



# 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

**14 OCTOBER 2025**

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, 23 September 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**

#### **5.1 DONATION REQUEST - TAMWORTH LEGACY - VETERANS FAMILIES DAY**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Russell Webb, Mayor

**2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Donation Request - Tamworth Legacy - Veterans Families Day”, Council agree to donate \$1,500 towards the event.*

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s support in relation to a request from Tamworth Legacy for Council to donate \$1,500 for the Veterans Families Day activities.

### **COMMENTARY**

Tamworth Legacy is seeking a donation for the Veterans Families Day event to be held on 18 October 2025. Council has received a letter **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, seeking assistance for the hire and purchase of additional activities including:

1. Hire of Coffee Vendor
2. Purchase of Sensory Based Toys
3. Purchase Dry Foods for Children
4. Prizes for Children Games.

The event is being held at Tamworth’s Magpies Rugby Union Park and will mark the start of Tamworth Veterans Week which will culminate with the NSW RSL State Congress to be held

in Tamworth over 24 – 26 October at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC). Invitation **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

There is no funding allocated in the 2025/2026 budget to fund this proposal. As a result, should Council agree to the donation, funding of \$1,500 would need to be allocated from the General Fund.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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

Focus Area 4 - Resilient and Diverse Communities.

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## **6 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR STEPHEN MEARS - COMMUNITY SURVEY - POPULARLY ELECTED MAYOR VS COUNCILLOR ELECTED MAYOR**

#### **MOTION**

##### **That Council:**

- 1. Undertakes a community consultation process to gauge residents' preferences regarding the method of electing the Mayor — either:**
    - o by popular vote of all eligible voters in the Local Government Area (popularly elected); or**
    - o by election from among the elected councillors (councillor-elected);**
  - 2. Develops and implements a survey to ensure broad community engagement, including both online and offline methods, with appropriate demographic and geographic representation;**
  - 3. Receives a report on the findings of the survey, including response data and analysis of community sentiment; and**
  - 4. Notes that if the community expresses a preference for a popularly elected Mayor, Council may consider proceeding with the statutory process under section 16 of the Local Government Act 1993 to change the method of electing the Mayor, which would require a constitutional referendum.**
-

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 14 October 2025.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Nil

Cr Stephen Mears

3 October 2025

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## **OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

#### **7.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAMES FOR APPROVED SUBDIVISION (LOT 2000 DP 1311837) STRINGYBARK ROAD AND JARMAN ROAD, HALLSVILLE - MOD2022-0084**

**DIRECTORATE:** LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

**AUTHOR:** Kathleen See-Kee, Development Support Officer

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Proposed Road Names for Approved Subdivision (Lot 2000 DP 1311837) Stringybark Road and Jarman Road, Hallsville - MOD2022-0084 (DA0416/2007)”, Council:*

- (i) approve in principle the road names: ‘Malligan’ Close and ‘McCully’ Way;*
- (ii) advertise the proposed road names as required by the Roads Act 1993 Section 162, Roads Regulation 2018 Part 2 Division 1 Section 7 to enable interested parties the opportunity to make comment; and*
- (iii) provided no submissions are made which object to the proposed road names, proceed to publish the adopted names in the Government Gazette.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to recommend road names for the approved subdivision, identified as Lot 2000 DP 1311837 Stringy Bark Road and Jarman Road, Hallsville. Council has approval from the Geographical Names Board to name the new roads ‘Malligan’ Close and ‘McCully’ Way.

#### **COMMENTARY**

Proposed Road Names:	‘Malligan’ Close and ‘McCully’ Way
Development Consent:	MOD2022-0084 (DA0416/2007) for Staged Subdivision – granted 26 August 2008
Theme or origin of proposed names:	Honouring World War One servicemen from the Tamworth District who did not return from the war and are listed on the Tamworth ANZAC Park Memorial Gates

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Geographical Names Board

Approval Date: 20 April 2022 and 28 April 2022

The maps **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, illustrate the subdivision location and layout and the proposed road name locations.

In regard to the gap in dates between the approval by the Geographical Names Board and this report, this is due to the subdivision being rolled out in stages. The developer reserved the road names through the Geographical Names Board as soon as possible so these or similar sounding names weren't used for new roads in other developments.

