



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, 4th Floor Ray Walsh House, 437 Peel Street, Tamworth**, commencing at **6:30pm**.

ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

23 MARCH 2021

**PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER**

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Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Consultation Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts

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

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

AGENDA

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021, 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

8.1 DRAFT NAMOI REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director Water and Waste

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the report; and*
- (ii) agree to lodge a submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) which includes the following points:*
 - the NSW Government and DPIE are to be congratulated on the draft strategy as it is the first comprehensive attempt to look at the issues involving water management in the Namoi and seek solutions;*
 - Council considers that the definitions for water security and reliability need to be the same when talking about water security from a regional water strategy and from an Integrated Water Cycle Management perspective. It is untenable for water security to be estimated based on different models which could yield different answers for the same centre;*
 - the possibility that a centre may run out of water on occasion is not possible for a centre the size of Tamworth. The inability to allow a centre to run out of water must be taken into account when considering water security;*
 - for a growing centre, water security should not just be assessed based on present demand, but also into the future when growth will place further demand on supplies;*
 - Council supports the Dungowan Dam and Pipeline project as a key component in securing Tamworth’s water supply into the future;*
 - Council agrees that much further work is required to better understand groundwater including the linkages between surface and alluvial water;*
 - Council believes groundwater users should contribute to the cost of the storage where one of the reasons for releasing water from the storage is for aquifer recharge;*
 - as part of the consideration of changes to present water sharing rules, consideration needs to be given to the lack of incentives for a centre to save water if the water saved is sold to another customer;*
 - the Peel Valley is relatively unique when considering the percentage of entitlement from Chaffey Dam held for town water. As a result, there may need to be solutions developed that are unique to the Peel Valley;*
 - whilst Council supports making water available for the environment, the present 3ML per day releases from Chaffey Dam, regardless of downstream conditions, should be reconsidered. Council has previously suggested the 3ML per day release could be stored in the dam and released as part of a block release which*

will ensure sufficient water is released to address any environmental concerns identified;

- *at Split Rock Dam during the most recent drought, the excessive losses experienced to get water to Manilla, given the relatively small volumes of water required, suggests that the 13GL cut off was insufficient and this amount should therefore be reconsidered;*
- *Council supports the investigation and roll out of recycled water options, but the issue of what to do with the wastewater from the treatment systems presently on the market is a considerable deterrent for inland centres, and the strategy should include further research into the treatment processes available for recycled water;*
- *Option 11, which suggests the creation of a critical human needs water license, needs careful consideration because in Tamworth, where approximately 50% of the water is used for commercial purposes, there is a real risk that people may have water to drink but no job because their employer has been closed down; and*
- *Option 38, the voluntary conversion of licenses, should include investigation of the buyback of sleeper licenses in the Peel and if that were undertaken, what, if any, benefits that would produce in terms of increased water security.*

SUMMARY

The Draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy has been placed on public exhibition, with the NSW Government seeking comments on the draft by 9 April 2021.

COMMENTARY

The NSW Government has asked the DPIE to prepare regional water strategies with the aim of bringing together the latest climate evidence with a wide range of tools and solutions to plan and manage water needs in NSW regions over the next 20-40 years. 12 strategies will be prepared.

Figure 6 shows how the regional water strategies will fit in the policy and planning context for Murray Darling regions, whilst the objectives of the regional water strategies are shown in Figure 4 below.

A copy of the draft Namoi Regional Water Strategy is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Figure 6. NSW water policy and planning context for Murray-Darling Basin regions

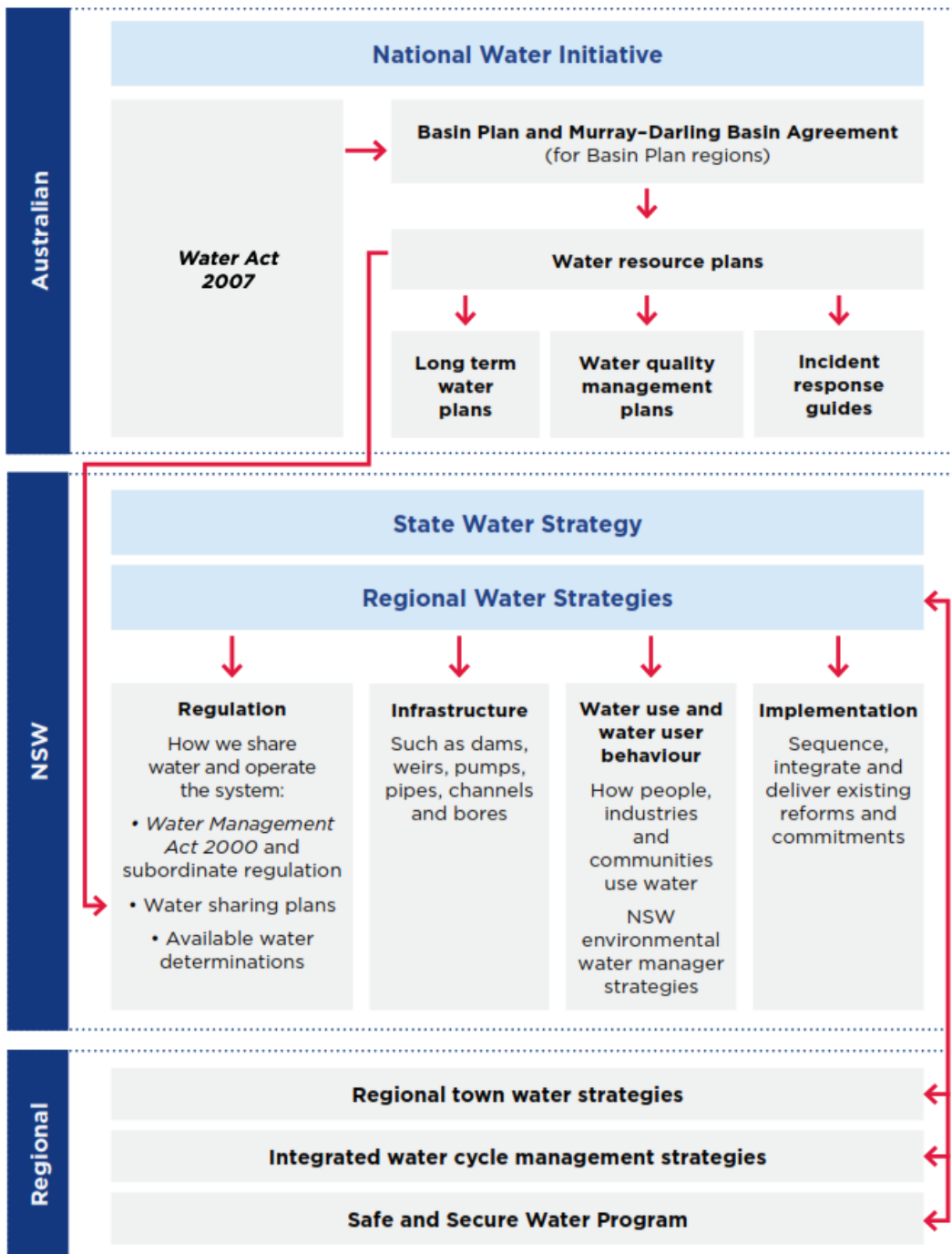
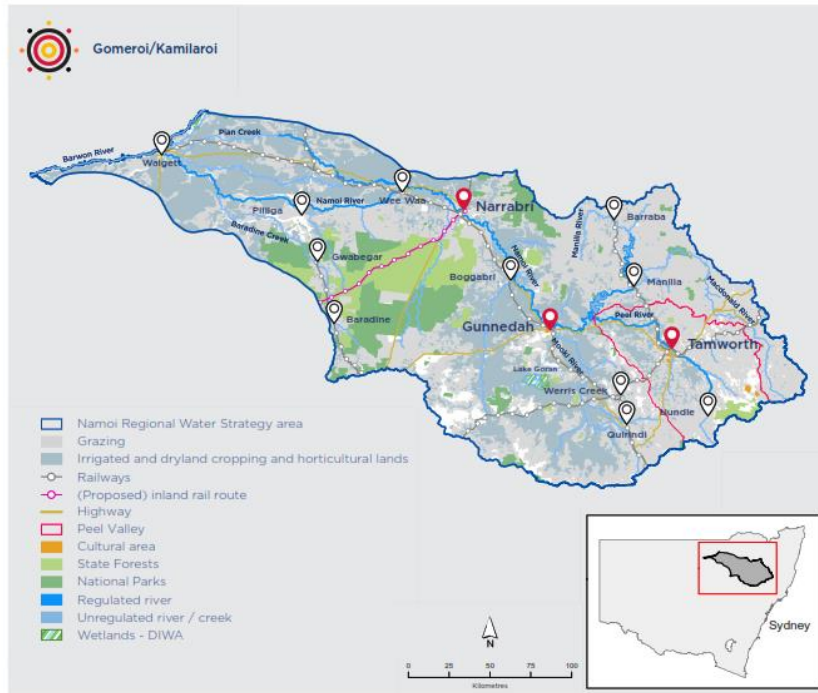


