



# 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

**9 APRIL 2024**

**PAUL BENNETT**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Council

Meeting Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 26 March 2024, 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**

Nil

### **8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

Nil

## 9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

### 9.1 2024 ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICES WITHIN THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
AUTHOR: Lisa May, Office of the General Manager Administrator

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report “2024 Anzac Day Memorial Services within the Tamworth Regional Council Area”, Council nominate Councillor Representation at the following locations:*

*Attunga Mayor Russell Webb*

*Barraba*

*Bendemeer*

*Duri*

*Kootingal*

*Moonbi Masonic Village RFB*

*Manilla*

*Manilla Central School*

*Moonbi*

*Nundle*

*Somerton*

*Tamworth Dawn Service Mayor Russell Webb*

*Tamworth Service*

*Gipps Street Memorial*

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to allocate individual Councillor’s attending the 2024 Anzac Day Memorial Services.

#### COMMENTARY

Listed below is an itinerary for the locations in the region where Council is aware that Anzac Services are held. As further information is received it will be brought to the attention of the nominated Councillor for that location.

#### Tamworth

A formal invitation to Council has been received from the Tamworth RSL Sub-Branch. The events Anzac Day 2024 will be as follows:

5:30am	ANZAC Day Dawn Commemoration Service	ANZAC Memorial Gates	ANZAC Park
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10:30am	Main Commemorative Service	Tamworth Memorial Town Hall	Fitzroy Street
12:00pm	Tamworth RSL Sub-branch ANZAC Day Luncheon	All attendees (except official guests) are required to have a paid ticket.	West's League Club

#### *Gipps Street Memorial*

No formal invitation has been received from the Rotary Club of Tamworth West; however, the ANZAC Day Memorial Service at the Gipps Street Memorial normally commences at 7:00am.

#### **Moonbi**

A formal invitation to Council has been received, the Moonbi Masonic Village RFBI will host a Service on Wednesday 24 April, at the Moonbi Masonic Village RFBI starting at 10:00am with light refreshments served from 11am.

#### **Bendemeer**

A formal invitation to Council has been received from the Bendemeer Returned Services Association for Councilors to attend the Dawn Service which will commence at 5:30am at the ANZAC Memorial Gates in Memorial Park, Memorial Drive to lay a wreath on behalf of Council. There will be a breakfast at 6am, followed by the March which commences at 10.45am at the corner of Havannah Street and Memorial Drive.

#### **Duri**

A formal invitation to Council has been received from the Duri Progress Association for Councilors to attend the Duri ANZAC Service which will commence at 7.30am at the Duri War Memorial, Duri Sportsground, Duri-Dungowan Road, to lay a wreath on behalf of Council. There will be a morning tea commencing after the conclusion of the service.

#### **Moonbi**

No formal invitation to Council has been received however, the Moonbi Public School normally host an Anzac Day Service on a school day which commences at 10:30am at the school. With Morning Tea held following the Service.

#### **Nundle**

An invitation has been received from the Tamworth RSL Sub-branch to attend the Nundle Anzac Day Commemoration Service. The Service will commence at 11:00am at the Nundle Memorial Hall, followed by a March to the Cenotaph at the Nundle Council Office.

#### **Somerton**

No formal invitation to Council has been received however, the March normally commences from the school at 7:45am, the Commemorative Service is normally held at the Somerton War Memorial Hall at 8:00am.

#### **Kootingal**

No formal invitation to Council has been received however, the March from Kootingal School normally commences at 8am (assembly at 7:45am) with the Service at approximately 8:30am at the Memorial in Memory Park, Denman Avenue. With Morning Tea held following the Service.

## **Manilla**

### *Manilla Anzac Day Service*

No formal invitation to Council has been received however, the March normally commences at 10:45am from the RSL Club with the Service to follow adjacent to the Large Town Hall. Lunch is then held after the Service.

### *Manilla Central School*

No formal invitation to Council has been received from Manilla Central School however the Manilla Central School normally conduct a Service commencing at 10:30am at the Primary Department. A morning tea will follow the Service in the Primary Library.

## **Attunga**

A formal invitation to Council has been received from the Attunga ANZAC Day Committee for the Anzac Day March and Memorial Service commencing in front of the Attunga Primary School at 3:00pm, and the Service at the Memorial Gates in Attunga Street. Following the Service refreshments will be served at the Attunga Hall.

## **Barraba**

No formal invitation to Council has been received however, the Dawn Service normally commences at 6am at the Memorial Clock. The March commences at 10:50am from the corner of Queen and Alice streets, and arrives at the Memorial Clock at 11:00am for the commencement of the Service. Lunch will be held after the Service.