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

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

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

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

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

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## **8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

### **8.1 CREATION OF ELECTRICAL EASEMENT FOR LOW VOLTAGE RELOCATIONS FOR THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL SKYWALK**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer  
Lachlan Mackiewicz, Project Engineer

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report "Creation of Electrical Easement for Low Voltage Relocations for the Tamworth Regional Skywalk", Council:*

- (i) note the required easement to be created subject to a 28-day native title notification period;*
  - (ii) authorise the General Manager to act as the Crown Land Manager for the Crown*
-

*land and approve the creation of the easement within the current Lot 7300 DP1152789 for the installation of electrical infrastructure for the Tamworth Regional Skywalk project; and*

- (iii) authorise the affixing of the Seal of Council to agreements, plans, section 88B instruments, and any other documents required to give effect to Council's resolution.*

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to create an easement within the Tamworth Regional Council managed Crown land Lot 7300 DP 1152789 for the relocation of Essential Energy low voltage overhead powerlines underground as part of the Tamworth Regional Skywalk project.

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Background**

The Tamworth Regional Skywalk project (Skywalk) is located within the Victoria Park Precinct in East Tamworth and is currently under construction by Sydney-based contractor Forge. Works are progressing and anticipated to be completed in June 2026.

As part of the works, a section of low voltage overhead powerlines along Scenic Road are required to be relocated underground to make way for the proposed bridge crossing the road. As identified during the design of the electrical works, Essential Energy requires a new easement be created over the new underground trench as the relocated asset is different to the existing alignment once relocated.

### **Easement**

Under the relevant legislation, Council is authorised as the Crown Land Manager to approve the creation of the electrical easement as part of the previous notification to the crown regarding the Skywalk.

The proposed easement is located within Council managed Crown land Lot 7300 DP 1152789 known commonly as Victoria Park. The proposed easement has been surveyed by registered surveyor Bath Stewart and Associates and is proposed to be located within the uphill lane of Scenic Road for the extent of the new underground trench. The proposed easement plan is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Council will be required to enter into an easement deed with Essential Energy with their standard terms and conditions, similar to other projects. This deed will be executed once the relocation plans have been approved by Essential Energy.

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

Nil

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

Costs and fees associated with survey, legal, and land registry will be funded from the existing project budget established for the construction of the Skywalk.

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

Landowner's consent for the easement creation is within Council's capacity as Crown Land Manager. This requires the General Manager's approval and requires the affixing of the Seal of Council.

The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Clause 400(4), requires that the Seal of Council must not be affixed to a document unless the document relates to the business of Council and Council has resolved (by resolution specifically referring to the document) that the Seal be so affixed.

**(d) Community Consultation**

The Skywalk is an action in the Victoria Park Master Plan. The development of this masterplan included extensive community consultation.

The easement works are part of the construction of the project as identified in the plan. Residents and businesses adjoining the works have been notified by letter at various times leading up to the main works, including adjoining resident consultation sessions held at the nearby Weswal Gallery.

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

Focus Area 2 – A Liveable Built Environment

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**8.2 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Ashleigh Smith, Sustainability Coordinator

**Reference:** Item 7.5 to Ordinary Council 27 September 2022 - Minute No 274/22

Item 8.6 to Ordinary Council 13 December 2022 - Minute No 380/22

Item 6.1 to Ordinary Council 10 June 2025 - Minute No 130/25

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Sustainability Strategy Progress Report”, Council receive and note the report.*

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on the Actions contained within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026 and to close out the strategy in preparation for the development of the next strategy.

**COMMENTARY**

Council has undertaken a number of projects, programs and initiatives working towards delivering the actions of Council’s Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026. Funding was first obtained to implement actions from Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022 -2026 between March 2023, and August 2023. As such the document **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, reflects work undertaken between March 2023 to September 2025. The Annexure provides an update on actions undertaken by the sustainability team, broader Water & Waste directorate, and an update on actions that sit with the broader organisation.