Figure 4. NSW regional water strategies: objectives



The draft strategy details the Namoi Region (Figure 1 below) covers more than 43,000 square kilometres and stretches over 350 kilometres from the Great Dividing Range east of Tamworth, west to the alluvial floodplains that connect to the Barwon Darling River near Walgett.

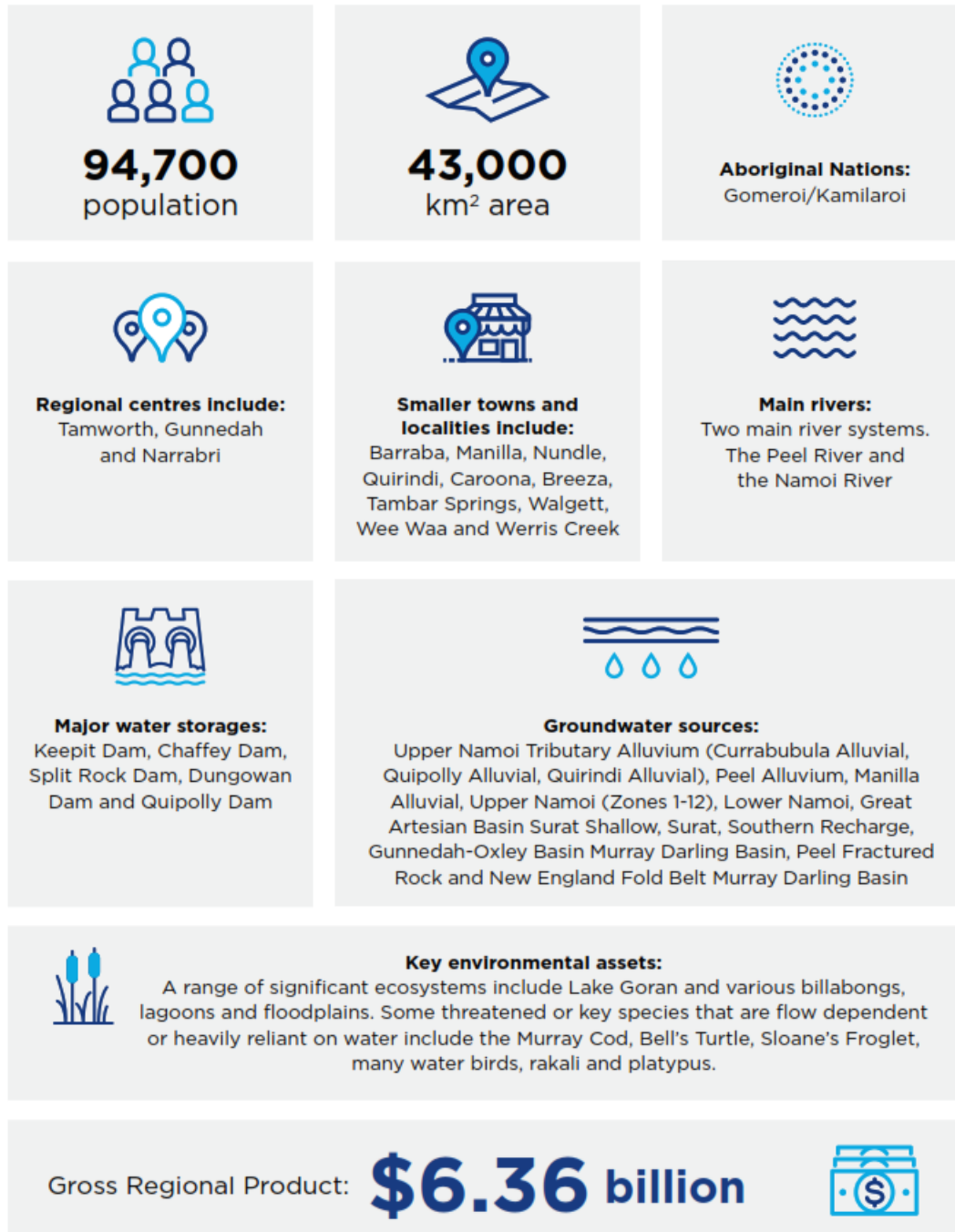
Figure 1. Map of the Namoi region



A snapshot of the Namoi Region taken from the strategy is shown below:

Snapshot

The Namoi region



Councillors will be aware that the DPIE provided Council with a copy of the draft Namoi Strategy before the final draft was prepared, seeking preliminary comments from Council. Staff prepared comments and circulated those to Councillors before providing those comments to

the DPIE. A number of the comments made have been incorporated into the draft document now on public exhibition.

When considering the earlier comments made and reviewing the draft strategy, the following points are highlighted for Council's information and/or direction:

- new climate datasets and modelling to develop a more sophisticated depiction of past and future climatic conditions. The new models don't just look at the recorded historical data, but can now look at paleoclimate data, which is data from before instrumental records began using sources such as tree rings, cave deposits and coral growth, to produce 10,000 years of synthetic climate data;
 - updated climate information and the possible effects of climate change have been included;
 - the strategy acknowledges that Tamworth has plans for significant growth, and therefore the strategy is not just focusing on increasing water security for the present population but for a larger Tamworth in the future;
 - more sophisticated climate data indicates:
 - a future climate could be more variable, with seasonal shifts in rainfall, higher evaporation and lower inflow into dams;
 - droughts like the 10-year World War II drought could be five times more likely to occur under a dry climate change scenario than the long-term historical record;
 - if we do nothing, towns that rely primarily on surface water could face more extreme water security risks under the worst-case climate change scenarios;
 - on average, there may be a decline in water supplied from the region's major storages to water users;
 - while large impacts are not expected in the short-term, and the likelihood of the worst-case scenario eventuating is small, these new projections show that just relying on observed historical records to make water management decisions is no longer the best course of action. We need to have plans in place to be prepared and resilient if there are future changes in the climate;
 - Chaffey Dam will be at 40% (present trigger for Level 1 Restrictions) capacity:
 - approximately 20% of the time, if our future climate is similar to our long-term historic climate; and
 - approximately 50% of the time under a dry climate change scenario and could remain at that level for over a year;
 - under the historic climate, Chaffey Dam has rarely fallen below 20% capacity – less than 1% of the time;
 - Chaffey could be below 20% (trigger for Level 5 Restrictions) approximately 5% of the time if our future climate is similar to our long-term historic climate; and
 - Chaffey could be below 20% for approximately 25% of the time under worst case climate change projections;
 - the NSW Government has estimated the water security risk for towns across Tamworth Regional Council (Table 4 below) including an assessment of:
 - headworks arrangement and capacities of local water utilities;
-

- the physical water delivery system and operational rules under water sharing plans; and
- local water utility operating protocols and past experiences in delivering water in drought conditions;
- a long list of 56 options are detailed that could address one or more of the objectives of the strategy;
- not all of the options on the long list will be progressed. Only feasible options will be progressed following an assessment process which will look at:
 - to what extent are the options expected to contribute to, or otherwise impact, on the objectives over the planning horizon and/or during extreme events;
 - a risk assessment of the positive or negative impact of the option on the objectives and the magnitude and frequency of impacts;
 - to what extent are the options likely to deliver costs effective outcomes;
 - is there likely to be a broader public or regional benefit from the option, or is the benefit centred to a small number of users; and
 - to what extent is the option likely to be feasible.