### **(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

### **(b) Financial Implications**

Funding for attendance at the above Anzac Day Memorial Services including travel and wreaths is included in the Executive Services budget.

### **(c) Legal Implications**

Council's formal approval for the attendance of any Councillor at these Anzac Day Memorial Day Services is required for insurance purposes whilst these Representatives of Council are performing bona fide duties.

### **(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

### **(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

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## 9.2 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report “Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee”, Council receive and note the Minutes of the meeting held 29 February 2024.*

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held Thursday, 29 February 2024.

### COMMENTARY

The quarterly meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was held on Thursday, 29 February 2024. The Minutes of the meeting are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

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

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Group 9 - Open and collaborative leadership.

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### 9.3 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND RISK APPETITE STATEMENTS REVIEW

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
AUTHOR: Megan Patterson, Manager - Risk and Safety

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report “Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements Review”, Council:*

- (i) adopt the proposed changes to its “Risk Management Policy”;*
- (ii) approve the revised “Risk Management Policy” for public exhibition for a period of 28 days;*
- (iii) request a subsequent report to a future Ordinary meeting of Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition and present the final “Risk Management Policy” for formal adoption;*
- (iv) receive and note the revised Risk Appetite Statements.*

#### SUMMARY

By 1 July 2024, each Council in NSW must implement a risk management framework that is consistent with current Australian standards for risk management, inclusive of a Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council adoption of the revised “*Risk Management Policy*” and approval for a 28 day public exhibition. In addition, Council receive and note the revised “*Risk Appetite Statements*”.

#### COMMENTARY

Amendments to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* require all NSW Councils and Joint Organisations to implement a risk management framework by 1 July 2024. The Office of Local Government issued the *Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW* which recommended the framework aligns with AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management - Guidelines.

In May 2023, Tribal Council endorsed the development and delivery of an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Capability Development Project. As a part of this project, the Risk and Safety Team engaged Marsh Consulting, a risk management advisory group associated with JLT and StateWide Mutual to assist in reviewing and uplifting Council’s Risk Management Framework.

The Risk Management Framework consists of:

- policy that sets the tone for embedding and maintaining an organisational wide, positive culture of risk management that enables the development and innovation required for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan and associated initiatives while supporting the efficient delivery of essential services to our community;
- guidelines for the business defining the purpose, process, application, roles and responsibilities across Council and includes risk analysis criteria;
- plan capturing the strategic risks of Council, the linkage to the community Strategic Plan, key controls including insurance, code of conduct and Council’s risk profile; and

- templates that assist with the application of the risk management process.

### **Risk Management Policy**

As part of the review and uplift, Council's Risk Management Policy **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** has been updated with the following changes:

- revision of Council's commitment to preserve and where possible, create value for the community and our partners through a positive culture of risk management that aligns with the key principles outlined in ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines and Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW guidelines;
- inclusion of the roles and responsibilities of Councillors, General Manager, Executive and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in their commitment to Risk Management; and
- expansion of the application of the policy to include volunteers.

### **Risk Appetite Statements**

Risk appetite is an articulation of an organisation's willingness to take, retain or accept risk and, because it operates at strategic and operational levels, it is an integral part of any risk management/decision making processes. Risk appetites are a key influence, along with the cost/benefit analysis of risk mitigation considerations, when determining whether additional measures/controls should be implemented to manage risk.

In June 2023, in conjunction with Marsh, the Mayor, Councillors and Executive along with members of the Risk Management team undertook a Risk Appetite workshop to determine Council's qualitative Risk Appetite for each risk category.

The risk appetite was broken into four levels, with each level increasing willingness to take, retain or accept risk. Avoid and Cautious are considered more conservative risk appetites. The levels are defined as:

- avoid – Council has little to no appetite for adverse risk exposures;
- cautious – small appetite for adverse risk exposures;
- accept – medium appetite or reasonable degree of protection; and
- receptive – large appetite, where risk exposure is outweighed by the benefits.

During the workshop, attendees defined both a primary and secondary risk appetite for each risk category.

- primary risk appetite: indicates a general appetite for taking, retaining or accepting risk for the given risk category. Of the ten risk categories, nine were deemed "avoid" or "cautious" which indicates a very conservative risk appetite.
- secondary risk appetite: indicates an appetite by exception approach for taking, retaining or accepting risk in specific circumstances. Of the ten risk categories, six remained "avoid" or "cautious".

