Indicative Layout for the Former Athletics Track are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

Community Consultation

Workshops were held between Council staff, Government agencies and landowners to collaborate on the development of the structure plans. The intent of the workshops was to ensure that the proposed structure plans are comprehensive, inclusive, and reflective of the aspirations and needs of all stakeholders, the future residents and the vision set out by Council.

The draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. Community consultation will comprise:

- dedicated ‘Have your say’ page on Council’s website;
- targeted notification to members of the community;
- notice on Council’s social media;
- notice on television, radio and print media; and
- physical display at Council’s Tamworth branch office and Kootingal Multi-Purpose Centre.

(a) Policy Implications

The draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans, if adopted by Council, would become a Council strategy.

(b) Financial Implications

Urbis were engaged to assist Council with the preparation of the draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans. Participating landowners are contributing 50% of the cost of preparing the structure plans.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Workshops were held between Council staff, Government agencies and landowners to collaborate on the development of the structure plans. The draft Tamworth Regional Structure Plans will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days to enable community feedback.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 - A Liveable Built Environment

Focus Area 4 - Resilient and Diverse Communities

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Nil

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Local Government NSW 2025 Annual Conference ”, Council:

- (i) determine issues that are important to Tamworth Regional Council for motions to be drafted and request a further report to be prepared for approval;*
- (ii) authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and two Councillors to attend the 2025 Local Government NSW Conference as Voting Delegates together with the General Manager, and*
- (iii) nominate other interested Councillors to attend the Conference as observers in accordance with Council’s Policy for the attendance of observers.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to nominate Councillor delegates to attend the Annual Conference on 23-25 November 2025, at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre.

COMMENTARY

The 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference will be held at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre from Sunday 23 November 2025 to Tuesday 25 November 2025, with nominations opening on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.

Motions are to be encouraged and submitted by 23 September 2025. The guidelines will be released shortly, and a further report will be presented to Council with proposed Motions prior to 23 September 2025.

Tamworth Regional Council has been allocated four Voting Delegates, with all other Councillors to attend as observers. Each member must nominate its delegates to the Conference.

(a) Policy Implications

Councillor(s) are authorised to attend the LGNSW Annual 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 the Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Councillors have been allocated the sum of \$2,000 annually to specifically provide for attendance at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference. Authorisation of the attendance of Councillors is by way of a resolution of the Council.

(c) Legal Implications

Council's formal resolution for the 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

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 INDIAN MYNA PEST BIRD CONTROL PROGRAM

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

Reference: Item 10.1 to Ordinary Council 11 February 2025 - Minute No 9/25

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Indian Myna Pest Bird Control Program", Council approves the remaining funding from the 2024-2025 Annual Donations Program previously carried over to 2025-2026 being \$3,945.75, for the Tamworth Community Men's Shed and Tamworth Birdwatchers to construct a mobile bird aviary for a program to assist in reducing Indian Myna bird numbers.

SUMMARY

At its Meeting held on 11 February 2025, Council resolved to approve a range of donations

under its 2024-2025 Annual Donations Program. Council also resolved that the remaining balance of \$3,945.75 be rolled-over to the 2025-2026 Annual Donations Program.

Council has recently received a request for funding assistance for a program involving a partnership between the Tamworth Birdwatchers and the Tamworth Community Men's Shed to assist in the control of Indian Myna birds, an invasive bird species and environmental pest bird, present and increasing in the Tamworth Region.

To assist this worthy program, it is recommended that Council approve funding equivalent to the remaining balance of its 2024-2025 Annual Donations Program, (previously rolled over to the 2025-2026 Program), to the Indian Myna Pest Bird Control Program.

COMMENTARY

Background

The Indian Myna, also known as the Common Myna, is an introduced bird species in Australia, originally from India and Asia. It was first brought to Australia in the 1860s to control insect pests in Victoria. While it failed to control pests, the Indian Myna thrived and now has established wild populations in eastern and south eastern Australia.

The impact of the Indian Myna:

- considered an invasive species in Australia due to its aggressive behaviour and impact on native wildlife;
- competes with native animals for food and nesting resources, displace native birds from nesting cavities, and even kill native chicks;
- known to nest in roof spaces, including in city centres such as the Tamworth CBD, thereby negatively affecting public amenity; and
- known to carry bird mites and diseases, which can be a risk to human health.

Indian Myna Pest Bird Control Program

Council would be aware that Indian Myna birds are already numerous in the Tamworth region, and can be expected to continue to increase in numbers.

As a means of assisting in the reduction of Indian Myna bird numbers, Tamworth Birdwatchers, wish to implement a program similar to that operating in other LGAs, where supported by interested local residents, birds are captured on residents' properties using their own bird traps.

Once the birds are captured, they will be transported to a predetermined location and placed in an appropriate aviary where they will be fed and watered by volunteers until (on a regular basis), the birds will be euthanised by a local pest control contractor and transported to the Forest Road landfill.

A purpose-built appropriately sized aviary is therefore required to house the captured birds, enabling birds, as well as food and water, to be placed in the aviary, pending humane euthanasia by the contractor.