Table 4. Water security risk for towns in the Peel Valley under a more variable climate

Water utility	Drinking water supply system	Population served in 2014 (approx.)	Water security risk
Tamworth Regional Council	Tamworth	40,685	Very high
	Manilla	2,107	Very high
	Kootingal/Moonbi	1,950	Very high
	Barraba	1,150	Very low

Note: These risks represent the (preliminary) water security risks as assessed by the Safe and Secure Water Program as of April 2020 and are subject to change over time based on further investigation, new information from councils and/or delivery of projects/solutions addressing these risks.

Source: NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program.

Should Council wish to make a submission, then it is suggested the following issues/statements should be included:

- the NSW Government and DPIE are to be congratulated on the draft strategy as it is the first comprehensive attempt to look at the issues involving water management in the Namoi and seek solutions;
- Council considers that the definitions for water security and reliability need to be the same when talking about water security from a regional water strategy and from an Integrated Water Cycle Management perspective. It is untenable for water security to be estimated based on different models which could yield different answers for the same centre;
- the possibility that a centre may run out of water on occasion is not possible for a centre the size of Tamworth. The inability to allow a centre to run out of water must be taken into account when considering water security;

- for a growing centre, water security should not just be assessed based on present demand, but also into the future when growth will place further demand on supplies;
- Council supports the Dungowan Dam and Pipeline project as a key component in securing Tamworth's water supply into the future;
- Council agrees that much further work is required to better understand groundwater including the linkages between surface and alluvial water;
- Council believes groundwater users should contribute to the cost of operating and maintaining a particular storage where one of the reasons for releasing water from the storage is for aquifer recharge;
- as part of the consideration of changes to present water sharing rules, consideration needs to be given to the lack of incentives for a centre to save water if the water saved is sold to another customer;
- the Peel Valley is relatively unique when considering the percentage of entitlement from Chaffey Dam held for town water. As a result, there may need to be solutions developed that are unique to the Peel Valley;
- whilst Council supports making water available for the environment, the present 3ML per day releases from Chaffey Dam, regardless of downstream conditions, should be reconsidered. Council has previously suggested the 3ML per day release could be stored in the dam and released as part of a block release which will ensure sufficient water is released to address any environmental concerns identified;
- at Split Rock Dam during the most recent drought, the excessive losses experienced to get water to Manilla, given the relatively small volumes of water required, suggests that the 13GL cut off was insufficient and this amount should therefore be reconsidered;
- Council supports the investigation and roll out of recycled water options, but the issue of what to do with the wastewater from the treatment systems presently on the market is a considerable deterrent for inland centres, and the strategy should include further research into the treatment processes available for recycled water;
- Option 11, which suggests the creation of a critical human needs water license, needs careful consideration because in Tamworth, where approximately 50% of the water is used for commercial purposes, there is a real risk that people may have water to drink but no job because their employer has been closed down; and
- Option 38, the voluntary conversion of licenses, should include investigation of the buyback of sleeper licenses in the Peel and if that were undertaken, what, if any, benefits that would produce in terms of increased water security.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

DPIE will hold a face to face meeting in Tamworth on 23 March 2021, between 9am and 12pm at the Tamworth Community Centre, and also at Manilla at the Manilla Town Hall on 25 March 2021, between 9am and 12pm.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region for the Future – F22 Encourage efficient use of resources to improve environmental sustainability.

8.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE – GENERAL MEETING – 10 FEBRUARY 2021 AND 3 MARCH 2021

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Murray Russell, Business Improvement Review - Regional Services

7 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee – General Meeting – 10 February 2021 and 3 March 2021”, Council:

- (i) approve the installation of a parallel parking zone on Carthage Street, between White Street and the driveway of 123 Carthage Street, East Tamworth;*
 - (ii) approve the installation of the following at White Street and Carthage Street intersection:*
 - centre and edge line marking on both White Street approaches and the south bound Carthage Street approach;*
 - kerb blisters on each corner and the Carthage Street approaches; and*
 - centre line marking on Carthage Street between White Street and Fitzroy Street East Tamworth;*
 - (iii) approve the installation of:*
 - level crossing signs and line marking on Gunnedah Road, Dampier Street and Evans Street as per the attached plans; and*
 - smart signs on Jewry Street (prior to Dampier Street) for southbound traffic, Gunnedah Road (west of Dampier Street) for eastbound traffic turning into Dampier Street, and Gunnedah Road (east of Dampier Street) for westbound traffic turning into Dampier Street;*
 - (iv) approve the construction of the Riverside Shared Path, from O'Connell Street, Taminda to the Solander Drive, West Tamworth car park as per the attached plan;*
 - (v) approve the closure of Carter Street, Solander Drive at Riverside, Locks Lane and No.1 Oval access road Tamworth on 1 August 2021, from 6:00am to 2:00pm, for the Annual Tamworth Running Festival;*
-

- (vi) approve the installation of line marking on Campbell Road as per the attached plan;
- (vii) approve the installation of a “Keep Left” sign on the southern Murray Street approach to Napier Street intersection; and
- (viii) approve the installation of a pedestrian refuge and blisters on Peel Street, and crossing blisters on Macquarie Street, adjacent to the Tamworth Skate Park.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of seven recommendations (i–vii) made by the Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee at the meeting held 3 March 2021, and one recommendation (viii) at the meeting held 10 February 2021.

COMMENTARY

The Minutes from the meeting held 3 March 2021, are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

10/2021 – Changes to parking on Carthage Street at White Street, East Tamworth

It is proposed to change parking signs on Carthage Street, between White Street and the driveway of 123 Carthage Street, to parallel parking. The signs are currently 60-degree rear angle parking. This is a narrow section of road and Council staff propose changing to parallel parking, losing one to two parking spaces.



Figure 1: proposed parallel parking

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the installation of a parallel parking zone on Carthage Street, between White Street and the driveway of 123 Carthage Street, East Tamworth.

14/2021 - Carthage Street and White Street intersection, East Tamworth

A request has been made to Council to investigate traffic congestion at the intersection of Carthage Street and White Street, East Tamworth.

Council staff have investigated crash history and found two serious injury accidents had occurred (2018 and 2019), with traffic counts indicating 85 percent of vehicles were going five kilometres per hour over the speed limit.

It is proposed to install line marking and painted kerb blisters at this intersection which will improve traffic management and address speed of vehicles on White Street.



Figure 2: proposed intersection kerb blisters and line marking



Figure 3: proposed Carthage Street line marking

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the installation of the following at the White Street and Carthage Street intersection:

- centre and edge line marking on both White Street approaches and the south bound Carthage Street approach;
- kerb blisters (painted) on each corner and the Carthage Street approaches; and

- centre line marking on Carthage Street between White Street and Fitzroy Street, East Tamworth.