Following the conclusion of the June 2023 workshop, **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2** was developed. This annexure outlines the ten risk categories and provides the definition of the category along with the primary and secondary risk appetite set by Councillors.

### **Review cycles**

Revision of the Policy will take place annually, whilst revision of the Risk Appetite Statements will take place bi-annually in line with further development and implementation of the Risk Management Framework.

It is to be noted that both documents have been provided to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for their information and feedback. ARIC, during their meeting 29 February, were satisfied with the documentation provided and no amendments were requested.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Following the 28 day exhibition and Council's adoption of the Policy, it will be added to the General Policy Register which is publicly available on Council's website and integrated into Council's Integrated Management System.

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

The relevant legislation in this regard is the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, as well as Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Policy and Risk Appetite Statements will assist with Council's obligation in relation to the relevant legislation.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership

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## 10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 10.1 TAMWORTH CITY CENTRE WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report “Tamworth City Centre Working Group Meeting Minutes - 15 February 2024”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the minutes; and*
- (ii) develop a strategy for the ongoing maintenance of the Tamworth CBD and a longer term plan for the continued and future beautification of the CBD.*

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Minutes of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group (Working Group) meeting held on 15 February 2024 and to provide an overview of the meeting outcomes.

#### COMMENTARY

The Minutes of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group Meeting held 15 February 2024, are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. The main items discussed at the meeting are detailed below:

##### **Tamworth Country Music Festival 2024**

Council's Manager – Events, presented a summary of the outcomes of the Tamworth Country Music Festival (TCMF) 2024, as follows:

- the 2024 TCMF was extremely successful, with many venues reporting a return to pre-COVID attendee numbers, and possibly the best TCMF held for 15 years;
- temporary campsites saw an increase of 300 more sites than any previous year;
- the average age of festival-goers has reduced from 55 to 49. An increase in the number of families and young people attending the festival was observed;
- there were 354 registered buskers sharing 50 to 60 spots along Peel Street;
- the northern end of Peel Street was identified as in need of activation at future festivals; and
- the addition of the parade was well-received by the community.

Council's Volunteer Services Officer presented a summary of the 2024 TCMF volunteer experiences, as follows:

- in excess of 50 volunteers took part in 2024, including one from Victoria and two from the United Kingdom, with all reporting a positive experience;

- a new ‘festival fringe’ site was established to provide free entertainment (such as the silent disco), for families. These activities were supported by Council’s Youth Council, whose contribution was reported to be excellent; and
- discussion took place around the growth of volunteering at TCMF, and ideas for incentivising volunteers.

Feedback was received in regards to accessibility, including from one festival-goer, who is vision impaired. He reported issues accessing venues with his guide dog, mainly due to hired security staff being unaware of the applicable legislation. The same festival-goer nearly had his accommodation booking cancelled due to the hotel being unwilling to allow him to bring his guide dog, however this issue was overcome.

### **CBD Bins and Water Stations (cleanliness)**

Council’s Director – Water and Waste, provided a summary of responsibilities for maintaining the CBD:

- Council’s public rubbish bins are serviced by a contractor, Cleanaway. Cleanaway is responsible for the cleanliness of the bins, themselves;
- Council’s Water and Waste Directorate is responsible for sweeping/cleaning the streets, spot cleaning, cleaning of the bin housing and cleaning of public drink stations; and
- Council’s Regional Services Directorate is responsible for maintenance of infrastructure such as pavers and seating.

The Working Group discussed CBD maintenance and cleaning and areas that require improvement.

### **Beautification of Peel Street**

The Group discussed the ongoing Peel Street Beautification project. It was noted that the original budget has not increased, even though the segments of Peel Street that the project encompasses has increased.

The Working Group concluded there are two issues that require attention:

- short-term issues including cleanliness, maintenance and the current aesthetic of the street; and
- long-term issues include the future of the CBD, and the need for Council to refocus and develop a new/updated strategy.

The Working Group resolved to recommend that Council develop a strategy for the ongoing maintenance of the Tamworth CBD and a longer term plan for the continued and future beautification of the CBD.

### **Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010**

Council’s Acting Manager - Future Communities, provided an update on the review of the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010* (TRLEP 2010).

- Council is taking a phased approach to conducting the review due to timeframes moving forward;
- Phase One of the review is underway, and includes Schedule 5 (Heritage), land uses, clauses, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) that are supported and have had appropriate

studies done, Bridge Street precinct (including floor space ratio and a design excellence clause), and rectification of mapping anomalies; and

- Phase Two will include rural lot sizes and zones (informed by the rural lands strategy which is to be completed this year), housing, planning controls for the CBD, and other supported EOIs.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

The Group includes ten community and professional members who represent a broad range of businesses. The Group provides strategic advice to the Council in relation to matters pertaining to the Tamworth City Centre and makes recommendations regarding priority areas for development.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 2 – A liveable built environment.

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and innovation.

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## **10.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2024**

**DIRECTORATE:** LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

**AUTHOR:** Haley Fenn, Coordinator Outside School Hours Care and Tamworth Regional Youth Centre

**Reference:** Item 10.4 to Ordinary Council 28 November 2023 - Minute No. 310/23

**2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Youth Council - Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 March 2024", Council:-*

- (i) receive and note the minutes; and*
- (ii) adopt the amended Terms of Reference.*

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council meeting held on 14 March 2024 and provide Council an overview of the outcomes.

## COMMENTARY

An Ordinary meeting of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council was held on Thursday, 14 March 2024. The minutes of the meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The main topics considered at the meeting are summarised below: -

- the Youth Council welcomed and formally inducted ten new Youth Councillors, and four returning Youth Councillors (Kaida McManus, Elle Woods, Luke Suter and Dominic Fawcett). The appointment of the new Youth Councillors was formally adopted by Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 November 2023 following an Expression of Interest process. The new members have replaced a number of Youth Councillors who resigned late last year subsequent to completing Year 12 and moving to other areas;
- following the resignation of Youth Councillors Chloe-Lee Opie and Yvonne Sutton, an election was held for the positions of Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, with all positions vacated. Newly appointed Youth Councillor Rory Davis was elected as Youth Mayor, and newly appointed Youth Councillor Thomas Sullivan was elected as Deputy Mayor;
- the Youth Council endorsed the adoption of Tamworth Regional Council's Youth Strategy and Action Plan. This Strategy, adopted by Council in February 2024, will be the focus of Youth Council activities and initiatives during the course of their two-year term;
- the Youth Council is organising events to celebrate Youth Week across the Tamworth region. Events will be held in conjunction with the autumn school holidays, including a skateboarding workshop and a Youth Open Day. Youth Week, targeting young people aged 12 – 24 years, aims to help build resilience, strengthen community networks, and improve mental health. Details of these events will be published on Council's website once finalised;
- Youth Councillors resolved that the Terms of Reference should be amended with the quorum to be reduced to seven members and a change to the meeting commencement time. The amended version of the Terms of Reference is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**; and
- at the conclusion of the Ordinary Youth Council Meeting a 'meet and greet' was held to officially welcome the new Youth Council, with Council's Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, and members of the Executive in attendance.

### (a) Policy Implications

The amendment of the Terms of Reference to reduce quorum to seven people has no policy implications.

### (b) Financial Implications

Nil

### (c) Legal Implications

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

The Tamworth Regional Youth Council represent a diverse group of young people of various backgrounds, who advise Council on issues that are relevant to young people across the local government area.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Tamworth Youth Strategy and Action Plan

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## **11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **12.1 E081-2024 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND NEAR DUNGOWAN DAM**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations  
**Reference:** Item 8.7 to Ordinary Council 12 December 2023 - Minute No 332/23

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

### **SUMMARY**

As part of previously completed Dam Break Analysis and associated risk reduction program for Dungowan Dam, Council resolved, at its meeting of 24 March 2015, to offer to purchase properties with dwellings in a location that was deemed to be at 'high-risk' from flooding in the event of a dam failure, should the property owner wish to sell their property. A number of property owners elected to sell their property to Council, and the high-risk dwellings located thereon were subsequently demolished. As the majority of 'high-risk' properties were located close to Dungowan Dam, Council obtained over time, a portfolio of nearly 1,700 hectares of land downstream of the Dam site.

Following the announcement of the proposed new Dungowan Dam in 2019, it was recognised that the property owned by Council would form part of the new Dungowan Dam site i.e., the property would be within the new Dam inundation area. Given this announcement, the land was left unleased to allow the new Dungowan Dam and Pipeline Project investigations to occur.

With the announcement by both NSW and Federal Governments in May 2023 to not proceed with the new Dungowan Dam Project, and the completion of remediation work on sites used to investigate the proposed new dam, it is considered this land area could be better utilised and may be suitable for a number of uses including leasing, in a variety of forms, or sale.

Council conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) in early 2024 in relation to the potential leasing of this land area. The purpose of this report is to provide Council the outcome of the completed EOI and provide recommendations on future land utilisation and management.