

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

12 MARCH 2024

PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

Order of Business

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
2	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.....	4
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL.....	4
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	4
5	MAYORAL MINUTE	4
6	NOTICE OF MOTION	4
6.1	MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST - LAMBRUK SOLAR FARM PROJECT AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS	4
OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS		7
7	ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING	7
7.1	PROPOSED ROAD NAMES FOR APPROVED MOORE CREEK GARDENS SUBDIVISION - STAGES 12 TO 17 (LOT 627 DP 1290364, LOT 722 DP 562156, LOT 121 DP 753851 AND LOT 7 DP 562157) RN2024-0016.....	7
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
8	INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	8
8.1	NORTH WEST SCHOOL SPORT ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FEE WAIVER REQUEST	8
8.2	TAMWORTH GLOBAL GATEWAY PARK - JEWRY STREET EXTENSION FUNDING CLOSE- OUT.....	11
8.3	URBAN STREET TREE ADVISORY GROUP - MEETING MINUTES	15
	2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
9	GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE.....	17
9.1	IP&R - OUR PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023.....	17
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
10	COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	19
11	REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL.....	19
	PROPOSED LEASE FOR COUNCIL OFFICE SPACE	19

Council

Meeting Date: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month commencing at 6:30pm.

Matters determined by Ordinary meetings will include all those non-delegable functions identified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act as follows:

- *“the appointment of a general manager*
- *the making of a rate*
- *a determination under section 549 as to the levying of a rate*
- *the making of a charge*
- *the fixing of a fee*
- *the borrowing of money*
- *the voting of money for expenditure on its works, services or operations*
- *the compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment)*
- *the acceptance of tenders which are required under this Act to be invited by the council*
- *the adoption of an operational plan under section 405*
- *the adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report*
- *a decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6*
- *the fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the council of work on private land*
- *the decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the council for the carrying out of any such work*
- *the review of a determination made by the council, and not by a delegate of the council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under section 82A of the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)*
- *the power of the council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194*
- *a decision under section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons*
- *the making of an application, or the giving of a notice, to the Governor or Minister*
- *this power of delegation*
- *any function under this or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the council.”*

Other matters and functions determined by Ordinary Council Meetings will include:

- *Notices of Motion*
- *Notices of Motion of Rescission*
- *Council Elections, Polls, Constitutional Referendums and Public Hearings/Inquiries*
- *Ministerial Committees and Inquiries*
- *Mayor and Councillors Annual Fees*
- *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayor and Councillors*
- *Local Government Remuneration Tribunal*
- *Local Government Boundaries*
- *NSW Ombudsman*
- *Administrative Decisions Tribunal*
- *Delegation of Functions by the Minister*
- *Delegation of Functions to General Manager and Principal Committees*
- *Organisation Structure*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *Code of Meeting Practice*
- *Honesty and Disclosure of Interests*
- *Access to Information*
- *Protection of Privacy*
- *Enforcement Functions (statutory breaches/prosecutions/recovery of rates)*
- *Dispute Resolution*
- *Council Land and Property Development*
- *Annual Financial Reports, Auditors Reports, Annual Reports and Statement of the Environment Reports*
- *Performance of the General Manager*
- *Equal Employment Opportunity*
- *Powers of Entry*
- *Liability and Insurance*
- *Membership of Organisations*

Membership:	All Councillors
Quorum:	Five members
Chairperson:	The Mayor
Deputy Chairperson:	The Deputy Mayor

Community Consultation Policy

The first 30 minutes of Open Council Meetings is available for members of the Public to address the Council Meeting or submit questions either verbally or in writing, on matters INCLUDED in the Business Paper for the Meeting.

Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of three minutes to address the Council Meeting. An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary.

Members of the public seeking to represent or speak on behalf of a third party must satisfy the Council or Committee Meeting that he or she has the authority to represent or speak on behalf of the third party.

Members of the public wishing to address Council Meetings are requested to contact Council either by telephone, in person or online prior to 4:30pm the day prior to the Meeting to address the Council Meeting. Persons not registered to speak will not be able to address Council at the Meeting.

Council will only permit three speakers in support and three speakers in opposition to a recommendation contained in the Business Paper. If there are more than three speakers, Council's Governance division will contact all registered speakers to determine who will address Council. In relation to a Development Application, the applicant will be reserved a position to speak.

Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves:

- personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors);
- personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council; or
 - reveal a trade secret;
- information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
- matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
- advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land;
- alleged contraventions of any Code of Conduct requirements applicable under Section 440; or
- on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Members of the public will not be permitted to use Community Consultation to abuse, vilify, insult, threaten, intimidate or harass Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of the order and may be expelled.

Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts

If you have made a relevant planning application to Council which is listed for determination on the Council Business Paper you must disclose any political donation or gift made to any councillor or employee of the Council within the period commencing two years before the application is made and ending when the application is determined (Section 147(4) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

If you have made a relevant public submission to Council in relation to a relevant planning application which is listed for determination on the Council Business Paper you must disclose any political donation or gifts made to any councillor or employee of the Council by you as the person making the submission or any associate within the period commencing two years before the submission is made and ending when the application is determined (Section 147(5) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 27 February 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

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR MARK RODDA - MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST - LAMBRUK SOLAR FARM PROJECT AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS

MOTION

That Council write to the Premier of NSW, the Honourable Chris Minns and NSW Energy Minister, The Honourable Penny Sharpe to request:

- (i) The NSW State Government urgently quarantine land outside the Renewable Energy Zones from large-scale alternative energy projects that may be largely inconsistent with the land use;*
- (ii) Prohibit any large projects outside of the Renewable Energy Zones;*
- (iii) Establish best practice for future site remediation and projects end-of-life and cash bonds paid annually by the project owners and held by the NSW Government for same; and*
- (iv) Urgently investigate construction of powerlines to less populated marginal land regions of the State;*

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 12 March 2024.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Tamworth Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) is largely outside the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ's) created by the former NSW Coalition Government during 2020/2021.

While some projects represent an opportunity for locals, businesses and job opportunities during construction, as well as creating alternative energy, many of the projects outside the REZ's have become contentious and create dissension between residents as they are generally located adjacent or in close proximity to communities, homes, precious farmland, impact visual amenity, noise, near bushfire prone land and irreplaceable biodiversity.

There is a more insidious side to the renewable energy push that has not been considered by the major parties in government that many are largely driven by corporate multinationals with little concern for the people they are impacting. They propose to establish these projects throughout Australia which is largely unregulated, leaving a legacy of unreliable energy, potentially high electricity prices, precious few jobs after construction and at the projects end of life question marks over site remediation.

The proposed Lambruk Solar Farm at Loomberah is a massive 500MW project with a Lithium Battery Energy Storage System that will create a massive blight on the district of Loomberah on and adjacent largely productive family-owned farmland.

Loomberah is known for its prime lamb and reliable grain production. Last year's grain crop is proof that in a hard year, the Loomberah region can still achieve average yields. Unlike other areas that suffered failed crops and producers in Western NSW who are lucky to get one crop every 5 years.

The farm producers who have signed up to this solar project currently have a cracking sorghum crop that most likely will be sold to the local chicken industry. Loomberah farms also produce fodder of small square bales of hay that is sold to the local equine industry not far away from this proposal.

Some of the land adjacent is classified Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL), which is considered the best. There are numerous other sites around the entire State of NSW more appropriate for such a large proposal than Loomberah, however as we all know, transmission infrastructure is limited.

Within our LGA this is not the only large-scale alternative energy project proposed within or adjacent our LGA, others such as the Hills of Gold Windfarm, Bendemeer and the Thunderbolt Wind Farm are also in close proximity to communities, farmland, bushfire prone land and outside the REZ.

To provide confidence to rural residents in their future rural endeavours, I call on Council to write to the Premier of NSW, The Hon Chris Minns and NSW Energy Minister The Hon Penny Sharpe to request:

- (i) The NSW State Government urgently quarantine land outside the REZ's from large-scale alternative energy projects that may be largely inconsistent with the land use;
- (ii) Prohibit any large projects outside of the REZ;
- (iii) Establish best practice for future site remediation and projects end-of-life and cash bonds paid annually by the project owners and held by the NSW Government for same; and

- (iv) Urgently investigate construction of powerlines to less populated marginal land regions of the State;

We note that this may provide residents currently impacted by these projects confidence in their future farming and rural endeavours as well as protecting the future of their children who may hanker the life of a farmer.

a) Policy Implications

Nil

b) Financial Implications

Nil

c) Legal Implications

Nil

d) Community Consultation

Not currently required.

e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

Focus Area 6 – Working with and Protecting our Environment

Cr Mark Rodda

6 March 2024

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAMES FOR APPROVED MOORE CREEK GARDENS SUBDIVISION - STAGES 12 TO 17 (LOT 627 DP 1290364, LOT 722 DP 562156, LOT 121 DP 753851 AND LOT 7 DP 562157) RN2024-0016