15/2021 – Tamworth Intermodal Rail Link (TIRL) – Gunnedah Road / Dampier Street Level Crossing reactivations

Council is currently working with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to reactivate a number of crossings in Tamworth to support the Intermodal rail project. Final sign locations are to be agreed with TfNSW.

The general arrangement drawings for the level crossing upgrades for the reactivation of the rail line to the proposed Intermodal are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

The level crossings are on:

- Gunnedah Road;
- Dampier Street; and
- Evans Street.

Please note that there will be some advanced warning smart signage on the Dampier Street level crossing to give drivers advance warning of a closure, so they can choose not to use the level crossing. These advanced warning smart signs will activate 70 seconds prior to crossing activation. It is proposed to locate three of these signs as follows:

- Jewry Street (prior to Dampier Street) for southbound traffic;
- Gunnedah Road (west of Dampier Street) for eastbound traffic turning into Dampier Street; and
- Gunnedah Road (east of Dampier Street) – for westbound traffic turning into Dampier Street.

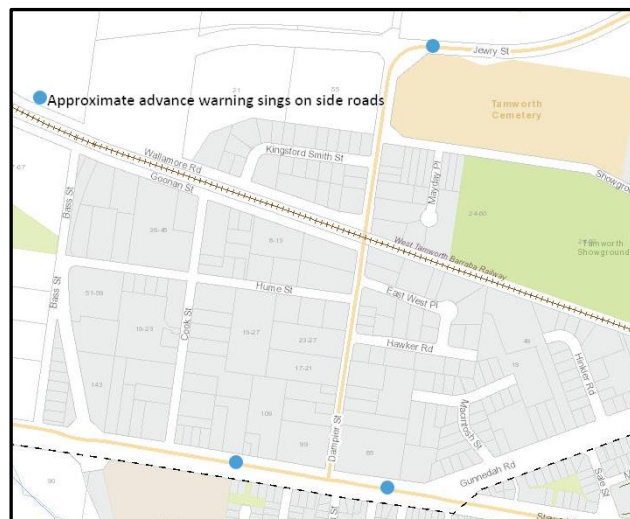


Figure 4: location of advanced warning smart signage

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support:

- the installation of level crossing signs and linemarking on Gunnedah Road, Dampier Street and Evans Street as per the attached plans; and

- the installation of smart signs on Jewry Street (prior to Dampier Street) for southbound traffic, Gunnedah Road (west of Dampier Street) for eastbound traffic turning into Dampier Street, and Gunnedah Road (east of Dampier Street) for westbound traffic turning into Dampier Street.

16/2021 – Riverside Shared Path (O’Connell Street, Taminda to Solander Drive, West Tamworth car park)

Council is working on improving the active transport network in Tamworth. The design plans in relation to the proposed Riverside Shared Path (O’Connell Street to Solander Drive car park) are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

The road will be changed from a two lane road, to a one lane, one way road (travelling south only) and a shared path. Precast castellated kerbing will be used to separate the road and the shared path. The primary purpose of the works is to facilitate improved pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between O’Connell Street and the Solander Drive car park adjacent to the Peel River through the provision of an asphalt path between these two locations.

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the construction of the Riverside Shared Path from O’Connell Street, Taminda to the Solander Drive, West Tamworth car park as per the attached plans.

18/2021 – Tamworth Running Festival 1 August 2021

The Tamworth Triathlon Club propose to hold the 47th Annual Tamworth Running Festival on 1 August 2021, from 6:00am to 2:00pm.

The festival will comprise of six events and require road closures as follows:

- Half Marathon (21.9 kilometres) – road closure of Carter Street, Solander Drive at Riverside, Locks Lane and No.1 Oval access road;
- Tamworth Ten (10 kilometres) – road closure of Carter Street, Solander Drive at Riverside, Locks Lane and No.1 Oval access road;
- Fun 5 (five kilometres) – off road;
- Community Walk (four kilometres) – off road;
- Dash for Cash (various) – off road; and
- The Tamworth Triple - 21.9 kilometres + 10 kilometres + five kilometres (new event in 2021).

Traffic control plans are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 4**. The road closures will be implemented by Council staff or licenced contractors.

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the closure of Carter Street, Solander Drive at Riverside, Locks Lane and No.1 Oval access road Tamworth on Sunday 1 August 2021, from 6:00am to 2:00pm, for the 47th Annual Tamworth Running Festival.

20/2021 – Campbell Road Calala, kerb and gutter and line marking

The Campbell Road kerb and gutter project will be constructed at the same time as the Calala Lane roundabout.

A line marking plan for the construction is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the installation of line marking on Campbell Road as per the attached plan.

21/2021 - Napier Street and Murray Street intersection East Tamworth, Keep Left sign

Council has received a request to install appropriate signage at the intersection of Napier Street and Murray Street, East Tamworth. Due to Murray Street being so wide, drivers on Napier Street are turning right onto Murray Street and are driving down the wrong side of the road.

Council staff have investigated the site and feel installing a “Keep Left” sign to clarify direction of travel for road users would be beneficial.



Figure 5: location for keep left sign

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the installation of a “Keep Left” sign on the southern Murray Street approach to the Napier Street intersection to clarify direction of travel for road users.

09/2021 – Request for pedestrian crossings at the Tamworth Skate Park

This project is aiming to be brought forward to the first stage of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) funding, due to some Stage 1 funding having some delays and needing to be shuffled to the second round of funding.

The 100% design drawings are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 6**. Design includes swept path checks, line marking and signage plans, and general arrangement of the crossing layouts. Pink markings denote pedestrian crossing points.

This item was discussed at the Local Traffic Committee Meeting on 10 February 2021, and supported by the Committee subject to Transport for NSW’s agreement which has now been obtained.

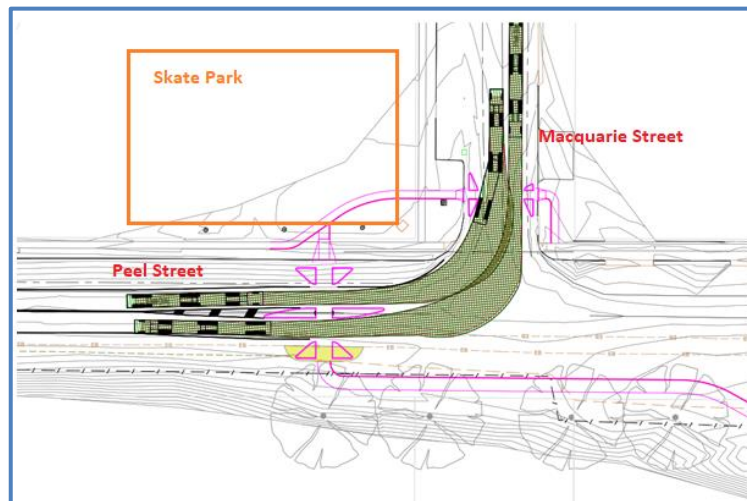


Figure 6: location of pedestrian refuges

Committee Recommendation: the Committee support the installation of a pedestrian refuge and blisters on Peel Street, Tamworth and crossing blisters on Macquarie Street, Tamworth adjacent to the Tamworth Skate Park.

The minutes from the February meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 7**.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

10/2021 – will be funded by the existing Infrastructure and Works line marking budget.

14/2021 – will be funded by the existing Infrastructure and Works line marking budget. Council will also seek future funding for works at the intersection through a Black Spot nomination.

15/2021 – will be funded by the project budget.

16/2021 – will be funded by the project budget – TfNSW Active Transport ‘Cycling Towns’.

18/2021 – will be funded by the event organiser.

20/2021 – will be funded by the Project budget.

21/2021 – will be funded by the existing Infrastructure and Works signs budget.

09/2021 – will be funded by the project budget - LRCl and TfNSW funding.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

An Accessible Region – A23 Traffic Management and traffic safety planning.