The Action Plan contains 243 actions which were developed based on community and staff feedback, legislative guidance and requirements, as well as with the relevant specialty area/action owner. Of these actions 103 have been completed, 99 have been completed for

24/25 FY, but are ongoing for 25/26 FY, 15 actions are on hold and 26 are not started or overdue. For ease of reporting, three main status categories have been used, 'Action Completed', 'Completed 24/25 FY but ongoing' and 'Overdue or not started', with 'on hold' used for follow up actions to constructing the Organic Recycling Facility, awaiting restructure outcome or reliant on the 365 migration.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

To advance sustainability related actions requires funding, particularly if action is required in the short term. The level at which Council is willing to resource sustainability will significantly impact the actions that can be achieved. It is recommended resourcing levels are established before the next sustainability strategy is prepared so that realistic goals and actions are included.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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

Focus Area 6 – Working with and Protecting our Environment

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## **9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

### **9.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST RETURNS 2024/2025**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

**2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report "Disclosure of Interest Returns 2024/2025", Council:*

- (i) note and receive Councillor and designated persons Disclosure of Interest returns lodged prior to 30 September 2025; and*
- (ii) advise the Office of Local Government accordingly.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to satisfy the requirements of the Model Code of Conduct and Section 440AAB of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and receive and note Disclosure of Interest Returns from Councillors and designated persons completed and lodged.

#### **COMMENTARY**

Section 440AAB requires returns lodged with the General Manager under Section 440AAB to be tabled at a Meeting of the Council, as soon as practicable after the return is lodged, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES 1 & 2**.

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Councillors and designated persons have been complied in accordance with the Model Code of Conduct and Section 440AAB provision of the Act in relation to disclosure of interests.

The Register of Disclosure of Interest is available for perusal by any Councillor or member of the public and is located on Council's website.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Model Code of Conduct and Section 440AAB of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

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**9.2 2025 NATIONAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “2025 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress”, Council nominate Councillors as appropriate to attend the Conference to be held in Bendigo, Victoria, from 11–12 November.*

**SUMMARY**

This report is to advise that the 2025 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress will be held on 11-12 November 2025, in Bendigo Victoria.

The purpose of this report is to authorise the attendance of Councillors who are interested in the event to further their professional development.

**COMMENTARY**

The Australian Local Government Association has extended an invitation to the Mayor and Councillors to attend the 2025 National Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress.

This year's Congress, themed Driving National Productivity, will focus on the critical role local roads and infrastructure play in strengthening communities, enabling freight and supply chains, and supporting Australia's economic growth.

**(a) Policy Implications**

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.

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**(b) Financial Implications**

Councillors have been allocated the sum of \$45,500 annually 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 a resolution of the 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 the Conference will consist of the registration fee of \$1,100.00 per person, flights and accommodation of approximately \$1,800 for two nights depending on accommodation and flights options available at the time of booking.

**(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

**9.3 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES AND CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Public Interest Disclosures and Code of Conduct Complaints”, Council receive and note the report.*

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of any Public Interest Disclosures and Code of Conduct complaints made to Council from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

**COMMENTARY**

**Public Interest Disclosures**

Council is required under the Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2022, to provide information in relation to Public Interest Disclosures to the NSW Ombudsman each year. The following information was previously required to be published in Council’s Annual Report in relation to Public Interest Disclosures:

	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025
Number of public officials who made PIDs	2
Number of PIDs received	2

Of PIDs received, number primarily about:	0
• Corrupt Conduct	2
• Maladministration	0
• Serious and substantial waste	0
• Government information contravention	0
• Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0
Number of PIDs finalised	2

Tamworth Regional Council has established a Public Interest Disclosure Policy that is available to all staff on the Council intranet. The Public Interest Disclosure Policy has also been emailed to all staff to ensure they are made aware of Public Interest Disclosures and training is provided in-house to staff throughout the year. Public Interest Disclosures training is provided to new staff members at induction.

### Code of Conduct Complaints

Tamworth Regional Council received four Councillor Code of Conduct complaints during the 2024/2025 reporting year.

#### (a) Policy Implications

This report conforms to Council's Code of Conduct and Public Interest Disclosures Policy.

#### (b) Financial Implications

Nil

#### (c) Legal Implications

Section 78 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2022*, requires each public authority to provide information to the NSW Ombudsman each year.

#### (d) Community Consultation

Nil

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

Focus Area 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership.

## 10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 10.1 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL DRAFT GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2030

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gino Tiberi, Community Safety and CCTV Specialist

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report "Tamworth Regional Council – Draft Graffiti Management Plan 2025 – 2030," Council:*

- (i) endorse the Tamworth Regional Council Draft Graffiti Management Plan 2025 – 2030 for the purposes of public exhibition;*
- (ii) place the Draft Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days; and*
- (iii) following the public exhibition period, receive a further report on community feedback and any amendments to the Draft Plan for consideration and adoption.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to place the Tamworth Regional Council Draft Graffiti Management Plan 2025 – 2030 on Public Exhibition for 28 days.

#### **COMMENTARY**

The Draft Graffiti Management Plan 2025 – 2030, is **ENCLOSED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** and was prepared in consultation with the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group and other Community stakeholders. The intent of the Plan is to provide a roadmap, outlining Council's goals and demonstrating the measures Council will implement to manage graffiti vandalism across the Tamworth Region.

The Plan identifies a range of proactive measures designed specifically to support each other, with the intention of reducing the social, environmental and economic impacts created by graffiti vandalism.

The Plan is divided into five main sections as follows:

#### **(i) Introduction:**

The introduction includes:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Table of Contents; and
- Mayor's Message.

#### **(ii) Background:**

The background provides an insight into the creation of the Plan and includes sections such as:

- Council's vision;
- Council's Role;
- Legislative Overview; and
- Purpose of the Plan.

#### **(iii) Body:**

The body provides a general overview of what is graffiti. It includes information to assist in clarifying:

- what is graffiti;
- what does graffiti look like;
- who writes graffiti; and
- why is graffiti an issue.

The body of the Plan also provides important information such as:

- a snapshot of graffiti in the Tamworth Region;

- how Council currently manages graffiti; and
- the key stakeholders.

**(iv) Action Plan:**

The Action Plan identifies seven key objectives which will act as a framework for targeted strategies moving forward. These strategies have been designed to work collectively with the aim of reducing the number of graffiti incidents. The key objectives are:

- Engagement;
- Prevention;
- Education;
- Reporting;
- Removal;
- Diversion; and
- Enforcement.

The Action Plan also outlines a description of each action, the associated strategy, a method of measurement and a timeframe for implementation.

**(v) Summation:**

The summation provides an outline of how the Plan will be monitored and evaluated.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

The 2025-2026 budget includes an allocation of \$25,000 for the implementation of the Graffiti Management Plan. This funding allocation is considered sufficient to implement the objectives of the Plan.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

In the preparation of the Draft Graffiti Management Plan, a range of stakeholders were consulted including:

- The Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group, consisting of the Oxley Police District and Tamworth Business Chamber, as well as a number of Service Providers, the local State Member and community representatives; and
- Local Government New South Wales.

Further community consultation will be enabled by placing the Draft Graffiti Management Plan on public exhibition for 28 days.

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

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

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## **10.2 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A FACILITY TO HOUSE A YOUTH DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM IN THE TAMWORTH REGION TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE PATHWAYS FOR DISADVANTAGED AND DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

**DIRECTORATE:** LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES  
**AUTHOR:** Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Proposal to Establish a Facility to House a Youth Diversionary Program in the Tamworth Region to Provide Alternate Pathways for Disadvantaged and Disconnected Youth”, Council undertake the following actions to further the delivery of the facility:*

- (i) subject to determining a funding pathway, purchase the property known as “Precious Pets”, situated at 42 Jenners Lane, Bective, due to its suitability for a youth diversionary program;*
- (ii) explore all available external funding opportunities to support the establishment of a youth diversionary program on the subject property;*
- (iii) commit \$100k to enable preparation of a preliminary design of the proposed new facility to ensure accurate estimates are available to take advantage of all funding opportunities;*
- (iv) formally write to State and Federal Government local members as well as relevant Government Ministers requesting financial support for the proposal; and*
- (v) Once funding is secured, explore a wide range of governance options to establish and operate the facility, including the appointment of a voluntary Board of Directors.*

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s adoption of a proposal to establish a Youth Diversionary Program within the Tamworth Region at a standalone facility drawing on a model similar to that operating successfully in Armidale. The proposal would involve the purchase of an existing forty-hectare property (known as Precious Pets) to be repurposed for the delivery of a range of youth related programs. The youth diversionary programs would work in association with a relocated Council Companion Animal Centre (Pound) and Council operated rehoming facility for dogs (known as Paws for Life).

A range of governance models for the management and operation of the facility would be explored, including oversight by a voluntary Board of Directors.

### **COMMENTARY**

For a number of years, Council has held concerns regarding increasing rates of youth crime and the challenges posed by disengaged and disadvantaged youth across the Tamworth Region. The Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group has also raised matters relating to disengaged youth and youth crime on a number of occasions, and has often discussed options, ideas and strategies to address this issue.

### **Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group Terms of Reference**

As Council would be aware, the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group plays a significant role in advising Council on community safety and crime prevention matters. It is

relevant to note that the Terms of Reference for the Working Group include in its overall purpose, that it will:

- ii) *share information that increases understanding of the issues and drivers across the Tamworth Region that influence community safety and perceptions of community safety, including crim, vandalism and anti-social behaviour;*
- iii) *share knowledge and experience of successful programs and initiatives that may positively influence community safety and the perception of community safety; and*
- vi) *investigate programs and partnerships that will positively influence community safety across the region; and reduce the social and financial cost of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.*

It is therefore appropriate that the Community Safety Working Group takes a lead in supporting the initiative for a fit for purpose, youth diversionary program within the Tamworth Region that is of a size and has characteristics to offer local youth positive pathways for their future.

At its meeting held on 25 September 2025, the Working Group considered a report recommending that Tamworth Regional Council take all necessary steps to establish a youth diversionary program on a stand-alone property within the Tamworth Region and pursue all avenues of funding to support the proposal. The Working Group recommendation was adopted unanimously, and has subsequently formed the basis for this report.

### **Tamworth Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2023-2028**

The Tamworth Region Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2023-2028, is also relevant to this report. The Plan, sponsored by the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group, details the types of crime that are prevalent in the Region, relevant crime statistics and outlines a range of initiatives to assist in addressing these.

Council would also recall the more recent Community Survey which asked residents to list the issues and matters that were most important/ of most concern to them. Significantly, the highest scoring issue (issue of most concern) across the region was community and personal safety.

While crime statistics provide a true and factual assessment of what has occurred, it is widely understood that this is only part of the picture, and of course, combines all age groups. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan also outlined a number of causal factors, including:

- access to education;
- levels of employment and income;
- family background;
- peer relationships; and
- alcohol and other drug use.

Based on the above, it is apparent that solutions to community safety and youth crime requires addressing the cause, not just responding to the effects. Therefore, this report outlines a proposal for an initiative that has the potential to make a significant difference to the challenges posed by disengaged and disadvantaged youth and the adverse outcomes that include youth crime.

### **LEGISLATION**

While the NSW Government is principally responsible for law and order, Council is very aware of the extent to which local government authorities are increasingly being considered a key player in the development and implementation of community safety programs. Tamworth Regional Council's involvement in community safety and crime prevention is primarily achieved in partnership with police, government and non-government organisations.

However, Council would acknowledge that it is in a valuable position to proactively implement strategies that fall within its traditional functions, as well as taking a significant role in other areas that impact broader issues integral to creating a safe, liveable and resilient community.

A recent example of this was Council's resolution in support of the upgrade of its CCTV network.

### **THE OPPORTUNITY**

The opportunity for Council's consideration recommends, the establishment of a stand-alone facility to deliver programs that will offer and enable alternative pathways for disadvantaged and disconnected youth to develop skills and see a positive future for themselves, before crime becomes the only, or most attractive option.

In exploring this opportunity, Council's Deputy Mayor and a number of senior staff investigated relevant models that could be successfully implemented in the Tamworth Region. It was concluded that a model similar to a program established in Armidale which has operated successfully in excess of ten years, presents the greatest potential to deliver significant positive outcomes in Tamworth.

Council is aware of other existing successful youth diversionary programs that operate to positively influence youth, particularly youth that may be disengaged from mainstream education and society.

It is understood and widely acknowledged that these successful diversionary programs provide an environment where youth can learn relevant skills without pressure or judgement, while accessing the support, education and paths to future employment they need to create an independent and successful future.

The research undertaken also indicates that many successful diversionary models involve work with animals, particularly dogs. It is therefore considered that the creation of a model involving a partnership and the co-location of a diversionary program with an expanded animal shelter for the care and rehoming of companion animals would be of significant benefit to the Tamworth region and its community.

The opportunity to roll-out such a successful tested model, comes at a critical time for the Tamworth region, acknowledging the recent concerning increase in the youth offending rate and escalation of the type of offending amongst young people in the past few years.

With unanimous support from the Tamworth Regional Community Safety Working Group, it is considered that this proposal, combining a targeted youth diversionary program with an expanded companion animal facility can provide the pivot point required for the young people targeted by the program to reintegrate into the community in a positively engaged way. Successful models of this type have shown that the youth involved are able to become responsible young adults with ongoing employment opportunities.

### **PROPOSED LOCATION**

The proposed site for the establishment of a youth diversionary facility similar to the facility operating in Armidale, is situated at 42 Jenners Road, Bective. The property has an area of

40ha, and currently supports agricultural activities in addition to a well-established and successful animal boarding facility.

This property is considered extremely suitable for the operation of a range of rural based activities and initiatives that could provide education and employment opportunities for regional youth. The existing facility includes a six-bedroom dwelling, office, swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, driveways, car parking, perimeter fencing, stables, water tanks and bore. The facility also provides kennels and a cattery for the animal boarding business. Having visited the Armidale youth diversionary facility it is evident that the Jenners Road property could be developed to incorporate a range of training/educational activities, supported by the existing infrastructure and supplemented by additional buildings including a commercial kitchen, additional accommodation, training/education centre and workshop.

As mentioned above, the existing Precious Pets facility operates as an animal boarding business. Having seen the successful operation in Armidale which includes as a core program the training and showing of dogs, it is suggested that such a program could also operate in Tamworth. Evidence of the significant success of animal related initiatives at the Armidale facility, indicates that the Precious Pets property would provide an additional opportunity for youth to learn a range of animal training and keeping related skills. It is considered that the combination of a youth diversionary program with practical skills and employment-related training including animal focused skills would have a positive impact on the young participants and contribute to positive community safety outcomes throughout the Tamworth region.

**(a) Policy Implications**

From a Governance perspective, it is considered appropriate and necessary that Council retains ownership of the subject property, but has no direct responsibility for the running of the facility or the youth diversionary programs. However, Council would retain full responsibility for the Companion Animal and rehoming functions as required under the NSW Companion Animals Act. This would not prohibit the establishment of programs based on Companion Animal training and boarding.

**(b) Financial Implications**

The total cost to establish this facility, including the property purchase, is estimated to be \$6,570,244. It should be noted that:

- this is an initial estimate;
- not all elements are required from Day 1;
- it would be feasible to commence the program in stages based on what is already available on-site; and
- there may be potential to lease the site in the short term while a funding pathway for the property purchased is determined.

To enable the project to proceed, it is recommended that Council seek financial assistance from both levels of government and formally approach both its State and Federal local members for their support in delivering the facility and program.

**(c) Legal Implications**

As previously outlined, the NSW State Government is the authority principally responsible for law and order, however, Council has a range of responsibilities to its community under the Local Government Act and takes very seriously its commitment to community wellbeing, which encompasses a commitment to the wellbeing of all age

groups and diverse sections of the community and working proactively to enhance community safety.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Should Council adopt the recommendation, future Development Applications would require consultation in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan.

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

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

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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.*

#### **11.1 Q134-2025 - REQUEST FOR QUOTATION - TAMWORTH GLOBAL GATEWAY PARK - MARKETING AND SALES AGENT**

**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 note the outcome of Request for Quotation Q134-2025 and enter agency agreements with the recommended real estate agencies identified in the body of this report in relation to unsold Lots at the Tamworth Global Gateway Park (TGGP).

#### **11.2 PROPOSED LICENCE AGREEMENT - ADAMS LOOKOUT BARRABA - 2025**

**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**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation to negotiate and enter into a licence agreement in relation to Adams Lookout Barraba

### **11.3 T020-2026 - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF STREET LIGHTING FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AT THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT**

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR: Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer**  
**Leonie Brown, Project Administrator**

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 acceptance of tender T020-2026 to award a lump sum contract for the Design and Construction of Street Lighting at the Sports and Entertainment Precinct.

#### **Background**

Tamworth Regional Council received \$1.437 million from Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) Road Safety Program, which aims to enhance road safety and reduce crashes. This funding will be used for improvements at three locations within the Sports and Entertainment Precinct near the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) and the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC).

This high-profile precinct becomes very busy with pedestrians and road users during regular sporting events, when large scale events are held, and especially when multiple venues host events simultaneously. Works being delivered under this project include raised pedestrian crossings, shared paths, signage and linemarking, pedestrian fencing, and street lighting.

Construction of all works is to be completed by 31 March 2026. The timeframe to install and commission street lighting will extend slightly past this date, so while Council is being asked to accept of this tender, the execution of the contract will be pending a schedule variation request to be approved by TfNSW. This variation has already been submitted to TfNSW, who is administering the funding, to extend the project completion date by a month. Subject to Council approval, a contract with the preferred tenderer will only be entered into once formal approval of the variation has been received from TfNSW.

Civil designs are at an Issued for Construction stage, and the acceptance of a tender for these civil works is the subject of a separate Council report at this same meeting. The intention is that construction work will take place in the vicinity of AELEC and TRECC between October 2025 and March 2026. Scheduling of the work will be done in a way to minimise impact to venue users as much as possible, although there is anticipated to be an unavoidable level of inconvenience at times.

The locations where work will be carried out are shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 - Blue shapes indicate the construction locations.

### Tender Scope

A tender for the design and construction of street lighting was advertised for a period of 22 days and closed on 30 September 2025. A mandatory pre-tender meeting was held on 16 September 2025, with tenderers attending site to ensure they were familiar with the specific site conditions.

### 11.4 T021-2026 - CIVIL CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer  
Leonie Brown, Project Administrator

**Reference:** Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 9 September 2025 – Minute No 222/25

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d) 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 recommend Council resolves to decline all of the tenders submitted in response to tender T021-2026 and resolves to enter into negotiations with one or more of the tenderers (in accordance with Section 178(3)(e) of the NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021), with a view to entering into a construction contract.

Tamworth Regional Council invited submissions from contractors via a Request for Tender on the open market. Through this tender process Council received five conforming submissions from highly capable contractors. Due to the complexity of construction logistics, Council needs to negotiate details of the construction program and methodology further with tenderers and therefore cannot accept a tender at this stage (due to potential scope changes). Council project staff are confident that through negotiations, Council will be able to enter into a contract.

The reasons for declining to invite fresh tenders or applications under Sections 178(3)(b)-(d) of the LG Regulation are that, despite not being able to accept a tender at this point in time, Council project staff are confident that through negotiations, Council will be able to enter into a contract.

### **Background**

Council received \$1.437 million from Transport of NSW's (TfNSW) Road Safety Program, which aims to enhance road safety and reduce crashes. This funding will be used for improvements at three locations within the Sports and Entertainment Precinct near the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) and the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC).

This high-profile precinct becomes very busy with pedestrians and road users during regular sporting events, when large scale events are held, and especially when multiple venues host events simultaneously. Works being delivered under this project include raised pedestrian crossings, shared paths, signage and linemarking, pedestrian fencing, and street lighting. A separate Council report at this same meeting discusses the outcome of a recent tender for the design and construction of street lighting for this project.

The intention is that construction work will take place in the vicinity of AELEC and TRECC between October 2025 and March 2026. Scheduling of the work will be done in a way to minimise impact to venue users as much as possible, although there is anticipated to be an unavoidable level of inconvenience at times.

The locations where work will be carried out are shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 - Blue shapes indicate the construction locations.

### Tender Scope

An open request for tenders (RFT) (T021-2026) for the civil construction of road safety works was advertised for a period of 35 days and closed on 25 September 2025. A mandatory pre-tender meeting was held on 3 September 2025, with tenderers attending site to ensure they were familiar with the specific site conditions.

The RFT required tenderers to submit a pricing schedule for civil works including:

- management and supervision of the works;
- site establishment including survey, traffic management and pedestrian management;
- construction of wombat crossings, shared path, kerb changes, pram ramps, signage and linemarking;
- removal of vegetation and material from a section of the Jack Smyth Drive median; and
- provision of quality verification and work as executed documentation.

## **11.5 T097-2025 SOUTH TAMWORTH LEAD-IN TRUNK SEWERMAIN**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Ian Cross, Senior Project Engineer  
Naomi Schipanski, Manager - Projects, Strategy and Infrastructure

**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 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 recommend to Council the acceptance of a tenderer for the construction of the South Tamworth Lead-in Trunk Sewermain.