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 Moore Creek Gardens Subdivision - Stages 12 to 17 (Lot 627 DP 1290364, Lot 722 DP 562156, Lot 121 DP 753851 and Lot 7 DP 562157) RN2024-0016”, Council:

- (i) approve in principle the road names: ‘Bowerbird’ Road, ‘Fantail’ Street, ‘Pardalote’ Court, ‘Pipit’ Street, ‘Plover’ Street, ‘Quail’ Close and ‘Zebra Finch’ Drive;*
- (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 Moore Creek Gardens Subdivision, Stages 12 to 17, identified as Lot 627 in Deposited Plan 1290364 and Lot 722 in Deposited Plan 562156 Jubata Drive, Lot 121 in Deposited Plan 753851 and Lot 7 in Deposited Plan 562157 Bournes Lane, Moore Creek. Council has approval from the Geographical Names Board to name the new roads ‘Bowerbird’ Road, ‘Fantail’ Street, ‘Pardalote’ Court, ‘Pipit’ Street, ‘Plover’ Street, ‘Quail’ Close and ‘Zebra Finch’ Drive.

COMMENTARY

Proposed Road Names:	‘Bowerbird’ Road, ‘Fantail’ Street, ‘Pardalote’ Court, ‘Pipit’ Street, ‘Plover’ Street, ‘Quail’ Close and ‘Zebra Finch’ Drive
Development Consent:	DA2022-0247 – Stages 12-17 granted 17 August 2023
Theme or origin of proposed names:	‘Australian Fauna’ – birds identified as occurring in the Tamworth region
Geographical Names Board Approval Date:	22 and 28 February 2024

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(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

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 NORTH WEST SCHOOL SPORT ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FEE WAIVER REQUEST

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Samuel Eriksson, Sports and Recreation Strategy Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "North West School Sport Association Football Championship Fee Waiver Request", Council:

- (i) decline the request for a full fee waiver; and*
- (ii) subsidise the event in line with the Tamworth Regional Council's Significant Sport Event Subsidisation Policy.*

SUMMARY

North West School Sports Association (NWSSA) are hosting the New South Wales Primary School Sports Association (NSWPSSA) football championships for girls and boys in Tamworth, on Tamworth Regional Council (Council) managed facilities, over four days. This event is expected to host 350 players under 13 years of age.

COMMENTARY

In association with the NSWPSSA, the NWSSA have selected Tamworth to host the combined Primary Boys and Girls Football (soccer) Championship in 2024. This is a state level competition for players under 13 years of age and is expected to attract 350 players from 27 August to 30 August 2024.

On receipt of a complete fee waiver request, Council's technical staff first apply Council's adopted Sport Event Subsidisation Policy (SESP). The SESP ensures Council applies a consistent and transparent framework to requests for a Council fee subsidy when a major

event is hosted in the region. Importantly, the SESP allows Council to manage the finite resources specifically allocated to support hosting sporting events in the region in an equitable manner. Figure 1 below outlines the elements considered when assessing a sporting event under the SESP. A full fee waiver is only considered by Council when an event receives a score of 7 or greater in the SESP. Figure 2 below outlines the scoring range:

Sport Event Subsidisation Policy Parameters				
Parameter	Score			
	0	1	2	
Level of Event	Regional	State	National	
Participants	101 – 150	151 – 300	301+	
Bed nights	1	2	3+	
Event economic benefit (\$'000)	\$151 – 300	\$301 - \$450	\$451+	
TOTAL				TOTAL

Figure 1 – SESP parameters

Sport Event Subsidisation Policy Scoring Range				
Score	0 – 2	3 – 4	5 – 6	7+
Subsidisation %	0%	20% (Maximum \$1,000)	30% (Maximum \$2,000)	40% (Maximum \$3,500)

Figure 2 – SESP scoring range

Sports and Recreation technical staff have applied Council's SESP to this event in Table 1 below:

Parameters	Score	
Level of Event	State	1
Participants	350	2
Bed nights	4	2
Event economic benefit	\$387,700	1
TOTAL		6

Table 1 – Event score

This event will take place at Gipps Street Sporting Complex, Tamworth. The hire fees for this event have been calculated using Council's adopted 2023/2024 fees and charges. The

event did not obtain a score of 7 or greater, however does produce an economic impact of \$387,700 into the local economy, see Figure 3 below:

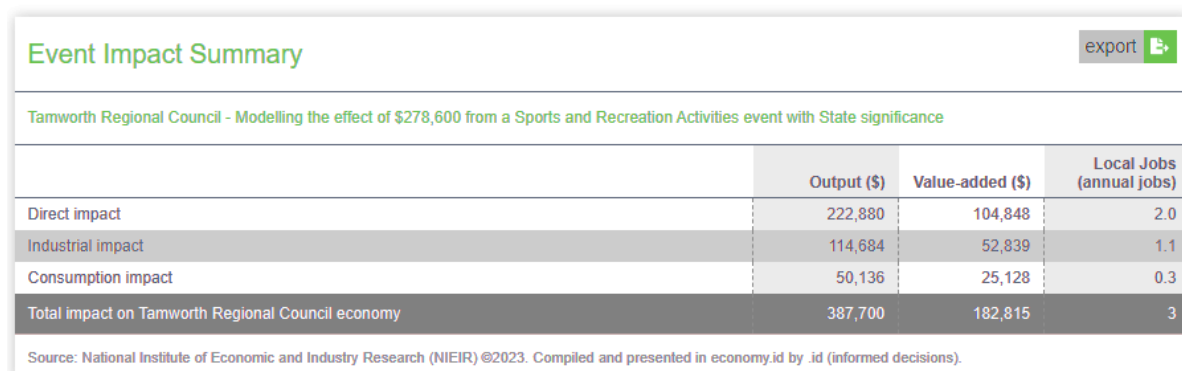


Figure 3 – Event impact summary

As a result, it is recommended that Council declines the full fee waiver request and supports the event in line with the SESP. With a score of 6, the event qualifies for an additional subsidy of 30% (capped at \$2,000) resulting in a total fee of \$ 2,111.36 being invoiced to the booking client. Table 2 below shows a complete breakdown of fees associated with this event.

Item	Cost
Sports field hire fees *	\$3,016.23
* Please note that this cost is already subsidised by a community service obligation for turf sports fields of 80% subsidy for community sporting groups.	
SESP subsidy (30%, capped at \$2,000)	-\$904.87
TOTAL FEES	\$2,111.36

Table 2 – Event fees

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Sports and Recreation division has an annual budget allocation for events subsidised under the SESP and the total subsidisation amount will be covered by this budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A liveable and built environment

8.2 TAMWORTH GLOBAL GATEWAY PARK - JEWRY STREET EXTENSION FUNDING CLOSE-OUT

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer

Reference: Item 8.4 Ordinary Council 14 June 2022 – Minute No 161/22
Item 8.4 to Ordinary Council 28 March 2023 - Minute No 51/23

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Global Gateway Park - Jewry Street Extension Funding Close-Out”, Council approve the allocation of \$850,000 from the Westdale Land Reserve to finalise the Jewry Street Extension project.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to approve the allocation of additional funding to the Jewry Street Extension project to finalise the budget. The repayment of this funding will be through the sale of land within the Tamworth Global Gateway Park (TGGP).

COMMENTARY

Tamworth Global Gateway Park

The TGGP is an area adjacent to the Tamworth Regional Airport and the Glen Artney Industrial Estate being developed as industrial and commercial land by Tamworth Regional Council (Council). The land is also the site of Tamworth Intermodal Freight Facility.

Jewry Street Extension

The Jewry Street Extension project involved the construction of an extension to the western end of Jewry Street to provide a heavy vehicle bypass of Taminda, providing a safe and efficient heavy vehicle route to the TGGP and beyond. This project was one of three projects that benefited from over \$20 million in NSW Government funding via their Growing Local Economies (GLE) program, along with the Country Road Roundabout and the TGGP Trunk Stormwater Drainage.

The funding for the Jewry Street Extension project initially included \$5,886,000 from the GLE grant and \$654,000 from Council's Civil Construction Reserve. These funding amounts were derived based on project estimates prepared in 2018 at the time of the GLE funding application and associated business case.

Council formally resolved to reallocate \$1,750,000 from the Jewry Street Extension project to fund additional costs encountered on the Trunk Stormwater drainage project, refer to Item 8.4 Ordinary Council 14 June 2022 – Minute No 161/22. This reallocation allowed the GLE grant funding to be paid to Council early, improving Council's cash position at the time. Council subsequently approved the allocation of up to \$1,750,000 from Council's Westdale Lane Reserve to reinstate the original budget for the Jewry Street Extension project, refer to Item 8.4 to Ordinary Council 28 March 2023 – Minute No 51/23.