8.3 REGULAR UPDATE ON DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Louise Cadell, Sustainability Officer - Water

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Regular Update on Drought Response and Water Sustainability”, Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY

The following report is presented to update Council on the drought responses in various centres across Council and any future planned works.

COMMENTARY

Current Regional Water Supply Situation

The latest update as of 11 March 2021, is provided below:

Area	Restrictions	Water Supply	Situation
Barraba	Permanent Water Conservation Measures	Split Rock Dam	Split Rock Dam has received healthy inflows following recent rain, with the level sitting at 15.6%. The supply is considered secure for the next 24 months.
Bendemeer	Permanent Water Conservation Measures	MacDonald River	The Macdonald River is still flowing well above the trigger point for increasing restrictions in Bendemeer. The supply is considered secure for the next 24 months.
Nundle	Permanent Water Conservation Measures	Peel River/ Nundle Bore/ Crawney Road Bore	The Peel River at Nundle has been flowing consistently since the last significant rain event in December 2020. While there has been some rainfall in the Nundle area, the amount has been relatively small and the Peel River’s flow continues to drop off. This is being monitored closely, with the trigger to move Nundle to Level 1 water restrictions <60ML/month or 2ML/day as per the Drought Management Plan.
Manilla	Permanent Water Conservation Measures	Namoi River/ Manilla River	The Namoi River has sustained flows, and was returned to Permanent Water Conservation Measures on 4 January 2021.

Attunga	Permanent Water Conservation Measures	Attunga Bores	The groundwater level is consistent and bores are meeting maximum pumping rates.
Tamworth / Moonbi-Kootingal	Level 1	Chaffey Dam/ Dungowan Dam/ Moonbi-Kootingal via Nemingha Pipeline	<p>Despite regular rain in the Peel River catchment area, the Chaffey Dam level has remained relatively stable and is now at 43.44%.</p> <p>Dungowan Dam is at 100%, and remains Tamworth’s primary water source, supplemented by the natural flows in the Peel River.</p> <p>The supply for Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal is considered secure for the next 24 months.</p> <p>The flow in the Peel River does continue to drop off when there is significant time between rainfall events.</p>

Regular Out of Hours Water Restrictions Patrols

Regular out of hours water restriction patrols were reinstated in February. These patrols enable Council Rangers to be a visible presence around Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal, helping ensure residents continue to do the right thing when it comes to outdoor water use on Level 1 water restrictions.

Since moving to Level 1 water restrictions, 17 water restriction breach reports have been made to Council via the MyTRC app and by directly reporting to Council’s Customer Service team.

Rangers have noted that while no fines have been issued in the past month, a number of residents have been spoken to directly about using water out of the designated time. In most cases, residents were confusing the sprinkler use time with morning and evening.

Level 1 water restrictions enables residents to:

- sprinklers, sprays, microjet sprays and fixed hoses are allowed for two hours only per day, 5pm to 7pm Eastern Standard Time or 6pm to 8pm Daylight Saving Time;
- hand-held hoses can be used between 4pm to 9am Eastern Standard Time or 6pm and 8am Daylight Saving Time;
- no washdown of hard surfaces unless using a high-pressure cleaner;
- vehicles can be washed any time if using a high-pressure cleaner;
- recycled, greywater and rainwater can be used. Rainwater tanks can only be approved by Council and a sign issued if they are stand-alone and not able to be switched to the treated supply; and
- pools can be filled and topped up.

This advice will continue to be reiterated through regular media channels, and there is also an opportunity to use social media alongside the Let's Thrive water wise gardening campaign to share this information to a wider audience.

The regular out of hours patrols will continue to take place until June, when they will be reviewed.

School Education

With New South Wales returning to a less restricted COVID-19 way of life, interest in school educational site tours has returned.

This month the Calala Water Treatment Plant played host to a group of Year 12 Chemistry students from Carinya Christian School, Tamworth. The small group were enthusiastic and learnt a lot about the water treatment process of Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal from Council's Team Leader, Tamworth Water Headworks, Mick Hearn. The students also got an insight into some of the drought mitigation work which was completed, including the 120ML raw water storage dam.

This tour was also a good opportunity to share the online education video – virtual tour and Tamworth region water cycle. This free resource gives a virtual insight into how our regional water cycle works and is a great opportunity for anyone looking to explore the daily operations of the treatment plant, without being on site.

A number of enquiries have also come through from early childhood educators, with the Water Sustainability Officer working with the Waste Sustainability Officer to roll out early learning education about the importance of being sustainable in our water use all the time.

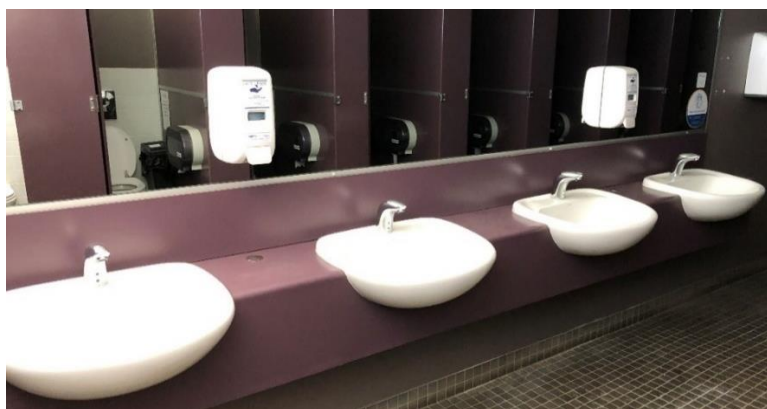
Internal Water Saving Initiative

Four projects, across three Council areas, have taken advantage of the \$50,000 internal water saving initiative this financial year. Of these projects, one has been completed in entirety.

The AELEC has replaced push start timed flow taps with 6-star WELS rated electronic sensor taps.

A number of amenity areas were chosen for this initial sensor tap install. This included the main arena male, female and disabled amenities, TAFE Block and amenities.

A conservative water saving can be calculated for the installation of sensor taps at a public amenity. This is calculated at 1.5L per use x 30 uses per day x 240 days a year. In this case, the installation of 30 sensor taps, would save around 324kL per year.



Sensor taps fitted in one of the AELEC Main Arena bathrooms

The remaining three projects that are yet to be completed include installation of sensor taps in the Town Hall and Community Centre bathrooms, a co-funded artificial turf installation at the Community Centre and an artificial turf installation at the Regional Playground.

It is estimated that synthetic turf saves around 2,000 L per square metre, per year.

Water Saving Rebates

The residential water saving rebate scheme continues to be taken up by the community. This financial year, 824 rebates have been approved at a one-off cost to Council of \$113,504. The estimated water savings so far has been calculated to 8,075.50 kL of water per year.

Rebate type	Approved	Cost	Yearly total savings (kL)
Ceiling fan	97	\$4,829.00	
Low Flow or Sensor Tap *	5	\$250.00	55
Dual Flush Toilet *	35	\$4,250.75	1,365
Toilet with Cistern Sink	4	\$450.00	
Evaporative Air Conditioner Servicing and Maintenance	476	\$42,110.50	
Showerhead *	16	\$300.00	1,040
Oxijet *	5	\$84.00	130
Swimming Pool Cover *	26	\$2,598.50	1,248
Large Rainwater Tank *	13	\$12,365.50	3,450
Medium Rainwater Tank *	10	\$6,016.00	
Small Rainwater Tank*	9	\$1,600.00	787.5
Large Rainwater Tank (stand alone)	36	\$18,000.00	
Medium Rainwater Tank (stand alone)	36	\$14,700.00	
Small Rainwater Tank (stand alone)	32	\$3,800.00	
Plumbers Audit	22	\$1,200.20	
TOTAL (Number)			824
TOTAL (\$)			113,504
TOTAL SAVINGS (kL) *			8075.5

* Conservative estimated water savings calculated on these items only

Summer Water Consumption Figures

As Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal residents enjoy a return to more relaxed water restrictions – moving to Level 1 in January – it has been pleasing to see this has not resulted in a spike in water consumption.