In partnership with the Tamworth Birdwatchers Group, the Tamworth Community Men's Shed has agreed to construct a mobile bird aviary on a box trailer to enable its transportation if required. The proposed purpose-built aviary is based on a design developed and constructed for a similar program in the Dubbo region.

The fabrication will be undertaken as a community project of The Tamworth Community Men's Shed. The Men's Shed has provided a quote which covers the cost of a box-trailer, mesh metal and other metal materials and fixtures, as well as signage. Skilled labour is offered at no charge.

The mobile aviary is proposed to be located inside the front fence adjacent to the cul-de-sac entrance to the Tamworth Companion Animal Centre (Animal Pound) in Belmore St, Taminda. This location was selected as being convenient for public access to drop off captured birds and enable food and water to be provided by volunteers for the caged birds pending euthanasia to be delivered by a local pest control contractor.

(a) Policy Implications

There are no policy implications. It is relevant to note that Dubbo Regional Council currently operates an Indian Myna Control Program. The proposal put forward by the Tamworth Birdwatchers group is based on this program and the design of the mobile bird aviary and box trailer is consistent with the design developed in Dubbo.

Canberra City Council also has an Indian Myna bird eradication program in place.

(b) Financial Implications

A quotation has been provided by the Tamworth Community Men's Shed for the construction of a mobile bird aviary box trailer, materials and informative signage, totalling \$5,000.00.

The box trailer will be owned by the Tamworth Birdwatchers group, which will also be responsible for food and water for the Indian Myna birds while confined in the aviary.

It is recommended that Council fund the project to the amount equivalent to what was rolled over from the 2024-2025 Annual Donations Program to the 2025-2026 Program. While Council could decide to defer this funding request to be considered as part of the 2025-2026 Annual Donations Program, this would delay any action on the Myna bird problem for approximately six months and require an updated quotation for the bird aviary construction, which would likely be increased.

(c) Legal Implications

The proposed aviary and program of euthanasia conforms with the RSPCA Management of common (Indian) Myna birds (Information paper). In addition, it conforms with:

- NATSOP-BIR002 National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of Pest Birds; and
- NATSOP-GEN001 National Standard Operating Procedure: Methods of euthanasia

(d) Community Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Tamworth Birdwatchers group, Landcare and Dubbo City Council.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 6 – Working with and Protecting our Environment.

11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

11.1 TENDER T072-2025 - SUPPLY, INSTALL, SERVICE AND MAINTAIN PARKING METERS

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

**AUTHOR: Graeme McKenzie, Manager - Strategy, Assets and Design
Steven Marshall, Strategy, Assets and Design Engineer**

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 Tamworth Regional Council's acceptance of tender T072-2025 to award two contracts to a single contractor for:

- supply and install parking meters (T072-2025-C1) within the Tamworth central business district (CBD); and
- service and maintain parking meters (T072-2025-C2) within the Tamworth CBD.

Tamworth Regional Parking Strategy

Adopted in February 2025, the Tamworth Regional Parking Strategy (the Strategy), advised of Council's plan to replace the existing parking meters within the Tamworth CBD as they are at the end of useful life, have extremely high ongoing maintenance requirements, use outdated technology, and are creating frustration within the community due to frequently being out-of-order.

As part of the updated and adopted Strategy, many changes to our parking network were identified to improve the overall parking experience in the Tamworth CBD and ensuring that we align our parking network to industry best practice. Some of these changes include:

- changes to timed parking restrictions, ensuring we have the right length of stay for motorists in the right areas; and
- changes to metered and free parking zones, with all existing paid off-street parking becoming free to use, and metered parking being introduced into Peel Street (between White Street and Bourke Street).

Due to these parking changes, and with the existing meters being at the end of their useful life, Council advertised an open tender for the procurement of new parking meters (and their ongoing maintenance) to replace our existing fleet of meters.

As the failure of the existing meters was regularly a result of coin jams and problems associated with dispensing the actual parking tickets, the decision was also made (supported by the Councillors) to source new meters that are ticketless and cashless.

Tender Scope

A tender for the supply and install (including decommissioning/disposal of existing meters) of new parking meters in the Tamworth CBD, and the ongoing maintenance of the new parking meters, was advertised for a period of approximately four weeks and closed on 29 April 2025. Tenderers were required to provide separate schedule of prices for the supply and install of the new parking meters (including decommission/disposal of existing meters), and the ongoing maintenance of the new parking meters. The scope of works included:

- decommission/disposal of existing parking meters;
- site remediation of parking meter locations that will not be utilised with new meters;
- preparation of detailed site plans outlining location of new parking meters;
- supply and install of new parking meters;
- bi-directional integration between new parking meters, Council's license plate recognition camera technology, Council's infringement software, and Council's current provider of smart parking phone app (EasyPark); and
- ongoing maintenance of installed parking meters with supplied rates for component replacement/install and on-site technician fees.

11.2 PROPOSED LEASE OF HANGARS 1 AND 2 - TAMWORTH REGIONAL AIRPORT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer

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 enter new lease agreements for Hangars 1 and 2 at the Tamworth Regional Airport with the party identified in the body of this report.

11.3 PROPOSED LICENCE AGREEMENT OF CROWN LAND - PART VICTORIA PARK

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation
Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer

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 grant a licence agreement over Crown Land, being part of Victoria Park, to the community group identified in the body of this report.