Cost Escalation and Additional Project Costs

Construction of the Jewry Street Extension project has been completed, with forecast final expenditure approximately \$850,000 in excess of the original \$6.54 million budget set in 2018. Several factors contributed to this additional cost:

- the project budget was prepared in 2018 with construction not commencing until late-2022. The original funding application anticipated a 2020 project completion. In the period between 2021 and 2023 the cost of infrastructure delivery was estimated to increase by approximately 40-50% due to multiple factors including global supply chain issues, increased material costs, high demand and market saturation. This industry cost escalation was not able to be reasonably foreseen at the time of the funding application in 2018;
- the project was delayed by 18 months while complex flood modelling and landowner negotiations occurred within the flood plain. During this time construction costs continued to escalate;
- while poor quality subgrade was always expected within the flood plain section between the new roundabout and Wallamore Road, the extent of unsuitable subgrade and cost of rectification significantly exceeded the amount allowed for. An example of this is shown in photo 3 below. The subgrade was required to be treated using a variety of techniques including removing and replacing large quantities of unsuitable sections with imported material, 'bridging' over unsuitable material with rock layers and installing high strength geotextile fabrics (refer to Figure 4 below);
- being constructed in a flood plain, the new road extension was located along drainage pathways. The impact of rain during construction, particularly on these drainage pathways, resulted in significant lost time and rework; and
- The cost escalation on this project also extended to the cost of engaging specialist contractors. These contracts exceeded original budget allocations due to the industry-wide cost escalation and included the manufacture of reinforced concrete box culverts, installation of street lighting and the relocation of high voltage overhead electrical infrastructure.

It is proposed to contribute \$850,000 to the project from the Westdale Land Reserve. This would bring the total Council contribution to the project up to \$1.504 million, approximately 20% of the total project cost.

Figures 1 to 4 below show the completed project as well as some of the subgrade issues encountered during construction.



Figure 1 – Roundabout constructed at the corner of Jewry Street and Dampier Street, with the Jewry Street extension bypass on the left-hand side extending across the flood plain to the west (view is to the northeast).



Figure 2 – Tie-in of the Jewry Street extension with Wallamore Road to the west of the new roundabout (view is to the southwest).



Figure 3 – Typical unsuitable subgrade within the flood plain requiring additional treatment.



Figure 4 – One treatment option involving the installation of high strength geotextile fabrics utilised in areas of the flood plain to facilitate pavement construction over unsuitable subgrade.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Westdale Land Reserve is Council's funding source for the TGGP development with all TGGP land sales returned to the Westdale Land Reserve. The reserve position at 31 December 2023 was \$11,361,229 owing. At the time of writing this report, approximately \$5 million of land sale revenue has been deposited into the reserve, an additional \$6.7 million of land sales are under contract and awaiting settlement and approximately \$9.6 million worth of land is available for sale.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Blueprint 100 notes the TGGP as the key employment growth area for the region. The document was on public exhibition from 2 March 2020 to 9 April 2020, in conjunction with print media, social media, and media releases with community consultation sessions held in Tamworth, Manilla, Barraba, Nundle, and Kootingal.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and innovation.

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and its citizens.

8.3 URBAN STREET TREE ADVISORY GROUP - MEETING MINUTES

DIRECTORATE:

REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR:

Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Urban Street Tree Advisory Group - Meeting Minutes", Council receive and note the minutes from the Urban Street Tree Advisory Group meetings for the December 2023 and February 2024 meetings.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes from the Urban Street Tree Advisory Group (the Advisory Group) meetings on 4 December 2023 and 5 February 2024, and note the key outcomes of the meetings.

COMMENTARY

The Advisory Group was created to support Tamworth Regional Council (Council) with the greening and cooling of the region through the advancement of tree plantings across the Local Government area (LGA).

The Advisory Group met on 4 December 2023, and the minutes from the meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. Key discussion items of the meeting included:

1.1 2022 and 2023 plantings update

A review of all plantings that have been completed in 2022 and 2023 has occurred to ensure that each planting has a clearly defined maintenance period and a designated group responsible for the maintenance of each planting location.

1.2 Survival Rates of recent plantings

Council staff have estimated that the survival rate of plantings in 2022 and 2023 is approximately 90% of almost 4,000 plants.

1.3 Proposed future plantings

The Advisory Group had considerable discussion on the predicted dry weather pattern for the summer and that any proposed autumn planting projects should be reconsidered at the February meeting.

1.4 General Business

The Advisory Group was congratulated for the recent award they received at the 2023 Keep Australia Beautiful Awards held in Scone, for their commitment to greening the region.

Council staff informed the Advisory Group that road works, including road widening, is required on Calala Lane, between Calala and Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School. This would result in the avenue of existing trees having to be removed from the road corridor. However, staff had held successful conversations with the adjacent property owners about undertaking a re-planting of an avenue of Dessert Ash trees.

Discussion also occurred on the need to review the list of street trees and park trees in the Urban Street Tree Management Plan for their ongoing suitability. This will be reviewed in 2024.

The Advisory Group met again on 5 February 2024, and the minutes from the meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**. Key discussion items of the meeting included:

2.1 2023 Planting update

Council staff communicated that a detailed audit is underway to identify what re-plants are required to address the losses that have occurred across the region.

2.2 Future Plantings

The Advisory Group agreed that, due to the dryer weather pattern, the proposed autumn planting strategy be reduced to focus on re-planting existing losses and a few high priority planting projects.

2.3 General Business

The Advisory Committee received an update on the progress of the central business district (CBD) planting project.

A request for additional community planting projects from residents and interested community groups throughout the LGA have been received and will be scheduled throughout 2024.

Advisory Group members are looking at approaching business throughout the broader CBD area of Tamworth where very few trees are located to encourage new plantings.

A review of subdivision tree plantings has been requested and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Given the above, it is recommended that Council receive and note the minutes from the latest two meetings held by the Advisory Group.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The proposed tree plantings are currently funded through Council's existing projects and operational budgets

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

The Advisory Group is comprised of members of the community.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – Liveable built environment

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 IP&R - OUR PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Anna Russell, Manager - Strategy and Performance

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "IP&R - Our Progress Report July 2023 to December 2023", Council receive and adopt the report.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council "Our Progress Report – July to December 2023" **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, as the first six-month progress report for the 2023-2024 Our Annual Plan & Budget.

COMMENTARY

Before the start of every financial year Council adopts the Annual Plan and Budget, where the actions and projects planned for the year ahead, along with Council's annual budget, are detailed. These actions and projects reflect the priorities identified by the community in the Blueprint 100 - Our Community Plan 2023-2033.

Council is required, in accordance with Section 404(5) of the Local Government Act 1993, to report back to the community on the progress in achieving the activities described in the current Annual Plan and Budget. Tamworth Regional Council provides these progress reports every 6 months.

Our Progress Report

The 2023-24 Our Annual Plan and Budget (Operational Plan) was adopted at councils Ordinary Meeting held, 29 June 2023. Every six months Council prepares a progress report to the community, on how Council performed on the operational activities outlined in Our Annual Plan & Budget.

Each action in Our Annual Plan and Budget 2023-24 appears in the Progress Report, **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, with an overall indicator on how that action performed during that period.

The status determined is based on the progress made against a measure known as the Key Performance Indicator (KPI). The status can be either “Complete”, “On Track”, “Needs Attention”, or “Not Started”.

This is the first progress report for the 2023-24 Our Annual Plan & Budget. Out of 214 reportable actions; 81% are either complete or on track with 19% needing attention or not started.

It is important to note that Our Progress Report should be read in conjunction with the 2022-25 Our Delivery Plan available on council’s website: <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/about/policies-plans-and-regulations/community-strategic-plan>.

A summary of how council performed against the nine Focus Areas is outlined in Table 1.

FOCUS AREA	Needs Attention	Not Started	On Track	Complete	Total
Our Water Security	0	0	12	1	13
A Liveable Built Environment	11	1	13	2	27
Prosperity and Innovation	3	4	29	2	38
Resilient and diverse communities	6	3	19	10	38
Connect our Region and its Citizens	2	0	19	1	22
Working with and Protecting Our Environment	1	2	11	2	16
Celebrate our Cultures and Heritage	2	1	12	7	22
A Strong and Vibrant Identity	0	0	7	1	8
Open and Collaborative Leadership	5	0	24	1	30
TOTAL	*30	11	147	27	214

Table1. Overall Status

*Note: the 30 actions with an overall status ‘Needs Attention’ have been provided with a comment in the attached progress report – **ATTACHED** refer to **ANNEXURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

NSW Local Government Act 1993

(d) Community Consultation

Our Progress report will be published on Council's website.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

NIL

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 PROPOSED LEASE FOR COUNCIL OFFICE SPACE

DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

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) 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.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation to enter a lease agreement as lessee for additional office space to be utilised by Council staff.