Comparing the past three summers' consumption figures, it can be seen that residents have responded to the calls for water conservation, in line with Council's drought response.

The Summer of 2018/2019 saw Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal first enter into water restrictions, moving from Permanent Water Conservation Measures in December, Level 1 in January and Level 2 in February. The average daily consumption for the entire summer sat at around 29.5 ML/day.

Looking at 2019/2020, where residents were living on Level 5 water restrictions for the entire Summer, which saw temperatures soar, the average daily consumption sat at around 19.4 ML/day, with the February average around 16.7 ML/day, just above the target consumption usage on Level 5 water restrictions.

Fortunately, from there we saw the water situation improve, and the most recent summer of 2020/2021 brought a mixture of regular rainfall and cooler temperatures. This, paired with the water saving habits obtained during the drought, saw the daily average consumption for this summer at around 18.3 ML/day. This figure is below both the targets aimed for on Level 3 and Level 1 water restrictions, both of which were in place this summer.

It is hoped that the sustainable water practices developed during the drought, will remain moving forward. The direct benefits for residents who maintain this attitude is the monetary savings on their water rates, and growing their resilience to better prepare them for the next drought period.

	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019	December 2019	January 2020	February 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021
Monthly Average Daily Consumption (ML/day)	29.55	40.88	31.05	19.41	19.02	16.72	18.33	19.95	20.88
Summer Average Daily Consumption (ML/day)	29.55			19.41			18.33		

(a) Policy Implications

These projects and activities are implemented from stated outcomes of Council's Demand and Drought Management Plans and the Drought Management Plan – Communication and Engagement Plan.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region for the Future – F22 Encourage efficient use of resources to improve environmental sustainability.

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Karen Litchfield, Internal Auditor

3 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the Minutes of the meeting held 16 February 2021;*
- (ii) accept the Annual Report presented by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee; and*
- (iii) approve the Tamworth Regional Council Internal Audit Charter.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held Tuesday 16 February 2021, including the Annual Report from the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and Internal Audit Charter.

COMMENTARY

The quarterly meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee was held on Tuesday 16 February 2021. The Minutes of the meeting are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

As part of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter, the Committee must report annually to Council detailing the Committee’s composition, responsibilities and how they were discharged, and any other information required by law, including non-audit services. The Annual Report for 2020, is **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 2**.

Council undertook an Independent Assessment of the Internal Audit function in 2020, as recommended by the International Professional Practices Framework. One of the recommendations from this Assessment was that Council should have an Internal Audit Charter for the Internal Audit function. A Tamworth Regional Council Internal Audit Charter has been created and is **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 3**. The Charter is based on best practice by the Institute of Internal Auditors and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Internal Audit function at Council. The Charter was approved by the Executive Team on the 19 January 2021, and endorsed by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee on 16 February 2021. The Charter is now presented to Council for final approval.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Costs associated with the Internal Audit function are included in the 2020/2021 Annual Operational Plan.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L21 Transparency and accountability of government.

9.2 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS FEBRUARY 2021 – FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Council Investments February 2021”, Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Council Investments for the month of February 2021, and highlights the impact of low interest rates on Council’s budget.

COMMENTARY

No changes with regard to monetary policy following the Reserve Bank (RBA) meeting for March, indeed if the economy was a road we would be calling out the road maintenance crew with the RBA describing the road ahead as “bumpy and uneven”.

In accordance with Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the details of all money Council has invested as at 28 February 2021, is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The following table provides a summary of the types of investments held and the institution they are held with:

Institution	Cash at Bank	Financial Assets Amortised Cost	Financial Assets at Fair Value	Total	% of Total
NAB	10,952,204	43,000,000	0	53,952,204	32.10%
BOQ	0	13,000,000	0	13,000,000	7.73%
CBA	0	11,000,000	0	11,000,000	6.54%

St George	0	20,500,000	0	20,500,000	12.20%
TCorp	0	0	11,377,380	11,377,380	6.77%
Westpac	0	58,262,633	0	58,262,633	34.66%
TOTAL	10,952,204	145,762,633	11,377,380	168,092,217	100%

The amount invested at 28 February 2021, has increased by \$1,324,287.33 compared to funds held at 31 January 2021.

Council's investments are mostly comprised of restricted funds that have been received for specific purposes or funds held for future renewal works. The following table provides a summary of investments held by each fund:

Fund	Restriction	Amount	%
General	Unrestricted	6,085,099	3.62%
General	Internally Restricted	37,409,360	22.26%
General	Externally Restricted	11,416,349	6.79%
	General Fund Total	54,910,808	32.67%
Water	Unrestricted	2,211,934	1.32%
Water	Internally Restricted	23,145,700	13.77%
Water	Externally Restricted	25,261,589	15.03%
	Water Fund Total	50,619,223	30.11%
Sewer	Unrestricted	2,244,467	1.34%
Sewer	Internally Restricted	44,761,907	26.63%
Sewer	Externally Restricted	15,555,812	9.25%
	Sewer Fund Total	62,562,186	37.22%
	Total Investments	168,092,217	

Moneys received for each fund can only be used within that fund. An explanation for each category of restriction is described below:

Unrestricted

These are funds required to meet short term cash flow requirements and contingencies to maintain solvency.

Internally Restricted

Funds set aside for future commitments mostly relate to asset renewals, remediation works, or leave provisions. For General Fund, this includes self-funding activities such as the Airport, Waste Management and Fleet operations.

Externally Restricted

Funds provided for specific purposes such as developer contributions, grants and loans.

The use of restricted funds is largely controlled by 10-20 year Asset Management Plans which are included in the Resourcing Strategy of Council's Community Strategic Plan.

(a) Policy Implications

All of Council's investments are held in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Investment Policy.

(b) Financial Implications

Interest rates on borrowings remain low but conversely returns on investment are negligible.

(c) Legal Implications

All of Council's investments are held in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Investment Policy, which accords with the requirements of:

- Local Government Act 1993 – Section 625;
- Local Government Act 1993 – Order (of Minister) dated 16 November 2000;
- The Trustee Amendment (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 – Sections 14A (2), 14C (1) and 2;
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clauses 212 and 215; and
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting – Update No 15 dated June 2007.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L21 Transparency and accountability of government.

9.3 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE DEBT RECOVERY POLICY

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Review and Update of Debt Recovery Policy", Council:

- (i) approve the policy in principle before placing it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for public comment; and*
- (ii) request a further report to Council following the review period to consider any public comments received.*

SUMMARY

Council's Debt Recovery Policy needs to be changed to make sure it refers to and complies with the Office of Local Government Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines which were issued by the Office of Local Government in November 2018. The policy has also been updated with regards to recovery for debts not raised through rates and water charges.

COMMENTARY

In November 2018, the Office of Local Government issued Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines under Section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993. The existing policy requires updating to ensure it complies with this legislative change and recognises the associated guidelines. The intention of the **ATTACHED** draft policy, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, is to direct readers of the policy to these guidelines via a link rather than try and include them in the policy. Reference to and inclusion of the relevant link should help to keep the policy current should the Office of Local Government amend the guidelines.

The policy has also been updated in the section referred to as other debts. The current policy does not allow enough flexibility for managers to promptly put debtors on stop supply, especially repeat defaulters.

A copy of the current policy is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

(a) Policy Implications

The current Debt Recovery Policy needs to be updated to ensure compliance with Section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993.

(b) Financial Implications

Council needs to have a sound Debt Recovery Policy to ensure recovery of outstanding amounts in a timely manner.

(c) Legal Implications

Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines are issued under Section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993. Councils must therefore take the guidelines into account when implementing local debt management and hardship policies and/or procedures. They apply to all NSW Councils, whether or not debt recovery functions are outsourced.

(d) Community Consultation

This proposed policy will need to be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L21 Transparency and Accountability of Government.

9.4 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020/2021 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2021 – FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager Financial Services

Reference: Item 9.3 to Ordinary Council 23 June 2020 - Minute No 173/20
1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2020/2021 Budget Variation Report – February 2021, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget included in the attached Annexure.

SUMMARY

This report is to advise the main items of note for budget variations for the month of February 2021.

COMMENTARY

Council adopted the original budget included in the Annual Operational Plan for 2020/2021 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 23 June 2020. Any changes to the budget must be approved by Council at a later Ordinary Meeting. This report seeks Council approval for any required budget variations identified during the month of February 2021, for which there has been no previous specific report or approval.

The most significant adjustment for the month of February was the receipt of capital grant funds under the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Improvement Program.

A summary of general budget variations is provided below with a detailed list **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Variations identified February 2021

Division	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Administration & Governance	(16,000)	0	(16,000)	0	0
Dir Mgmt C&G	(4,000)	0	(4,000)	0	0
Business Systems & Solutions	0	0	0	(231,000)	231,000
Plant, Fleet, Buildings	130,000	0	130,000	(462,500)	462,500
Sport & Rec Services	0	0	0	(1,030,000)	1,030,000
Infrastructure & Projects	(32,557)	0	(32,557)	(1,640,860)	1,640,860
Water & Wastewater	84,668	0	40,000	(7,332)	52,000
TOTAL	162,111	0	117,443	(3,371,692)	3,416,360

Material differences between budget and actual income or expenditure

Nothing new to report.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The variations included in the report have the following impact on forecast results for 2020/2021 by fund of:

Fund	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses

General	0	77,443	(3,364,360)	3,364,360
Water	0	40,000	(7,332)	(40,000)
Sewer	0	0	0	92,000
Total	0	117,443	(3,371,692)	3,416,360

(c) Legal Implications

This report is in compliance with the following sections of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005:

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L21 Transparency and accountability of government.

9.5 DRAFT CIVIC FUNCTIONS POLICY

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Jason Collins, Executive Manager - Strategy and Performance
2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Civic Functions Policy”, Council:

- (i) endorse the Draft Civic Functions Policy and advertise the proposed policy for a period of 28 days for public comments prior to formal adoption by Council; and*
- (ii) request a further report following the review period to consider any public comments on the policy prior to formal adoption by Council.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Civic Functions Policy for endorsement by Council to be placed on public exhibition.

COMMENTARY

A review of the General Policy Register was undertaken by the Executive Team in September 2019. At that time, it was recommended that the Protocols for Visiting Dignitaries and Official Functions be removed from the General Policy Register and placed in the Operational Policy Register as it related to the operational requirements for planning official functions, visits and events by dignitaries and VIPs.

However, whilst removing this protocol from the General Policy Register, the Executive Team also recommended that an overarching policy be drafted, and placed in the General Policy

Register, that provided clarity on the size and types of functions that would be organised for visiting dignitaries and international guests to the regional area.

A copy of the Protocols for Visiting Dignitaries and Official Functions that was previously removed from the General Policy Register and placed in the Operational Policy Register is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. A copy of the proposed Draft Civic Functions Policy is also **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

The Draft Civic Functions Policy recommends that the Mayor of the day determine the size and type of the function for the visiting dignitary/visitor with the following list being a guide for each occasion.

Dignitary and Guest	Type of Function	Guiding comments
Governor General of Australia	Civic Reception	up to 150 guests including Councillors, local State and Federal members, and local community members requested by the Governor General.
Prime Minister	Civic Reception	up to 100 guests including Councillors, local State and Federal members, and local community members requested by the Prime Minister.
Federal Members	Civic function	up to 50 guests including local State member, Councillors and local community members as requested.
Governor General of NSW or other State	Civic function	up to 75 guests including local State and Federal members, Councillors and local community members as requested.
Premier of NSW or other State	Civic function	up to 50 guests including local State and Federal members, Councillors and local community members as requested.
State Members	Civic function	up to 50 guests including local Federal member, Councillors and local community members as requested.
International Visitors/Rotary/Friendship Force	a morning or afternoon tea	Councillors, local community members and invited guests as requested.
Sister City Mayors/Official Delegations	a morning or afternoon tea	Councillors, local community members and invited guests as requested.
Freeman of the City and Key to the City	a small civic ceremony	up to 50 guests including Councillors, local State and Federal members, family and friends of the recipient, and key

		persons related to the recipient's achievements.
Citizenship and other Civic Functions	a morning or afternoon tea	Councillors, local community members and invited guests as requested.

(a) Policy Implications

The Draft Civic Functions Policy will need to be placed in the General Policy Register which will require 28 days public exhibition in accordance with Section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993.

(b) Financial Implications

Expenditure for any events under the Draft Civic Functions Policy is allocated in the 2020/2021 Annual Operational Plan and Budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

The Draft Civic Functions Policy will be advertised through Council's website for a period of 28 days seeking public comments prior to formal adoption by Council.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L21 Transparency and accountability of government.

9.6 2021 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MOTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Jason Collins, Executive Manager - Strategy and Performance
Reference: Item 9.2 to Ordinary Council 9 February 2021 - Minute No 12/21

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "2021 National General Assembly of Local Government – Motions for Submission", Council authorise the following motions to be submitted:

- (i) that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to make appropriate representations to the Federal Government Health Minister to ensure the current review of the National Medical Workforce Strategy, and in particular how a "District of Workforce Shortage" is determined when allocating Medicare Provider Numbers, provides flexibility and opportunities for Medical Practitioners and Specialists to relocate to regional and rural communities so that they are not disadvantaged in the delivery of adequate and essential medical services;*

- (ii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal and State Governments to invest additional resources into the CSIRO and other research organisations to further improve available water purification technology, and then commit funding to establish water purification plants to help improve water security for communities; and*
- (iii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to investigate the failings of the National Broadband Network in rural and regional Australia and the exorbitant cost of connection for businesses and residents.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the motion to be submitted on behalf of Tamworth Regional Council to the 2021 National General Assembly for Local Government.

COMMENTARY

Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 9 February 2021, authorised Mayor, Col Murray; Deputy Mayor, Phil Betts; Councillor Mark Rodda; Councillor Helen Tickle; Councillor Russell Webb and Council Juanita Wilson to attend the 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held over 20 – 23 June 2021.

Following this Meeting, three topics were suggested by Councillors as the basis for Motions to be submitted for the Assembly, the following Motions being:

- (i) that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to make appropriate representations to the Federal Government Health Minister to ensure the current review of the National Medical Workforce Strategy, and in particular how a “District of Workforce Shortage” is determined when allocating Medicare Provider Numbers, provides flexibility and opportunities for Medical Practitioners and Specialists to relocate to regional and rural communities so that they are not disadvantaged in the delivery of adequate and essential medical services.

National Objective:

The current method used to determine the allocation of Medicare Provider Numbers (MPN) is flawed and is significantly impacting the provision of medical services to rural and regional Australia. The system is currently the subject of a review by the Federally appointed Distribution Advisory Group. Council understands that this review has been delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and that the review will not be finalised until later in 2021.

The Commonwealth Department of Health is developing the National Medical Workforce Strategy in collaboration with the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC). MWRAC provides a national perspective to align priorities for supporting medical practitioners and addressing workforce shortages. This is crucial that ALGA make appropriate representations on this matter on behalf of regional and rural Councils.

Summary of Key Arguments

The current system is largely based on areas covered by a particular postcode and does not adequately take into consideration the way specialist services are delivered in regional and rural areas. Regional centres provide services to a much broader catchment than that covered by their individual postcode. To illustrate the issue, the local ophthalmologists in Tamworth estimate that they cover a population of approximately 220,000 across the New England, North West Slopes, Upper Hunter and Upper Central West regions of NSW. While there are currently four ophthalmologists,

two of them are over 60 and approaching retirement and one will return to New Zealand in early 2021. The fourth specialist works under one of the retiring doctors and has a temporary MPN until 31 July 2021. This doctor has a desire to permanently relocate to Tamworth but cannot secure a permanent MPN because Tamworth is not considered a “District of Workforce Shortage”.

The use of postcodes may be appropriate to achieve a spread of specialists across metropolitan areas, but in regional areas it results in a small number of specialists being required to work unreasonably long hours in order to service large geographical areas. The issue is even more obvious when we have fully trained specialists that actually want to move to the regions but are unable to do so because they cannot obtain a Medicare Provider Number due to the need to obtain exemptions from the Minister under s19AB.

The next scheduled update to the District of Workforce Shortage system is due to be announced on 1 July 2021, and urgent representations are required to ensure the above issue is addressed for regional and rural Australia.

- (ii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal and State Governments to invest additional resources into the CSIRO and other research organisations to further improve available water purification technology, and then commit funding to establish water purification plants to help improve water security for communities.

National Objective:

Recent drought across South Eastern Australia saw many communities faced with the prospect of running out of drinking water. The CSIRO's State of Climate Report 2020 suggests that with the effects of climate change communities across Australia will be faced with drought more regularly and possibly to a more severe level. Water Purification is a key component in providing greater water security to communities, particularly during times of drought.

Summary of Key Arguments:

During the recent drought many NSW towns faced the invidious consequences of current water management practices of State and Commonwealth governments by all but running out of water. The recent work undertaken by the NSW Government, based on paleoclimate data to produce 10,000 years of synthetic climate data and the possible effects of climate change, paints a very dire situation for drought in the state in the future. Over allocation of surface and groundwater supplies means other sources of water to secure a communities water supply needs to be investigated.

The treatment of the wastewater stream from existing water purification technology, which currently is very high in salt, is a major issue, particularly inland.

Many local water utilities cannot afford the high costs of advanced technology treatment and will require financial assistance to implement.

- (iii) that the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to investigate the failings of the National Broadband Network (NBN) in rural and regional Australia and the exorbitant cost of connection for businesses and residents.

National Objective:

The National Broadband Network has continually underdelivered for communities in rural and regional Australia and the Federal Government needs to investigate the extraordinary costs of providing the NBN and for businesses and citizens to connect.

Summary of Key Arguments:

Recently a local business owner inquired to upgrade their fibre to node broadband connection to fibre to the premise and was quoted \$1.3 million. This is entirely unsatisfactory when Tamworth could have had fibre to the premise in 2010.

The initial plan of the NBN was fibre to the premises then changed to fibre to the node as a cheaper option. While there are options for a free upgrade, it is capped and has caveats.

During the rollout in Tamworth's CBD, the NBN Co ran new copper cabling in to each premises but could have used fibre as they were running it through at the same time.

Once fibre is installed, speeds can easily be upgraded by just changing the optical units on either end and speeds can go from 1 gigabit up to hundreds of gigabits. Whole communities have been missed in the rollout, without even getting access to Fixed Wireless connections and are still on ADSL1 connections, barely able to get 10 Mbps download speeds. Places such as Binnaway, Mendooran and Baradine (these locations are in our Managed Services client area).

Sections of rural communities have also missed out, when the rest of the town has been provisioned. Coonabarabran for instance – their industrial area of town, where many businesses operate, have been completely missed in the rollout.

5G is another area of missed opportunity for NBN Co. 5G is much faster but has a lot shorter coverage range, so more infrastructure is needed for it to be rolled out more densely in communities to provide adequate coverage. NBN Infrastructure could have been used to deliver this infrastructure and be a platform which mobile providers could use, but this hasn't happened.

(a) Policy Implications

Council's formal resolution is required before the motions can be submitted to the NGA.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Region of Progressive Leadership – L12 Represent and advocate community needs.

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 ACQUISITIONS TO THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION 2020

DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY
AUTHOR: Bridget Guthrie, Director Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED
1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Acquisitions to the Tamworth Regional Gallery Collection 2020”, Council formally accept the identified artworks into the visual art collection.

SUMMARY

During the 2020 calendar year, a number of new acquisitions to the Tamworth Regional Gallery collection were acquired through a variety of options including purchase, donation, bequest and cultural gift donations. The Friends of Tamworth Regional Gallery also supported the process of purchasing new acquisitions through their fundraising efforts.

COMMENTARY

The new acquisitions to the Tamworth Regional Gallery Collection focus on the existing strengths of the visual arts collection, such as textile art, artists living and working in our region and landscapes.

Details and information regarding the new 2020 acquisitions is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. Furthermore, the value of these artworks is **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

All new acquisitions have been acquired in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Gallery Collection Policy. As part of the acquisition process ownership of the artwork/s are transferred to Tamworth Regional Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Artwork values will be added to Council’s Assets Register and recorded for insurance documentation.

(c) Legal Implications

Artwork will be exhibited in accordance with copyright law.

(d) Community Consultation

The Friends of the Tamworth Regional Gallery endorsed the spending of funds from their fundraising efforts in relation to the purchase of artworks for the collection.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

A Spirit of Community - C22 Provide accessible, functional, multi-purpose facilities and spaces suitable for cultural, recreational, learning and information services and activities.

11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

11.1 TENDER T038/2021 - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE LANDFILL COMPACTOR

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: George Shearman, Manager Plant, Fleet and Building Services
2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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

This tender is for the replacement of one existing landfill compactor. This replacement is scheduled in accordance with Tamworth Regional Council's Plant and Fleet Asset Management Plan. The new landfill compactor will be primarily utilised for the compaction and spreading of waste at the Forest Road Landfill site.

11.2 TENDER T134/2020 - UPGRADE OF SWAN STREET SEWAGE PUMPING STATION

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Jack Watkins, Projects and Services Engineer
1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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 consider the tender submissions received and to recommend the acceptance of a tender for the upgrade of the Swan Street Sewer Pump Station.

CLOSED COUNCIL

Confidential Reports

(Section 10A(2) of The Local Government Act 1993)

Where it is proposed to close part of the Meeting, the Chairperson will allow members of the public to make representations to or at the meeting, before any part of the Meeting is closed to the public, as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public.

The Chairperson will check with the General Manager whether any written public submissions or representations have been received as to whether or not that part of the meeting should be closed to the public.

The grounds on which part of the Council meeting may be closed to public are listed in Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 and are as follows:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors,
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property,
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.
- (h) during the receipt of information or discussion of information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440.

Section 10A(3) of the Act provides that Council, or a Committee of the Council of which all the members are councillors, may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.

Section 10B(3) of the Act provides that if a meeting is closed during discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in section 10A(3) of the Act), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting (other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is matter referred to in section 10A(2) of the Act).

Section 10B(1) of the Act provides that a meeting is not to remain closed to the public during the receipt of information or the discussion of matters referred to in section 10A(2):

- (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and
- (b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret - unless the Council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest section 10B(4) of the Act states it is irrelevant that:

- (a) a person may interpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may:
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the Council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the Council or committee.

Resolutions passed in Closed Council

It is a requirement of Clause 253 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 that any resolution passed in Closed Council, or Committee be made public as soon as practicable after the meeting has ended. At the end of Closed Council or Committee meeting, the Chairperson will provide a summary of those resolutions passed in Closed Council or Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL