



# 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

**27 APRIL 2021**

**PAUL BENNETT  
GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Order of Business

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	5
2	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.....	5
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL.....	5
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST .....	5
5	MAYORAL MINUTE .....	5
6	NOTICE OF MOTION .....	5
<b>OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS</b>		<b>6</b>
7	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING</b> .....	<b>6</b>
7.1	CRIME PREVENTION WORKING GROUP MEETING - 19 FEBRUARY 2021 .....	6
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
7.2	AMENDMENT TO THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2010 - PLANNING PROPOSAL - ARCADIA ESTATE, TAMWORTH .....	8
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
	<b>6 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED</b>	
8	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES</b> .....	<b>14</b>
8.1	E044/2021 - OXLEY HIGHWAY AND COUNTRY ROAD ROUNDABOUT SCULPTURE .....	14
	<b>1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED</b>	
8.2	2017-2021 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REVIEW.....	17
8.3	TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE - GENERAL MEETING - 7 APRIL 2021 .....	21
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
8.4	ONE TREE HILL WATER SUPPLY RISK ANALYSIS.....	30
8.5	PRE-DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT SUMMARY .....	33
	<b>1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED</b>	
8.6	UPDATE ON WATER SENSITIVE ESSENTIALS UPTAKE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN.....	40
	<b>2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
9	<b>GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE</b> .....	<b>45</b>
9.1	COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MARCH 2021 .....	45
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
9.2	SUBMISSION ON REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS ..	48
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	
9.3	ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2021 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - MARCH 2021	149
	<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>	

9.4	INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING - EXHIBITION OF DRAFT 2021/22 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN.....	51
		<b>3 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES.....</b>	<b>55</b>
10.1	TAMWORTH REGION ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAAC) - MINUTES - MEETING 11 MARCH 2021.....	55
		<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>
10.2	DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY 2021 .....	57
		<b>1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL.....</b>	<b>62</b>
11.1	TENDER T049/2021 - WHITE STREET CARPARK EXTENSION.....	62
11.2	TAMWORTH REGIONAL AIRPORT APRON LIGHTING TENDER - FILE NO T028/2020...	62
11.3	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SALE OF 87-93 BRISBANE STREET, TAMWORTH	63
11.4	T115/2021 - PEEL STREET SHARED PATH CONSTRUCTION.....	63
11.5	CALALA LANE AND CAMPBELL ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE - LAND ACQUISITION	63
11.6	Q122/2021 - PUBLIC AMENITIES REPLACEMENT PROGRAM - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.....	64
11.7	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SALE OF KABLE AVENUE, TAMWORTH.....	64
11.8	CALALA LANE AND CAMPBELL ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION - T097/2021 .....	65
11.9	NUNDE GO FOR GOLD FESTIVAL 2022 - OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJOR SPONSORSHIP	65
11.10	CHAFFEY DAM PIPELINE OPERATION .....	65
11.11	TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL ENERGY CONTRACT PROCUREMENT .....	66
11.12	DETAILED DESIGN OF CALALA WATER TREATMENT PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADE...	66

## Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Community Consultation Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts**

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

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

## **AGENDA**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 13 April 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**

#### **7.1 CRIME PREVENTION WORKING GROUP MEETING - 19 FEBRUARY 2021**

**DIRECTORATE:** PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Gino Tiberi, Crime Prevention Officer

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That, in relation to the report “Crime Prevention Working Group Meeting – 19 February 2021”, Council:*

- (i) Receive and note the Minutes of the Crime Prevention Working Group Meeting held 19 February 2021; and*
- (ii) Adopt the following recommendations of the Crime Prevention Working Group Meeting:*
  - that Council write to the Premier of NSW requesting that additional government and non-government agencies be allocated, and/or encouraged to locate within the West Tamworth precinct similar to Homes North; and*
  - that Council forward a letter of support for the Matrix Model Program to the Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Crime Prevention Working Group (CPWG) meeting held on 19 February 2021, provide Council with an overview of the meeting outcomes and to recommend that Council send a letter of support for the Matrix Model program to the Member for Tamworth, Mr Kevin Anderson.

#### **COMMENTARY**

The following is a summary of the main items discussed at the CPWG meeting held on 19 February 2021, as reported in the **ATTACHED** minutes, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

- Lack of government and non-government agencies based in the West Tamworth area:

The CPWG recognised the importance of encouraging those entities to be based in the area of need. It was proposed that the Youth Centre would be an ideal location for these agencies, creating a central location to provide wraparound support. There is currently office space available at the Youth Centre to support this proposal.

Former Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Mr Kevin Humphries addressed the CPWG and noted the delivery of social services by government and non-government agencies has a direct impact on social well-being, anti-social behaviour and crime.

Historically, the West Tamworth area has a higher concentration of disadvantaged residents which requires a particular focus on social services. With the obstacles often

facing residents, consideration should also be given to alternative approaches for service delivery.

The Committee resolved to recommend that Council write to the Premiers Department requesting that additional government and non-government agencies be allocated, and/or encouraged to locate within the West Tamworth precinct similar to Homes North.

- Positive decrease in crime rates:

Oxley Police District advised that crime rates have decreased or remained stable across most key crime categories. While seasonal spikes continue to occur, police are conducting a number of operations and actively targeting offenders.

Youth crime continues to be an issue, particularly in respect of break and enter offences as well as the stealing of motor vehicles. While there have been a number of significant arrests made, assistance from the general public is needed by ensuring their vehicles and homes are secured.

- Domestic violence:

Considerable Police resources continue to be directed toward dealing with domestic violence offences. Even though domestic violence is traditionally a difficult issue to manage, targeted actions such as apprehended domestic violence order compliance checks has resulted in some outstanding results.

Despite the continued focus, a seasonal increase in domestic violence assaults for the December 2020 quarter was recorded, while a decrease was noted for January 2021. These figures underline just how difficult it is to manage such a serious social issue. Domestic violence requires a holistic approach to address the causal factors.

- Community Corrections:

Community Corrections advised that while still operating under a COVID-19 safe plan, it is beginning to return to a normal work flow. Drug testing of high-risk offenders and field visits for compliance issues are being undertaken. Supervised community service work is currently limited to three days per week however, it is hoped that this may increase to four days per week. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, it is envisaged that other programs will be recommenced.

The electronic monitoring of offenders in the community continues to operate effectively. This highly valued tool provides an opportunity to impose a variety of restrictions on offenders, even excluding them from attending certain locations.

- Graffiti:

A graffiti statistics report was tabled outlining results between 1 November 2020 and 31 January 2021. Throughout this period seven separate incidents were registered costing Council \$1,125 to remove. During the same period last year six incidents were recorded costing Council \$1,906 to remove. These figures continue to indicated a stable trend which has existed for the past three years.

### **Matrix Model Program – Letter of Support**

Kevin Humphries provided the CPWG with an overview of the Matrix Model Program for drug rehabilitation. The Matrix Model is an outpatient addiction recovery program aimed at recovery from methamphetamine dependence. The CPWG agreed to recommend to Council



that a letter supporting the adoption of the Matrix Model Program be sent to the local Member for Tamworth, Mr Kevin Anderson.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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

A Spirit of Community – C31 Create safe environments to live, work and play.

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**7.2 AMENDMENT TO THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2010 - PLANNING PROPOSAL - ARCADIA ESTATE, TAMWORTH**

**DIRECTORATE:** PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Mitchell Gillogly, Team Leader – Development Assessment  
Andrew Spicer, Senior Integrated Planner  
**Reference:** Item 7.1 to Ordinary Council 22 August 2017 - Minute No 257/17

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**  
**6 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Amendment to the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 – Planning Proposal – Arcadia Estate, Tamworth”, Council:*

- (i) forward the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requesting a Gateway Determination in accordance with Sections 3.33 and 3.34 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;*
- (ii) request that the Minister for Planning, Industry and Environment exercise his plan making powers to delegate to Council the authority to make the plan pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and*
- (iii) upon receipt of a Gateway Determination, publicly exhibit the planning proposal in accordance with the terms of the Gateway Determination.*

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution of Council to amend the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 (TRLEP 2010)*, in relation to the lands identified as the Arcadia Estate, Tamworth, to achieve a land use planning outcome which aligns with

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Blueprint 100 and the future growth of the Tamworth region. The subject lands adjoin the suburb of Hillvue and a map showing the Arcadia Estate subject lands is **ATTACHED**, refer to **ANNEXURE 1**.

Arcadia is specifically referenced in Blueprint 100 as a major site of residential accommodation for the growing population of Tamworth and wider region. As such, it is important to implement suitable land use planning controls which facilitate the effective use of the land by promoting housing diversity, high quality urban design, green spaces and adequate commercial facilities to meet the demands of future residents.

The intent of the amendment is to promote housing diversity and cater for the future growth of Tamworth by increasing the number of available lots. The current zoning and minimum lot size regimes do not enable the most effective use of the land given Arcadia is one of the key future residential release areas of Tamworth.

Extensive planning has been undertaken for the Arcadia Estate and wider locality including studies that have underpinned earlier rezoning as well as recent structure planning and infrastructure planning for the area. The land is currently zoned for residential and commercial purposes.

The amendments proposed to the *TRLEP 2010*, via the planning proposal, are summarised as follows:

- amend the size and extent of the R1 – General Residential, R2 - Low Density Residential and B1 - Neighbourhood Centre zoned lands;
- amend the minimum lot size to 450m<sup>2</sup> in the R1 – General Residential zone and 800m<sup>2</sup> in the R2 – Low Density Residential zone and maintain 0m<sup>2</sup> for the B1 – Neighbourhood Centre zoned lands;
- increase the size and amend the shape of the Floor Space Ratio (FSR) of 0.5:1 to correspond with the amended size and shape of the B1 – Neighbourhood Centre zoned lands;
- include a new provision requiring a minimum density of ten (10) dwellings per hectare for the entirety of the site; and
- include a new provision restricting the subject lands to a maximum of 2,350 standard dwellings/lots.

It is proposed that the existing designation of the subject lands as an Urban Release Area (URA) be maintained.

The planning proposal aims to increase housing choice, standardise and align minimum lot size and residential density controls and support the delivery of infrastructure.

The planning proposal is consistent with the objectives of the New England North West Regional Plan 2036, Blueprint 100 Part 1 and Part 2, which is the Tamworth Regional Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020.

## **COMMENTARY**

### Background

The Arcadia Estate was identified as having potential for future residential development during the strategic planning process associated with the South Tamworth Rural Lands Masterplan 2012. The Arcadia site was considered appropriate for rezoning in order to

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facilitate the development of approximately 1,670 residential lots ranging from 600m<sup>2</sup> to 4,000m<sup>2</sup> and a neighbourhood centre. The site was rezoned by the publication of Amendment No.12 to the TRLEP 2010 on the NSW Legislation website on 27 October 2017. **[Minute No. 257/17]**

The subject site is located in the southern extent of the suburb of Hillvue, Tamworth and is identified as a key future residential release area in New England North West Regional Plan 2036, Blueprint 100 Part 1 and Blueprint 100 Part 2 which is the Tamworth Regional Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. The current minimum lot size and zoning has the potential to restrict the availability of high-quality residential land within proximity to the Tamworth CBD. This is important when considering the impact of urban sprawl, future population growth and capital cost associated with the provision of infrastructure.

Council initiated additional investigations and workshops with the land owners and stakeholders to develop a structure plan which addresses housing diversity, stormwater management, road and subdivision design and dwelling density targets. The development of a structure plan has been the catalyst for this planning proposal.

Council has moved forward from the LSPS process with the development of the draft 'Tamworth Story' which will inform future amendments to the TRLEP 2010 including at Arcadia. The draft precinct plan from the Arcadia chapter of the draft Tamworth Story is **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

As a result, the planning proposal has strategic alignment with both Tamworth Regional Council's principal land use planning strategies and the New England North West Regional Plan 2036.

Planning Proposal

The planning proposal aims to amend the following development standards to realise the full potential of the master planned Arcadia Precinct.

Development Standard	Description of Amendment														
<i>Zoning</i>	<p>Under the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010, the precinct is currently zoned R1 – General Residential, R2 – Low Density Residential and B1 – Neighbourhood Centre.</p> <p>The planning proposal seeks to apply the same land use zones across the site, however, the total area associated with each zone will be amended as per the table below;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="448 1610 1302 1912"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="448 1610 735 1706">Zone</th> <th data-bbox="735 1610 1019 1706">Current (approx)</th> <th data-bbox="1019 1610 1302 1706">Proposed (approx)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1706 735 1776">R1</td> <td data-bbox="735 1706 1019 1776">174ha</td> <td data-bbox="1019 1706 1302 1776">261ha</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1776 735 1845">R2</td> <td data-bbox="735 1776 1019 1845">110ha</td> <td data-bbox="1019 1776 1302 1845">20ha</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="448 1845 735 1912">B1</td> <td data-bbox="735 1845 1019 1912">2ha</td> <td data-bbox="1019 1845 1302 1912">5ha</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The R1 zone is the predominant residential zone for Arcadia and</p>			Zone	Current (approx)	Proposed (approx)	R1	174ha	261ha	R2	110ha	20ha	B1	2ha	5ha
Zone	Current (approx)	Proposed (approx)													
R1	174ha	261ha													
R2	110ha	20ha													
B1	2ha	5ha													

	<p>will facilitate a mixture of housing choices and increase lot yield in order to meet the objectives of the future use of the site. The R2 zone is limited to the southern portion of the site, in order to restrict the development of medium density development in consideration of the potential southern heavy vehicle bypass along Burgmanns Lane.</p> <p>The B1 zone is proposed to be enlarged and relocated further within the site, however, still located at the main entry point off Werris Creek Road. The commercial centre is of a suitable size to support the future population of Arcadia and the surrounding area with a mixture of a neighbourhood supermarket, speciality retail, food and drink premises and medium density housing. Council commissioned a retail demand study, which analysed the future demand for commercial space in comparison to population and trade area for Arcadia. It is considered the proposed amendments to the B1 zone are justified and will enhance the precinct.</p> <p>The mapping indicating the changes to the zoning is <b>ENCLOSED</b>, refer <b>ENCLOSURE 2</b>.</p>												
<p><i>Lot Size</i></p>	<p>The planning proposal seeks to amend the Lot Size requirements for the R1 and R2 zone as per the table below</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="448 1043 1302 1361"> <thead> <tr> <th>Zone</th> <th>Existing MLS</th> <th>Proposed MLS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R1</td> <td>600m<sup>2</sup> (M)</td> <td>450m<sup>2</sup> (G)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R2</td> <td>2000m<sup>2</sup> (V) 4000m<sup>2</sup> (W)</td> <td>800m<sup>2</sup> (S)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B1</td> <td>0m<sup>2</sup></td> <td>0m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The reduction to a 450m<sup>2</sup> minimum lot size is not insignificant, and a considerable amount of investigations have occurred in implementing the minimum lot size across a greenfield site. The intent of the 450m<sup>2</sup> minimum lot size is to provide flexibility for developers whilst ensuring housing diversity targets are achieved via the implementation of a minimum density requirement. This will ensure a variety of lot sizes and housing types are developed to cater for the growing needs of the community.</p> <p>The mapping indicating the changes to the minimum lot size is <b>ENCLOSED</b>, refer <b>ENCLOSURE 3</b>.</p>	Zone	Existing MLS	Proposed MLS	R1	600m <sup>2</sup> (M)	450m <sup>2</sup> (G)	R2	2000m <sup>2</sup> (V) 4000m <sup>2</sup> (W)	800m <sup>2</sup> (S)	B1	0m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>
Zone	Existing MLS	Proposed MLS											
R1	600m <sup>2</sup> (M)	450m <sup>2</sup> (G)											
R2	2000m <sup>2</sup> (V) 4000m <sup>2</sup> (W)	800m <sup>2</sup> (S)											
B1	0m <sup>2</sup>	0m <sup>2</sup>											
<p><i>Floor Space Ratio</i></p>	<p>The planning proposal seeks to increase the size and amend the shape of the 0.5:1 (D) Floor Space Ratio regime on the site. The proposed change is a consequence of the proposed amendment of size and shape of the B1 – Neighborhood Centre zone.</p> <p>The mapping indicating the changes to the Floor Space Ratio is <b>ENCLOSED</b>, refer <b>ENCLOSURE 4</b>.</p>												

<p><i>Density</i></p>	<p>The planning proposal seeks to include a new provision requiring a minimum net residential density of dwellings per hectare to be implemented across the site. A target of 10 dwellings per hectare has been proposed. Based on a net residential density which excludes open space, easements and drainage corridors, this equates to a minimum yield of approximately of 2,350 dwellings across the subject site.</p> <p>Dwelling density targets are important to provide certainty for appropriate infrastructure delivery and effective utilisation of available high-quality residential land. The proposed density could be achieved by a range of lot sizes from 800m<sup>2</sup> down to 450m<sup>2</sup>, complemented by some dual occupancy, integrated medium density housing and seniors living development. A dwelling density target aims to promote the development of a mixture of housing typology and lot sizes while ensuring lot yield is aligned with infrastructure provisioning.</p> <p>The density target will be enforced by a new clause and a dwelling density map in the TRLEP 2010. A new definition in the standard instrument will be included defining “density” in the context of development.</p> <p>The mapping indicating the minimum density requirement is <b>ENCLOSED</b>, refer <b>ENCLOSURE 5</b>.</p>
<p><i>Restricted Lot Yield</i></p>	<p>The planning proposal seeks to include a new provision restricting the maximum number of standard dwellings/lots based on the capacity of downstream infrastructure.</p> <p>A maximum of 2,350 standard dwellings/lots will be catered for in Arcadia Estate with a split of 1,500 dwellings/lots (Arcadia West) and 850 dwellings/lots (Arcadia East) either side of Burkes Gully. In company with the proposed minimum density provisions above, the intent is to provide a mixture of housing and lot size choices while ensuring lot yield is controlled in a manner which aligns with the infrastructure availability. The restricted lot yield will be enforced by a new clause and a restricted lot yield map in the TRLEP 2010.</p> <p>The mapping indicating the restricted lot yield requirements is <b>ENCLOSED</b>, refer <b>ENCLOSURE 6</b>.</p>
<p><i>URA</i></p>	<p>The planning proposal seeks to maintain the existing designation of the subject lands as an Urban Release Area (URA).</p>

A number of studies in relation to the subject site were undertaken in 2017 to support the original rezoning of the precinct including a flora and fauna assessment, cultural heritage assessment, contaminated land investigation, traffic modelling, flood investigation and servicing strategy (water, sewer and stormwater drainage). It is likely an addendum to the flora and fauna assessment and traffic modelling will be required based on changes to legislation and lot yield. Copies of these studies will be made available during the public exhibition process.

### The New England North West Regional Plan 2036

The New England North West Regional Plan 2036 (Regional Plan) prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to guide land use planning priorities and decisions toward 2036, recognises the Tamworth Region as a strong economic centre with access to international opportunities. The Regional Plan provides an overarching framework to guide land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure decisions.

This Regional Plan identifies Arcadia as a future residential investigation area. To ensure positive planning outcomes are achieved in accordance with the Department's Regional Plan, the planning proposal aims to provide housing choice, attractive lifestyle through sound urban design principles, active open spaces and active green corridors.

It is considered that delivering greater housing choice will support the expected changes in household composition and, in conjunction with high quality employment, health and education, will contribute to population growth within the Tamworth region.

### Blueprint 100

The basis for land use planning has been established by the Blueprint 100 process which includes Council's adopted LSPS. Arcadia is specifically referenced in Blueprint 100 as a major site of residential accommodation for the growing population of Tamworth and the wider region. The priority themes of Blueprint 100 have been considered as part of the planning proposal process and the precinct aligns with Blueprint 100 in the following manner:

- Providing a more diverse range of housing choices for varying demographics;
- Increasing affordability by promoting a mixture of lot sizes and housing types;
- Supporting residential expansion in Arcadia (Action 2.1.3);
- Promoting a compact urban growth area to ensure easy access to essential facilities, efficient delivery of infrastructure and protection of environmental lands.

The planning proposal is consistent with the objectives Blueprint 100 Part 1 and Blueprint 100 Part 2 – Tamworth Regional Local Strategic Planning Statement.

### Development Control Plan

Amended Development Controls are being prepared for the subject site to align with the outcomes of the structure plan. These will include the location of parks, the drainage corridor and open space, environmentally significant areas, neighbourhood centre, easements for transmission lines, proposed future roads and water and sewer constraints. The amended Development Control Plan will be reported to Council at a later date once the controls for the estate have been finalised. If possible, these draft development controls will be exhibited in concert with the Arcadia Estate Planning Proposal.

### Planning Proposal Process

In order to amend the TRLEP 2010, Council is required to submit the planning proposal to the Department for a Gateway Determination. Upon the issue of a Gateway Determination, the planning proposal will be placed on public exhibition and any additional studies or agency referrals required by the Department will be undertaken.

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

Nil – the planning proposal is a direct outcome of the policy position of Council developed via the Blueprint 100 process.

**(b) Financial Implications**

The cost of processing the planning proposal will be accommodated by the existing strategic planning budget.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Amendments to the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 will alter the planning provisions for the subject lands.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Community and agency consultation requirements will be specified by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Gateway Determination.

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

A Prosperous Region – P11 Support and facilitate economic development and employment opportunities.

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## **8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

### **8.1 E044/2021 - OXLEY HIGHWAY AND COUNTRY ROAD ROUNDABOUT SCULPTURE**

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES**

**AUTHOR: Mark Gardiner, Senior Project Management Engineer**

**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report "E044/2021 - Oxley Highway and Country Road Roundabout Sculpture", Council approves Everlon & Co Pty Ltd (ABN 11 558 710 475) to be engaged to design, supply and install the proposed artwork 'Taking Flight'.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Tamworth Regional Council's approval to engage an artist to finalise the design, fabricate and install a sculpture in the centre of the new roundabout being constructed at the intersection of the Oxley Highway and Country Road.

#### **COMMENTARY**

##### **Background**

The new roundabout under construction at the intersection of the Oxley Highway and Country Road was identified in Blueprint 100 as a critical intersection upgrade to facilitate Tamworth's growth and economic prosperity into the future. This roundabout will form a key link in Tamworth's transport network; providing access to the Tamworth Regional Airport (Airport), the Tamworth Global Gateway Park (TGGP) and the future south Tamworth western bypass.

The intersection also forms part of the Airport to the Central Business District (CBD) corridor and will be identified as the entrance not only to the TGGP but to the city of Tamworth from the west. As such, the roundabout was recognised as needing to create a statement which presents a progressive message about Tamworth's identity and its future. The new roundabout was therefore identified as an ideal location to incorporate a significant landscaping statement.

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## Expression of Interest

An open Expression of Interest (EOI) was advertised as E044/2021 on Council's website and the ArtsHub website. Several local artists were notified directly of the EOI and encouraged to make a submission. Arts North West was also asked to share the EOI within their network. The EOI outlined the opportunity for an artwork to be created for the roundabout that formed a welcoming statement at the western entrance to the city, that provided a sense of grandeur and was representative of Tamworth as a prominent regional city. A nominal budget of \$50,000 was advised along with the roundabout specifications and constraints. A working group was established including Tamworth Regional Council (Council) staff, a Councillor and independent arts representation to evaluate the submissions. Submissions were received from eight artists/companies, some providing multiple concepts.

The working group evaluated the submissions in accordance with the agreed evaluation criteria and unanimously agreed a preferred concept.

## Preferred Artwork

The eighth priority of Blueprint 100 is to 'strengthen our proud identity' – creating a more liveable city due to engendered pride and increased attractiveness for visitors. Priority eight aims to broaden Tamworth's brand to one which includes Tamworth's history of innovation, early electric street lighting, astronomy and aviation. As such the preferred concept 'Taking Flight' was selected by the working group due to its linkages with aviation, the region's natural landscapes and innovation. The submission was developed by Everlon & Co Pty Ltd (Everlon), who's submission also evidenced extensive experience in large-scale sculptures including detailed engineering.

The preferred concept was then endorsed by the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) on 11 March and a Councillor workshop on public art on 16 March 2021.

The preferred concept is shown in Figure 1 below, with more information, including additional perspectives and the 'artwork statement', **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

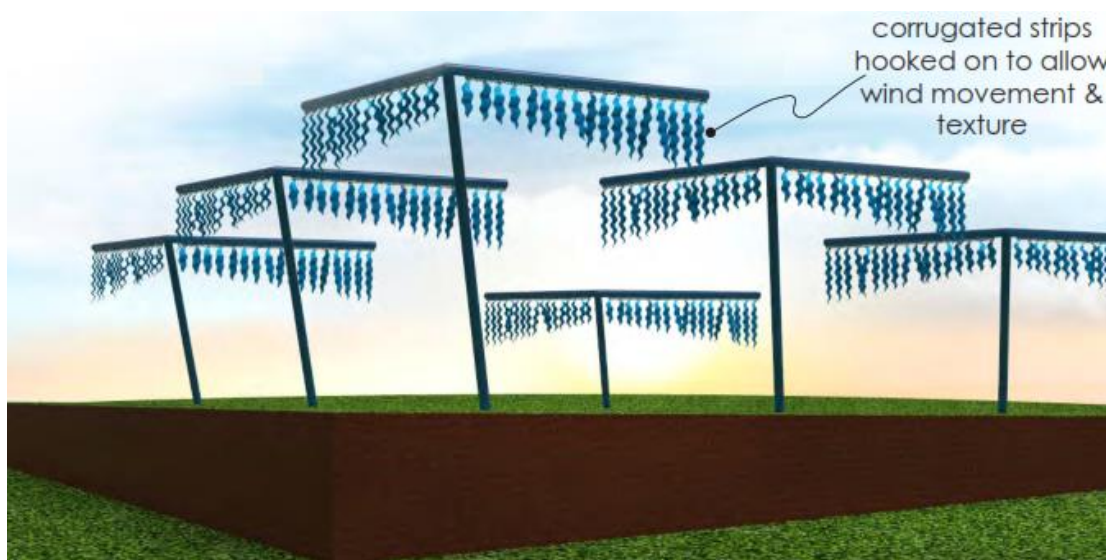


Figure 1: preferred concept 'Taking Flight'



## **Sculpture Delivery**

If approved to proceed, Council will work closely with the artist to ensure the final artwork design is compatible with the roundabout, including meeting all technical requirements for authority approvals. Durability will be a key consideration during the design process to ensure minimal maintenance requirements.

The artwork is planned to be installed while the roundabout is still under construction (i.e. by December 2021). This will provide seamless incorporation in to the roundabout landscaping and avoid additional traffic management costs/disruption.

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

According to the Public Art Engagement Strategy adopted by Council in April 2016, all public art over \$20,000 requires the approval of Council.

The Public Art Engagement Strategy is to be utilised by Council to govern a highly professional and well managed process for the inception, coordination, installation, maintenance and ongoing management of public art in the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government area.

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

Recent contracts awarded for TGGP infrastructure (funding previously approved), including the intermodal access road and utilities, have resulted in surplus approved funding for the TGGP development. The plan agreed with the TGGP Project Control Group (PCG) is to use some of this surplus funding to fund precinct-wide landscaping, including extensive planting in green and buffer zones, entrance statements and roundabout features.

Within this TGGP landscaping budget, the Oxley Highway and Country Road roundabout artwork sculpture has been assigned a nominal budget of \$50,000 excluding GST. This is intended to include all design, fabrication and installation.

It was noted by the artist (Everlon) that the artwork is 'scalable', meaning the final design arrangement/size can be readily adjusted to suit the available budget, noting the actual cost of the sculpture will not be accurately known until detailed design has been completed to confirm materials, structural details, etc. The artist has proposed working with Council to utilise local fabrication and installation resources to assist in maximising the value achieved. Detailed artistic and engineering design is estimated to cost approximately \$6,000 (excluding GST).

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

Subject to Council approval, the preferred artist will be engaged under standard contract terms for the completion of the artwork under a two-stage contract:

- Stage 1 – detailed artistic and engineering design; then (subject to approvals and final costing); and
- Stage 2 – fabrication and installation.

Prior to the artwork being approved to proceed to fabrication and installation, the final design will need to be approved by Transport for NSW (TfNSW), the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Air Services Australia. The project team has referred the concept artwork to each of these authorities for an initial review, with the comments

received providing confidence of achieving the necessary final approval once the design has been completed.

**(d) Community Consultation**

As part of the development of the Public Art Engagement Strategy, Council engaged the community in a dialogue regarding Public Art and sought ideas for public art throughout the Local Government Area.

Consultation was also sought through the TRAAC. The TRAAC includes six community members who represent a broad range of art disciplines. The TRAAC provides strategic advice to Council in relation to 'Arts' matters within the region and makes recommendations regarding priority areas for development.

Council is concurrently working on a City Entrance Strategy; the final artwork design will be developed in consultation with the team working on this strategy.

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

A Spirit of Community – C21 Preserve and celebrate the character, heritage and culture of our city, towns and villages.

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**8.2 2017-2021 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REVIEW**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Tracey Carr, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Reference:** Item 8.6 to Ordinary Council 14 August 2018 - Minute No 137/18

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report "2017-2021 Sustainability Strategy Review", Council receive and note the report.*

**SUMMARY**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 August 2018, Council agreed to adopt the 2017-2021 Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy is now due for review. The purpose of this report is to update Council on the program for the review ensuring that achievements to date and Council's and the community's priorities into the future are fully considered and incorporated in the updated Strategy.

**COMMENTARY**

In 2017, Tamworth Regional Council undertook significant community consultation as part of the development of the 2017-2021 Community Strategic Plan. The consultation identified that there was a need for Council to take an active leadership role in sustainability and perform its functions in a more sustainable manner.

Council's Sustainability Unit worked in partnership with Sustainability Advantage, a business unit of the NSW Office of Planning, Industry and Environment, to develop a Sustainability Strategy to ensure that all efforts in sustainability yield the best environmental and financial outcome for Council and the residents of the Tamworth Region.

The Strategy identified four themes, with a series of specific focus areas. These were as follows:

### **Theme 1 Energy**

Council's aim is to implement energy efficiency projects to reduce energy consumption and costs and utilise renewable energy where practical.

Focus areas:

- increase energy efficiency for Council buildings;
- increase energy efficiency for water and sewer assets;
- increase energy efficiency for street and public lighting;
- increase uptake of renewable energy for Council operations;
- internal Council energy management;
- transport energy; and
- increase sustainability in the community.

### **Theme 2 Waste**

Council's aim is to maximise the recovery of materials for recycling and provide high-quality services to the community. The efficient management of assets and operating costs whilst protecting the environment from potential impacts that may arise from waste and recycling operations is also a priority.

Focus areas:

- avoid and reduce waste generation;
- increase recycling and divert more waste from landfill;
- increase community recycling and improve problem waste capture;
- reduce littering;
- reduce illegal waste dumping;
- sustainable, integrated waste management; and
- internal Council waste management initiatives.

### **Theme 3 Water**

Sustainable water management is a priority in the Tamworth Region, across New South Wales, nationally and globally. Council will continue to face challenges in terms of water availability and through this strategy, aims to ensure efficient use and consumption of water and support long term water security for the region's residents.

Focus areas:

- increase water efficiency for Council assets;
  - internal Council water management;
  - increase water awareness and understanding in the community for greater water efficiency; and
  - alternative water supplies.
-

#### **Theme 4 Carbon Emissions**

Council aims to establish a means of monitoring its carbon emissions through the implementation of an energy and carbon management system.

Currently, Council uses E21, an online energy management system, to track energy use at Council sites. There is further functionality available within E21, as well as alternate systems, that allow for the monitoring of carbon emissions across all sites as well as plant and fleet. By better utilising existing systems and upgrading as appropriate, the effectiveness of sustainability projects can be directly measured through the reduction of carbon emissions.

Focus areas:

- internal Council carbon emissions management.

The Strategy is now due to be reviewed and a new Strategy created for the coming four years from 2021 to 2025. With the adoption of Blueprint 100 and upcoming review of the Community Strategic Plan, there is a significant opportunity for Council to undertake robust community consultation throughout the planning stage and create a Strategy that compliments Council's long term planning aspirations as well as the needs and wants of the community.

Through consultation for the current Community Strategic Plan, the community told us they want Council to develop a Regional Sustainability Strategy, be a leader in sustainable practices, work towards a sustainable energy future and secure water to allow for continued growth. Council has made consistent progress in these areas and is well positioned to make greater progress in the future with the new Strategy.

To achieve progress, it is important that the following are addressed and considered moving forward:

- the wants and needs of the community; and
- aspirational goals of Blueprint 100.

As well as what, if any, additional focus areas can be included in the Sustainability Strategy to support Council's achievements in sustainability moving forward which could include:

- integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Council's strategic planning.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are supported by the Australian Government and are increasingly becoming the driver for business sustainability and Local Government integrated planning. The SDGs focus on five themes; people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The value of the SDGs to Local Government is that they bring together a range of outcomes Council's already work towards as well as encapsulating community aspirations. As key policy and decision-makers, local Council's can link the SDGs with local community priorities in a logical and measurable way:

- setting an emissions reduction target in line with the NSW State Government Plan for Net Zero Emissions 2050, with stage one aiming for a 35% emissions reduction by 2030.

Throughout the term of the current Strategy, Council has improved emissions data capture and has established a baseline for Council's emissions.

The NSW Net Zero Plan aims to enhance the prosperity and quality of life of the people of NSW, while helping the state to deliver a 35% cut in emissions by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. The plan will support a range of initiatives targeting electricity and energy efficiency, electric vehicles, hydrogen, primary industries, coal innovation, organic waste and carbon financing.

The plan will also help to drive down the cost of living and provide consumers with more information to help them make more environmentally and financially sustainable choices:

- climate adaptation based on the Adapt NSW predictions for changing weather and climate patterns in region.

Detailed projections on climate and predicted changes in the near future (2020-2039) and far future (2060-2079) are shown on the Adapt NSW website. The snapshot report for the New England North West Region indicates that there will be an increase in all temperature variables, changes to rainfall patterns and increased fire weather risks. Planning for adaptation to these changes can mitigate the associated risks to Council and communities.

A program to review the Strategy has been established as follows:

- a draft Strategy to be developed in the coming months and be ready for review by incoming Councillors following the September 4 election;
- a workshop be scheduled with the new Council to review the draft Strategy;
- the draft Strategy be placed on display for community comment and feedback in line with the Community Strategic Plan community consultation; and
- the final Sustainability Strategy be developed, including any amendments required following the community's feedback, and adopted by Council.

The suggested program for review will result in a Strategy that meets the community's expectations, supports the delivery of Blueprint 100 and allow for the continual improvement in the organisations achievements in sustainability.

**(a) Policy Implications**

The Sustainability Strategy update is guided by the Community Strategic Plan Keychange 2017-2027 and the Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021.

**(b) Financial Implications**

A suitably qualified consultant will be sought from the Sustainability Advantage panel to assist with the Strategy review. Sustainability Advantage is a business unit of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Council's annual membership with Sustainability Advantage gives 35 free consultant hours per annum which will be used to scope and commence the project. Should the hours be insufficient to complete the Strategy review a report will be prepared requesting any additional funding from Council.

The current Strategy was completed within the free consultation hours, no additional funds were required.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Community consultation will be an important part of the Strategy review. To avoid unnecessary cost to Council and impost of time on the community, it is proposed that community consultation will be undertaken as part of the upcoming Community Strategic Plan review.

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

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

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**8.3 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE - GENERAL MEETING - 7 APRIL 2021**

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

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee – General Meeting – 7 April 2020”, Council:*

- (i) approve the bus times on Jenkins Street, Nundle to return to the previous times of 7.00am – 7.30am and 4.30pm – 5.15pm on school days;*
- (ii) approve the installation of regulatory signs and line marking as part of the reconstruction of the intersection of Lindsays Gap Road and Nundle Road including:*
  - installation of a concrete median on Lindsays Gap Road intersection approach;*
  - installation of Give Way and Keep Left signage on the Lindsays Gap Road intersection approach, and a Barrier Board on Nundle Road facing Lindsays Gap Road; and*
  - linemarking a hold line on the Lindsays Gap Road approach and edge linemarking on the Nundle Road and Lindsays Gap Road intersection approaches.*
- (iii) approve the installation of parking meters, regulatory signage and line marking as per the design plan in the White Street carpark extension;*
- (iv) approve the procession of vintage and classic vehicles and machinery as part of annual rally of the Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc in Manilla as per the following route – from the Manilla Showground via Higgins Avenue, left into River Street, right into Court Street, left into Manilla Street, u-turn at the Market Street intersection and follow the same route back to the showground;*
- (v) approve:*
  - the increase in bus stop hours to 7.00am – 7.00pm, and the installation of new signage on Brisbane Street, adjacent to 315 Peel Street, that advises of increased hours of service; and*

- **updating relevant signage at bus zones to 7.00am – 7.00pm, within the Council area**
- (vi) **approve removing the northern median on Kable Avenue, pending positive support from shop owners in The Atrium; and**
- (vii) **approve the installation of a BB centreline on the corner adjacent to 15 Scarborough Close, North Tamworth.**

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise Tamworth Regional Council of seven recommendations made by the Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee at the meeting held on 7 April 2021.

## **COMMENTARY**

The Minutes from the Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee (the Committee) meeting held 7 April 2021 are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

### **54/2020 & 90/2020- Nundle Bus Zone – Pre-school bus service time restriction changes – Jenkins Street**

- 54/2020 – Request to Change Parking Zones at Nundle Public School
- 90/2020 - School Bus Zone time extension for Nundle CWA Preschool

Signage requested for the Nundle CWA Preschool was installed last month, however other parties have requested a review.

An adjacent business owner to the school/preschool has requested that the extended zone times be revised, as the extended time is impacting on customer parking. The local bus service provider has advised that there will not be a bus service offered to the preschool and has also requested that signage be revised to previous times.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee support returning bus zone times to previous times of 7.00am – 7.30am and 4.30pm – 5.15pm on school days.

### **27/2021 – Lindsays Gap Road / Nundle Road intersection, Nundle – widening and concrete median construction**

The existing intersection of Lindsays Gap Road / Nundle Road is on a skew. There is a tendency for vehicles to cut the corner when turning left off Nundle Road onto Lindsays Gap Road. Recurring complaints have been received about the safety of this intersection.

There have also been a number of reported near misses, and one serious injury accident, at the intersection in the last five year reporting period.

It is proposed to reconstruct the intersection with a concrete median on the Lindsays Gap Road intersection approach, and to widen the south bound lane on Nundle Road.

Improved signage on Lindsays Gap Road and Nundle Road, intersection linemarking and a guardrail will also be updated for the new configuration. The design plans are shown below in Figure 1 and Figure 2. Works are expected to be undertaken in late May/early June 2021.

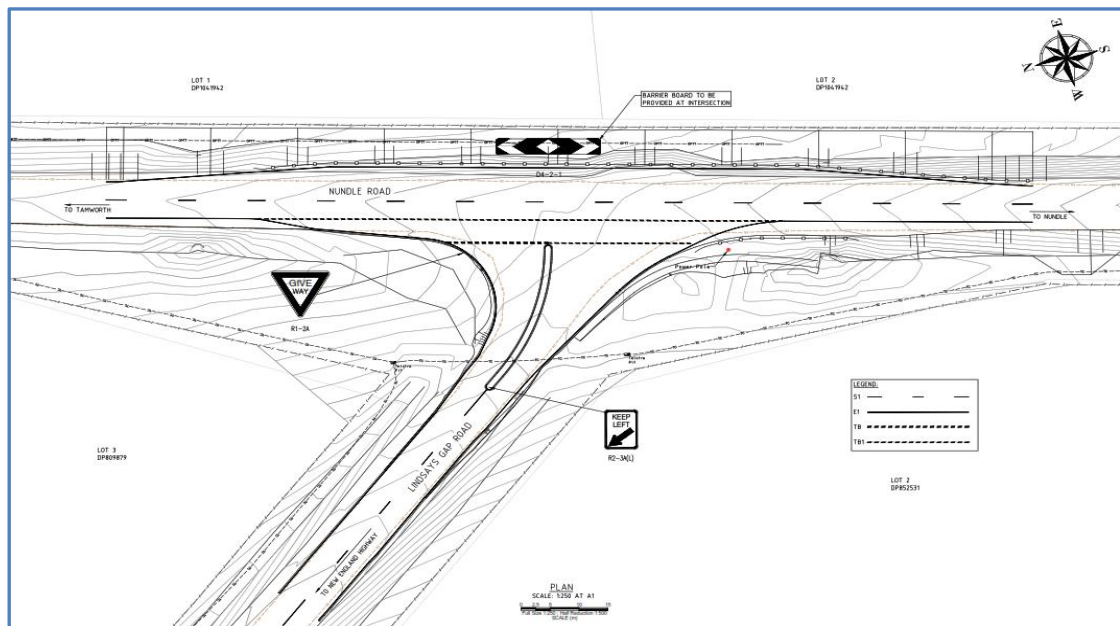


Figure 1. Intersection design plan

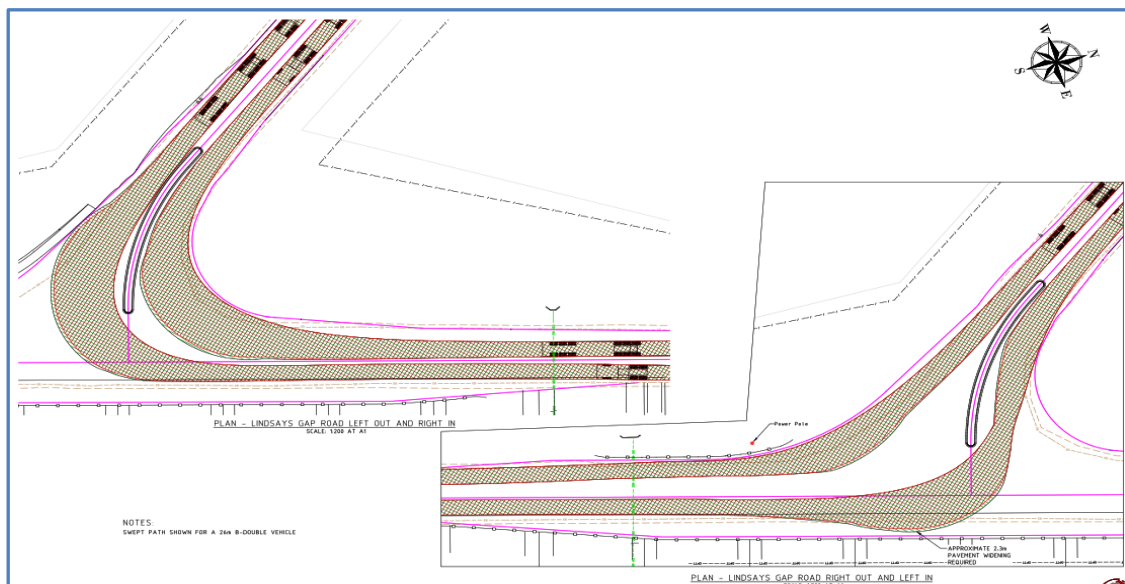


Figure 2. Intersection design plan

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee support the installation of regulatory signs and line marking as part of the reconstruction of the Lindsays Gap Road and Nundle Road intersection, including:

- installation of a concrete median on Lindsays Gap Road intersection approach;
- installation of Give Way and Keep Left signage on the Lindsays Gap Road intersection approach and a Barrier Board on Nundle Road facing Lindsays Gap Road; and
- linemarking a hold line on the Lindsays Gap Road approach and edge linemarking on the Nundle Road and Lindsays Gap Road intersection approaches.



### 28/2021 - White Street Tamworth Horseshoe Carpark Extension

Council is proposing to increase parking capacity at the current carpark off the Kable Avenue and White Street roundabout (see Figure 3) by extending to the south east.



Figure 3. Existing White Street carpark

The carpark extension would include an additional 46 carparks and demolition of seven existing car parks along the southern row, with a net increase of 39 parks. This includes two additional disabled access carparks and six additional motorbike parks.

The signage and linemarking plan for the carpark is shown below in Figure 4. Note that one aisle in the existing carpark has been converted to a single lane entry, due to the existing width restrictions at this location.

It is anticipated that construction on this extension will commence in May 2021.

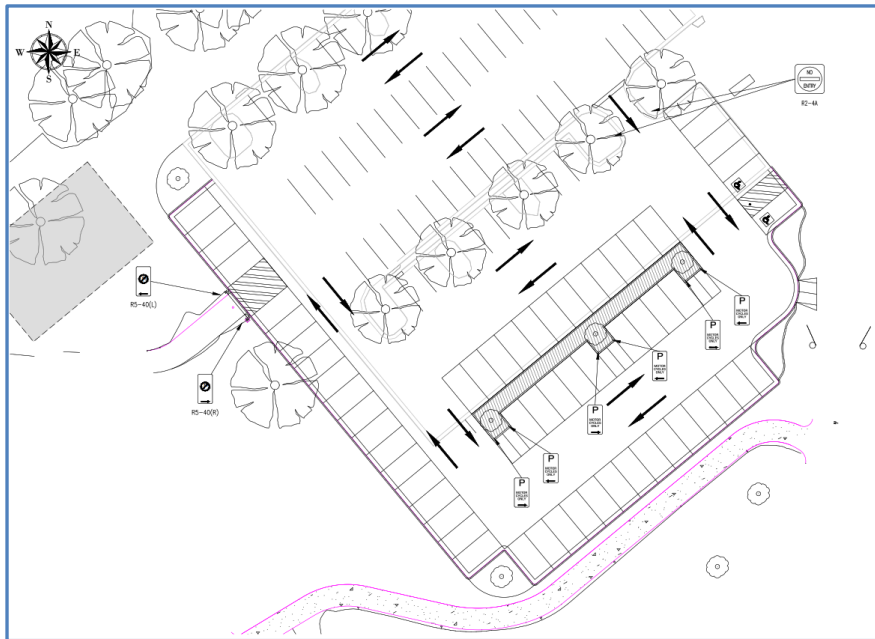


Figure 4. White Street carpark extension signage and linemarking plan

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee support the installation of parking meters, regulatory signage and linemarking as per the design plan in the White Street carpark extension.

### 30/2021 – Manilla Vintage Machinery Assembly and Parade 12 June 2021

The purpose of the assembly is to display vintage and classic vehicles and machinery as part of annual rally of the Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc. This procession is for vehicles only.

Date of Assembly/Procession:	12 June 2021
Approximate number of persons involved:	40
Assembly place (address):	Manilla Showground, River Street, Manilla
Assembly time:	10.00am
Procession start time:	11.00am
Assembly/Procession dispersal time:	12.00 noon

Procession Route: exit the Manilla Showground via Higgins Avenue, left into River Street, right into Court Street, left into Manilla Street, u-turn at Market Street intersection and follow the same route back to the showground.



Figure 5. Procession route

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee support the procession of vintage and classic vehicles and machinery as part of annual rally of the Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc in Manilla as per the following route – from the Manilla Showground via Higgins Avenue, left into River Street, right into Court Street, left into Manilla Street, u-turn at Market Street intersection and follow the same route back to the showground.

### 31/2021 - Brisbane Street/Peel Street, Tamworth – Extension of Bus Stop Hours

Hannafords Coaches have advised that they have extended their Saturday Town Service from the Central Business District (CBD) of Tamworth, and have requested a new sign to be installed on Brisbane Street, adjacent to 315 Peel Street. This will replace the existing signage and increase the bus stop hours to 5.45pm.

On 1 April 2021 Tamworth Buslines advised:

*“All Town Bus Services have been extended [from November 2020], both on week nights and on Saturdays.*

*All timed bus zones in Tamworth now need to be changed from 7am – 7pm Monday to Saturday.”*

Chris Lanham (Member of Parliament representative on the Committee) is to supply a list of sites to have the signage changed.



Figure 6. Location of bus stop on Brisbane Street

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee support:

- the increase in bus stop hours to 7.00am to 7.00pm and the installation of new signage on Brisbane Street, adjacent 315 Peel Street, that advises of increased hours of service; and
- updating relevant signage at bus zones to 7.00am to 7.00pm, within the Tamworth Regional Council (Council) area.

### **34/2021 – Gardens in the Bus Zone at Kable Avenue**

Tamworth Buslines request consideration to remove the kerbed gardens at either end of the bus zone outside of the Atrium on Kable Avenue, which would effectively allow buses to use all of the zone. Buses often struggle to fit into the existing zone, and now that there is an additional route to Calala, this will result in four buses utilising the zone within a similar time period.

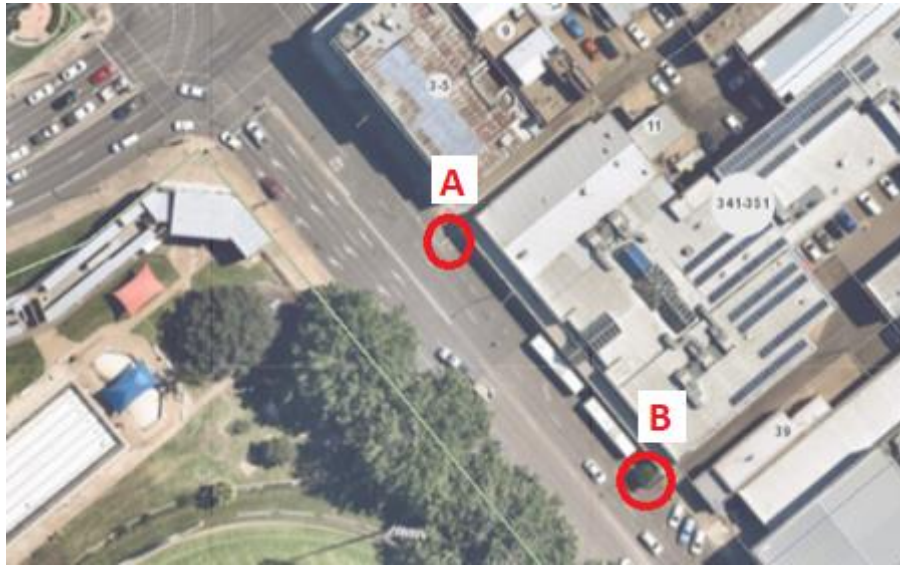


Figure 7. Garden beds on Kable Avenue

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee supports retaining the southern garden area (B), which holds a small tree, and give in-principle support to removing the northern median (A), pending positive support from shop owners in The Atrium.

### **36/2021 - Linemarking the corner of Scarborough Close, North Tamworth**

Council received a request regarding the safety of the corner adjacent to 15 Scarborough Close, with limited visibility around the corner due to vehicles parked close to the corner.

The original request was for No Parking signs to be installed on the corner, however on investigation by Council staff, it was found that the use of these signs is not appropriate in this case.

In order to ensure vehicles are navigating the corner in the correct location, and to discourage parking on the annulus of the corner (due to inhibiting travel lane space), it is recommended that a BB centreline be located on the corner (and as shown by the linemarking plan below).

This treatment has been installed in other locations in the city and has worked successfully.



Figure 8. Proposed BB centreline

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** the Committee supports the installation of a BB centreline on the corner adjacent to 15 Scarborough Close, North Tamworth.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

54/2020 & 90/2020 - will be funded by the existing Infrastructure and Works signage and line marking budget.

27/2021 – will be funded under the Infrastructure and Works road maintenance budget.

28/2021 - will be funded by the Project budget.

34/2021 - will be funded under the Infrastructure and Works road maintenance budget.

36/2021 - will be funded by the existing Infrastructure and Works signage and line marking budget.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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

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

## 8.4 ONE TREE HILL WATER SUPPLY RISK ANALYSIS

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Daniel Coe, Manager - Water Operations

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “One Tree Hill Water Supply Risk Analysis”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the report; and*
- (ii) agree to reschedule the construction of a new additional reservoir within the One Tree Hill water supply zone until 2026-2027 or until further risk analysis requires the reservoir’s construction.*

### **SUMMARY**

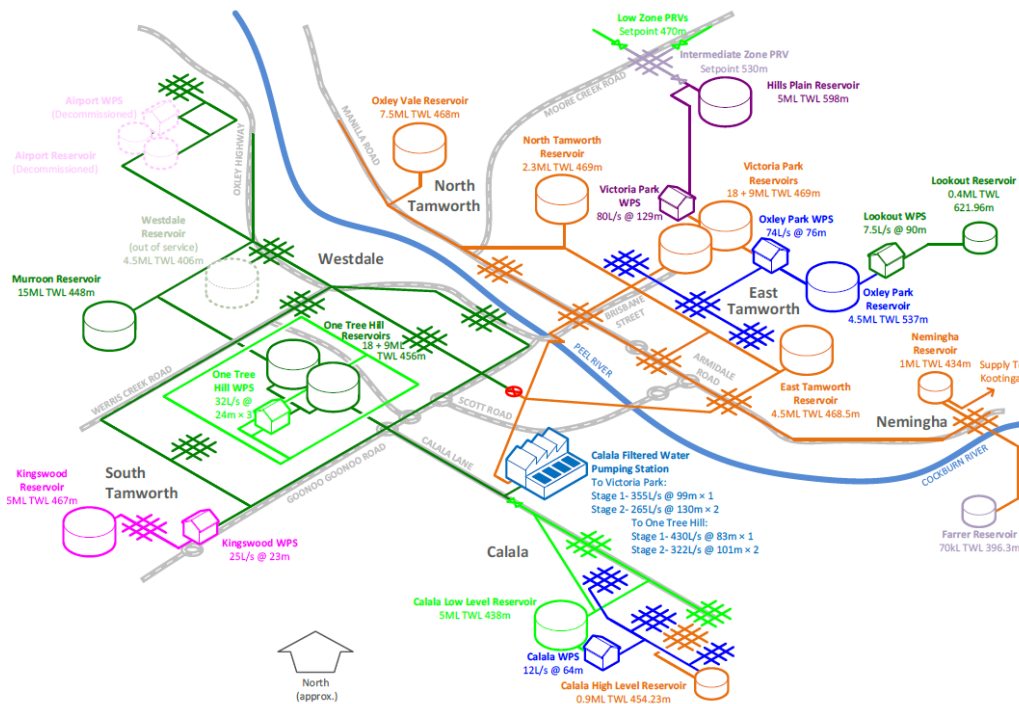
The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the outcomes of a risk analysis completed on the Tamworth water supply network, with a focus on the South Tamworth water supply area. The report reviews the need and scheduled timing for the planned construction of a 24 megalitre reservoir at One Tree Hill.

### **COMMENTARY**

To plan for future growth and water supply requirements, Council has Water Supply Servicing Strategies for all six of its water supply schemes. The Tamworth Water Servicing Strategy (2017 and reviewed 2020) has been developed with the following objectives:

- examine the existing North and South Tamworth water supply systems with present day demands using computer hydraulic modelling and identify any areas of operation and/or hydraulic capacity which may require immediate attention in order to improve system performance;
- investigate the impact of future growth (currently to 2041) on the existing system and determine an optimal augmentation strategy using computer modelling for the system to cope with predicted demand increases;
- determine the optimal arrangements for extension to the existing system to supply ultimate future development areas and outlying fringe areas; and
- develop a staged program of augmentations and extensions of the water supply system.

Treated water produced at the Calala Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is pumped to reservoirs at One Tree Hill (Southern water supply zone) and Victoria Park (Northern water supply zone). These zones are delineated by the Peel River. The water supply system for Tamworth is further illustrated below.



In relation to the Southern water supply zone, this system services the following locations:

- Calala;
- Kingswood;
- West Tamworth;
- South Tamworth;
- Westdale;
- Taminda; and
- Glen Ardney Industrial Precinct.

The Tamworth Water Supply Servicing Strategy identifies required capital works aligning with population growth to maintain water services to customers. The Strategy allows for two peak days of water to be stored within water reservoirs to allow for continued water supply to customers in the event of unplanned interruption and/or maintenance activities. To maintain two peak days of water to be stored within the One Tree Hill water supply zone, hydraulic modelling identified that the zone would require additional storage in the form of a new additional 24 megalitre reservoir to be constructed in 2021-2022. This new reservoir would complement existing 9 and 18 megalitres reservoirs on site and bring the total storage available from 27 megalitres to 51 megalitres. The estimated construction cost (allocated in the current 2021-2022 budget) for the new reservoir is \$6,450,000.

Current best practice for sizing reservoir capacity is to undertake a risk analysis to determine the maximum permissible duration that water supply can be interrupted, whether from pumping station power failure or pipe break. This duration will be impacted by repair times, as well as the potential time of the failure event and the consumption demand at that time. As part of any risk analysis the following factors should be considered:



- 1) life cycle cost;
- 2) water quality including inlet/outlet pipework configuration, operational detention time, disinfection residual detention time etc;
- 3) operating storage versus pumping station or supply capacity;
- 4) reservoir storage capacity needed to enable emergency maintenance work to be carried out on the supply system;
- 5) availability of emergency supply from adjacent systems;
- 6) ratio of estimated long term demands to short term demands, i.e. it is more economical to provide initial storage with provision for future additional storage;
- 7) reservoir site aspects and space limitations; and
- 8) seasonal variation to operational requirements of the reservoir.

The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) which is the peak industry body representing the urban water industry recommends a minimum storage of between 8 to 24 hours under peak water demand situations.

In respect to the above, a risk analysis of the One Tree Hill water supply zone was facilitated by risk specialists from HunterH2O and Council Water Engineering staff in early 2021. The key objectives of this analysis included the following:

- to identify and assess potential network failure modes affecting supply continuity within the One Tree Hill water zone;
- to identify those scenarios resulting in extended lead times for rectification of water supply following interruption;
- to recommend options for rectification of water supply within acceptable durations; and
- to determine if the proposed additional new One Tree Hill reservoir is still required within the 2021 growth horizon under revised planning assumptions arising from the risk analysis.

Following the risk analysis, it was confirmed that the Tamworth One Tree Hill water supply zone currently has in excess of 1.7 days storage under existing peak day demands. This exceeds WSAA guidelines which suggest storage volume of 8-24 hours of storage. WSAA further recommends a risk-based approach to determining if the 8-24 hour suggested volume is suitable.

The risk analysis concluded the following:

- there is no immediate justification for additional reservoir storage at One Tree Hill; and
- there are other tasks/projects that may be undertaken to better quantify or mitigate risks identified in the workshop, but would not necessarily be reduced by provision of additional storage. In particular, the investigation of improved interconnection between the Northern and Southern water supply zones.

On the basis of the outcomes of the risk analysis, it is proposed to reschedule construction of the new additional One Tree Hill in five years' time, i.e. 2026-2027. Regular review of the risk analysis should be completed in the event of additional system demand or asset information becoming available.

It should be noted that work on the design of the new reservoir and integration to the water supply system has continued with this work planned to be completed in 2021-2022. Should

future risk analysis identify the need for the reservoir to be constructed, all pre-construction activities will be completed to allow immediate tendering for construction.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Rescheduling the reservoir construction to 2026-2027 will allow the most cost-effective timing for the project. The allocated funding of \$6,450,000 will be reallocated in the current 20 year capital works program to the 2026-2027 financial year. Additional options/projects identified as part of the risk analysis that could be undertaken to further reduce water supply risks will be further investigated using existing the existing water budget allocations.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil at this stage. Prior to construction of the new reservoir impacted neighbouring residents will be consulted.

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

A Region for the Future – F11 Sound asset management planning.

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**8.5 PRE-DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT SUMMARY**

**DIRECTORATE:**

**WATER AND WASTE**

**AUTHOR:**

**Louise Cadell, Sustainability Officer - Water**

**1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That in relation to the report “Pre-Drought Management Plan Review Community Survey Report Summary”, Council receive and note the report.***

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Pre-Drought Management Plan Review community survey. This survey was conducted in January 2021 by a market research company called Newfocus. Newfocus was selected following Council’s Request for Quotation process.

A testing sample of 500 was selected to reflect the Tamworth region community. The results of the survey will help inform the review of the Drought Management Plan 2015, which is underway.

**COMMENTARY**

In January 2021, a quantitative telephone survey was undertaken by market research company, Newfocus, on behalf of Tamworth Regional Council. The same survey was also available for residents to complete voluntarily online, however this information is not

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considered statistically significant and has not been included in this report summary. The online self-completion survey did not have any qualification restrictions put in place other than needing to be a resident and connected to one of the nominated water supply systems managed by Council. The results from the online survey have been collated and will also be included for consideration in the review of the Drought Management Plan 2015.

500 residents across the seven supply areas were surveyed through a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI). The full report is **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**. The profile of the sample obtained by water supply was close to the population profile in each centre and is shown in the figure below.

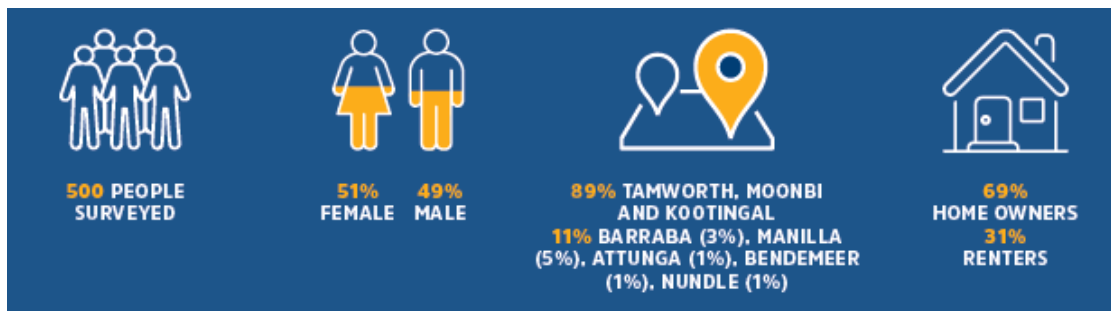
		Weighted (to population)	Grouped for Reporting	Number of residents per Sample size
	<b>Sample</b>	n=500	n=500	n=500
<b>Gender</b>	Male	49%	49%	245
	Female	51%	51%	255
<b>Age</b>	18 – 19 years	3%		
	20 – 34 years	23%	26%	130
	35 – 44 years	15%	15%	75
	45 – 54 years	17%	17%	85
	55 – 64 years	17%	17%	85
	65 – 74 years	14%	14%	70
	75 + years	11%	11%	55
<b>Water Supply Connected To</b>	Tamworth	84%		
	Moonbi / Kootingal	5%	89%	445
	Barraba	3%		
	Manilla	5%		
	Attunga	1%	11%	55
	Bendemeer	1%		
	Nundle	1%		

In addition to the results of the CATI, a Values and Perception Community Survey, undertaken in August 2020, and available to Barraba, Manilla, Attunga, Bendemeer and Nundle residents only, will also be considered for inclusion in the review of the Plan.

Of the 500 residents who took part in the CATI, 51% identified as female and 49% identified as male. This is in line with the Tamworth region population profile.

The highest level of water restrictions reached was also considered an important demographic to capture, with 89% of respondents experiencing Level 5 water restrictions, 9% experiencing Level 4 and 2% experiencing Level 1 or 2.

Identifying education opportunities and improved methods of communication are two key goals of the survey. As a result, knowing 69% of respondents were home owners and 31% were renters will help with how Council targets messaging into the future.



The survey report has been broken down into five key areas:

- behaviours and motivators of residents during droughts;
- the impact of the drought on residents and water quality;
- attitudes to water use and conversation;
- awareness and communication; and
- perceptions of Council performance on drought management.

### **Behaviours and Motivators of residents during droughts**

Residents were asked what they did in their household during the most recent drought to reduce the amount of water they used.

From this question, the results reflected some of the community education and communication strategies used by Council during the drought through the 'Let's Work Together' campaign.



The survey found two out of five households have an evaporative air conditioner at their place of residence, or 44% of the sample size. Of this number, 75% said they reduced the use of evaporative air conditioners to save water and 56% would do it again.

In general, all age demographics increased their water saving behaviours in the most recent drought versus prior to the drought.

The survey found that females were more involved in managing water use during the drought for general household water needs, whereas males became more involved in water use outside the home. There is opportunity here to reinforce the role of water saving for all household members.

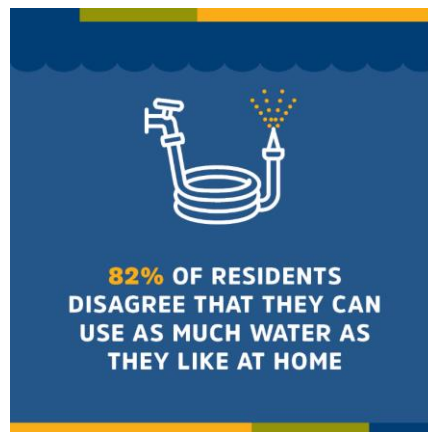
The motivators for the majority of residents to save water during a drought is to avoid further water restrictions (53%). Other reasons included helping the environment (40%) and saving money (18%).



### Impact of the drought on residents and water quality

Overall, 64% of the sample found it easy to manage water restrictions during the most recent drought. Those who found it most difficult were over the age of 65 years.

### Attitudes to water use and conservation



After every drought, Council's aim is to learn where things worked well and where things could improve in the future. One of the main things that Council could look to improve where it can, is to reduce the number of residents who lack confidence in the future supply of water.

Council is working with both the state and federal governments to improve water security for Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal in particular.

Of the 500 respondents, 46% said they are concerned that water shortages will have an effect on the water supply to their home.

However, attitudes to responsible water use are positive, with 82% of residents disagreeing that as a resident they can use as much water as they like at home.

### Awareness and Communications

Councils 'Let's Work Together' campaign which helped communicate Level 3, 4 and 5 water restriction information to residents was received well with 66% of the sample size happy with how Council communicated and provided information on water restrictions and the ways to reduce water use at home.

One area that needs improvement is the community's understanding of who owns and operates Chaffey Dam.



The management of Chaffey Dam, including water releases, is the responsibility of WaterNSW. In the survey 43% incorrectly nominated Council as owning and operating Chaffey Dam.

Tamworth Regional Council owns and operates Dungowan Dam only, with 58% of respondents correctly answering this question.

This information is important to Council as the more informed the community is about who owns and operates their water sources, the better educated they can be about the role of water management on a local level, and the reasons for water restrictions and water conservation.

Another area where more work can be done is to improve the communication of information around the water saving rebate scheme. In particular, there is opportunity here to remind the community of the importance of installing water saving products, such as rainwater tanks during the good times, or times of ample water supply. In doing this, residents will be better prepared for when higher levels of restrictions come into effect, during a drought or a period of low supply. At these times, outdoor water use can become restricted and Council looks to the community to become even more conservative in their water use, due to the reduced rainfall. Having a full rainwater tank on standby will lessen the burden of these drought periods for residents.

The survey found that respondents did not specifically mention the installation of rainwater tanks out of drought times at all, compared to just 17% who said they installed rainwater tanks during the most recent drought. While the second figure is also low, there is confidence that those residents will be in a more resilient position in future dry times.



Just over half of the sample size said they were aware of Council’s water saving rebate scheme. Of this number, home owners were more likely to mention items such as rainwater tanks and dual flush toilets, whereas renters were likely to mention low flow sensor taps.

### Perceptions of Council performance on drought management

With the above information in mind, the following results regarding perceptions of Council’s performance on drought management can be placed in to some perspective.

The community’s perceptions of water restrictions were almost equal in terms of satisfaction of the time water restrictions were introduced:



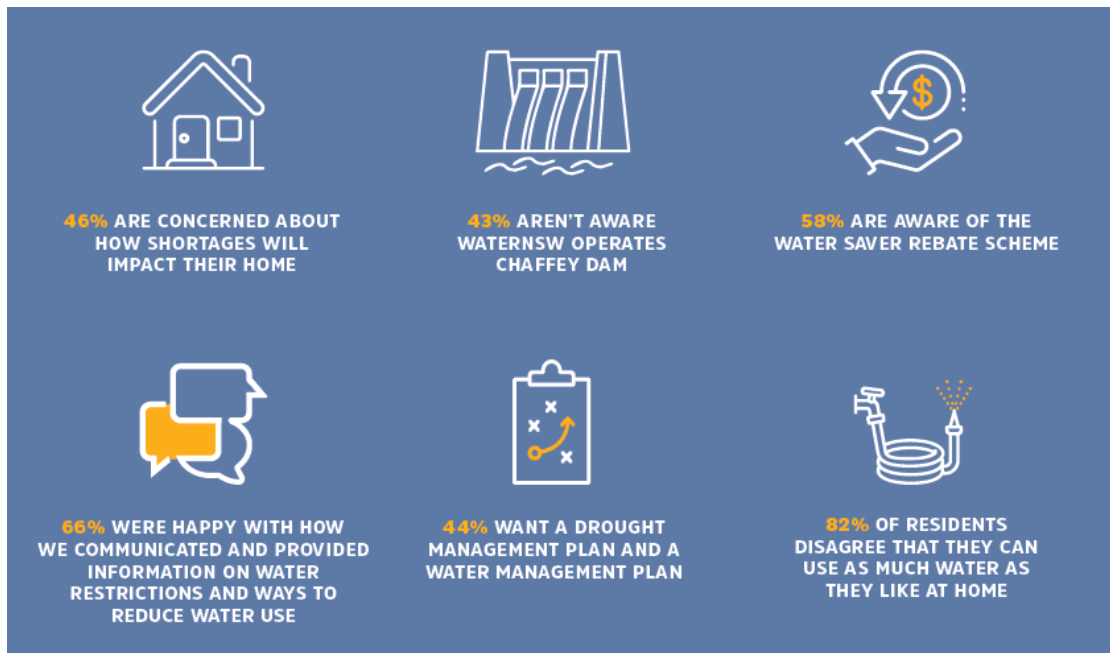
43% of respondents felt that water restrictions were introduced at the right time. However, 52% felt that water restrictions should have been implemented sooner. The survey found that it was only timing (implementation) and duration of restrictions that the community was divided on. When it came to the severity of water restrictions, 86% of residents felt they were manageable for the household.

One method of ensuring Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal residents in particular understand the rationale for timing and duration of water restrictions, is to improve Council’s communications regarding ownership and management of water infrastructure, like the WaterNSW owned and operated Chaffey Dam and how the operation of Chaffey Dam influences decisions regarding the introduction of water restrictions.

When it came to the community’s perspective on what are deemed critical areas to receive essential water in a drought, three areas received over 90% in favour of having access to water in an emergency. These were; care facilities and hospitals (99%), medical specialists and allied health (94%) and schools and education (93%).

Also scoring high in the sample sizes priority list was meat processors (83%), food suppliers and supermarkets (81%) and agriculture and farming (79%).

This suggests the community is of similar thinking when it comes to the importance of health and wellbeing and the local economy.



The community's opinions on bringing new life to the drought management plan was also tested in the survey. One way to do that is to create a Water Management Plan which would encompass the Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, Emergency Water Supply Plan and the Communication Engagement Plan.

Of the 500 respondents, 47% said they supported the idea of a Water Management Plan, and 44% said they would support both a Water Management and Drought Management Plan.

All responses collected during this survey process, including the feedback provided via the online survey, of which 155 additional residents chose to participate, will be considered in the review of the current Drought Management Plan, which is currently underway. Through this process, the Drought Management Plan will formally become the Water Management Plan.

Councillors will have the opportunity to review the Draft Water Management Plan at a Councillor Workshop in June. Councillors will be asked to place the Draft Plan on Public Exhibition for six weeks. During this time, public meetings and a number of community stalls will be hosted in all centres. Community feedback on the Draft Plan, including suggestions for change and amendments will be collated and considered for inclusion in the final Draft Plan. The final Draft Water Management Plan will be presented to the new Council at a workshop after Council elections, in October. The new Council will then be asked to formally adopt the Final Plan at a Council meeting in October or November.

**(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.

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**8.6 UPDATE ON WATER SENSITIVE ESSENTIALS UPTAKE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN**

**DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE**

**AUTHOR: Louise Cadell, Sustainability Officer - Water**

**Reference: Item 7.2 to Ordinary Council 13 October 2020 - Minute No 304/20**

**2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Update on Water Sensitive Essentials uptake following changes to the Development Control Plan”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the report;*
- (ii) agree to increase the marketing and communications around the Water Sensitive Essentials and Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan fast tracked certification using existing budget allowances; and*
- (iii) request a further report on the take up of the Water Sensitive Essentials 12 months after the introduction of Development Control Plan Amendment No.14.*

**SUMMARY**

Following extensive stakeholder consultation and a six-week public exhibition period, changes to the Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010 (TRDCP 2010) were adopted by Council in October 2020 through Amendment No. 14.

Part of the changes made were aimed at increasing the incentive for the installation of waterwise products in new developments to reduce residents’ reliance on the drinking water supply, especially for outdoor use, at all times not just during drought or periods of low supply. The benefit of doing so in this case is assistance in fast tracking Council development applications.

This report provides an update on the uptake of Water Sensitive Essentials (WSE), some of which are available through Council’s water saving rebate scheme. It will also explore some opportunities to further promote the changes.

## COMMENTARY

Following extensive consultation with the community including tradespeople and developers regarding Water Sensitive Design (WSD) controls and a six-week public exhibition period, Council, at its meeting of 13 October 2020, formally adopted Amendment No. 14 to the Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010 (TRDCP 2010). In doing so, Council consolidated its commitment to encouraging the community to reduce its reliance on drinking water, by encouraging the installation of waterwise products, and increasing the reuse of greywater and capture of rainwater for outdoor use.

The WSD controls are applicable to all development applications and require that all new homes and other forms of development incorporate a range of water efficiency measures at the design stage of the proposed development.

Small scale developments such as homes and dual occupancies can take advantage of a new fast track certification process, which is enabled by the completion of a compliance checklist. To be eligible for the faster approval of development applications, the following WSD development controls must be met:

- mandatory external drainage pre-plumbing installation that is designed to allow for future connections to greywater devices; and
- provision of a minimum of two out of the five Water Sensitive Essentials (WSE) measures, as follows:
  - Water Efficient Appliances and Fittings minimum 4 WELS star rating;
  - Rainwater Tank (s) 10,000L or more;
  - Landscaped Stormwater Retention area (Rain Garden);
  - Greywater Diversion Device; and
  - Greywater Treatment Device.

Applications will not be fast tracked where the applicable development controls for each small-scale development have not been complied with.

Since the new controls have come into effect, more than eighty development applications have been required to address the WSD controls and have been approved. Of those, eleven were approved through the fast track certification process.

A condition of the approval, as seen in **Figure 1**, for each of these applications stipulates the mandatory pre-plumbing installation requirements for additional external drainage pipes to enable greywater reuse must be carried out prior to the release of a final occupation certificate.

- 26) The occupation or use of the whole or any part of a new building shall not commence unless a Section 68 Certificate of Completion has been issued by Council. The Certificate of Completion shall not be issued until such time as all relevant conditions of the Section 68 approval have been complied with and all applicable documents received by council. This includes the following works:
  - a) The installation of additional external drainage pipes to enable an external greywater reuse device to be connected.

*Figure 1: Condition of approval includes the mandatory pre-plumbing for external greywater reuse*

The water sensitive essential requirements are for development applications only, and are not necessarily the same requirements set by the State Government for Complying

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Development Certificate approvals as stipulated by State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development) 2008, which may be determined by either Council or private certifiers.

For those applicants who progressed through fast track certification, Council has adopted a 10-day turnaround. In regards to the five water sensitive essentials and the requirement to choose two out of the five options as highlighted above, the majority of applicants chose to install the 4-star water efficient appliances and fittings and rainwater tanks with a capacity of 10,000L or more, both popular items which exceed the typical efficiency rating score as required under BASIX.

This information correlates with the approvals of available water saving rebates offered to residents and businesses by Council during the same time period.

Since the adoption of Amendment No. 14 in the TRDCP 2010, a total of 69 WSE classified rebates have been approved, as outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1

<i>WSE TRC rebates</i>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Yearly total savings (kL)</b>	<b>Cost per kL saved</b>
<i>Dual Flush Toilet</i>	26	\$3,192	1,014	\$3.15
<i>Greywater Diversion System</i>	1	\$150	20	\$7.50
<i>Greywater Treatment System</i>	1	\$800	80	\$10.00
<i>Low Flow or Sensor Tap</i>	2	\$100	22	\$4.55
<i>Oxijet</i>	2	\$34.50	52	\$0.66
<i>Showerhead</i>	11	\$220	715	\$0.31
<i>Toilet with Cistern Sink</i>	2	\$263	78	\$3.37
<i>Small Rainwater Tank (2,000L – 4,999L)</i>	5	\$900	437.5	\$2.06
<i>Medium Rainwater Tank (5,000L – 9,999L)</i>	7	\$4,316	1,050	\$4.11
<i>Large Rainwater Tank (10,000L or above)</i>	12	\$10,415.50	1,800	\$5.79
<b>Total (Number)</b>	<b>69</b>			
<b>Total (\$)</b>		<b>20,391.35</b>		
<b>Total annual savings (kL)</b>			<b>6,768.5</b>	

The lesser uptake of greywater treatment and diversion systems could be due to the cost to purchase and install these systems, in addition to there being a limited knowledge in the community about these systems. One way Council may increase the take up of grey water treatment and diversions systems is by increasing the rebate amount for these items.

Currently the average cost to buy and install a greywater treatment system (GTS), the costlier of the two options, is around \$8,000. Council offers a rebate of 50% or up to \$800 for these systems. The average kilolitres saved per annum by installing a GTS is estimated at 80kL. The current cost to Council in offering a rebate for a GTS is estimated to be \$10 per kilolitre saved per annum, which, compared to other rebates presently offered, is one of the more expensive options in terms of cost per kilolitre saved, please refer to **Table 2**. Further, given the relatively high cost of the systems and the amount of rebate provided increasing the rebate, unless it is by a substantial amount, may not encourage greater take up.

Table 2

**Estimated Water Savings from Products Eligible under the Water Saving Rebate Scheme**

<i>Product</i>	<i>Upper Cost Per Rebate Item</i>	<i>Annual Savings (kL) per product *</i>	<i>Total per</i>	<i>Cost per kL saved per annum</i>
<i>3-star showerhead</i>	\$20		65	\$0.31
<i>Shower Oxijet</i>	\$20		26	\$0.77
<i>3-star dual flush toilet</i>	\$150		39	\$3.85
<i>Water blade</i>	\$10		15	\$0.67
<i>3-star tap</i>	\$50		11	\$4.45
<i>Swimming Pool Cover</i>	\$100		48	\$2.08
<i>Greywater Diversion System</i>	\$150		20	\$7.50
<i>Greywater Treatment System</i>	\$800		80	\$10.00
<i>Small rainwater tank (connected)</i>	\$200		87.5	\$2.29
<i>Medium rainwater tank (connected)</i>	\$800		150	\$5.33
<i>Large rainwater tank (connected)</i>	\$1,000		150	\$6.67

*\*Annual total savings is calculated as a conservative estimate only and is based off a worst-case scenario*

Rather than increasing the rebate it is recommended that further promotion of both the water saving rebate scheme and the WSE in the TRDCP 2010 be explored.

There is opportunity to further promote the products on Council's water saving rebate scheme, encouraging residents to take advantage of the rebates for greywater treatment and greywater diversion systems. The recent pre-drought management plan community survey found that only 58% of the community are aware of Council's water saving rebate scheme. However, in Council's favour, it has also been found that 89% of residents say they have always been conscious about saving water at home. This suggests there will be benefits in a targeted communication strategy designed to alert future home builders and buyers about

the opportunities to both fast track their applications and to save money by applying for water saving rebates.

One opportunity to do this is to ensure fact sheets, that have been created by Council staff, are presented to anyone making a Development Application enquiry and new home owners when the occupation certificates are released. These fact sheets are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** and **ANNEXURE 2**. Accompanying these fact sheets can also be an information sheet on Council’s water saving rebate scheme, such as the one below.

**WHAT CAN I GET REBATES ON?**

50% or up to <b>\$50ea</b> CEILING FANS	50% or up to <b>\$200</b> EVAPORATIVE COOLER SERVICING	50% or up to <b>\$150</b> GREYWATER DIVERSION SYSTEM	50% or up to <b>\$800</b> GREYWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
50% or up to <b>\$50</b> HOT WATER SYSTEM DIVERTER	50% or up to <b>\$100</b> PLUMBERS AUDIT	50% or up to <b>\$1,000</b> PLUMBED IN RAINWATER TANKS	50% or up to <b>\$500</b> STAND ALONE RAINWATER TANKS
50% or up to <b>\$50ea</b> SHOWER CONTROLLER DEVICE	50% or up to <b>\$20ea</b> SHOWER OXJET	50% or up to <b>\$20ea</b> SHOWERHEAD	50% or up to <b>\$250</b> SWIMMING POOL BACKWASH RECYCLING SYSTEM
50% or up to <b>\$100</b> SWIMMING POOL COVER	50% or up to <b>\$10ea</b> WATERBLADE TAP	50% or up to <b>\$50ea</b> LOW FLOW OR SENSOR TAP	50% or up to <b>\$150</b> DUAL FLUSH TOILET
50% or up to <b>\$200ea</b> TOILET WITH CISTERN SINK	50% or up to <b>\$2ea</b> TREE WELL WATER SAVER	<p><b>Get your home water smart and save money at the same time!</b></p> <p>For a full list of rebates on offer and terms and conditions head to <a href="http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/waterrebates">www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/waterrebates</a></p>	

It is also recommended that a follow up marketing and communication campaign with the tradespeople who were consulted prior to the adoption of Amendment No. 14 is undertaken. More than 20 individual tradespeople/developers helped to shape the amendment and have a vested interest in the roll out of the TRDCP 2010.

In order to measure the effectiveness of the increased promotion, as outlined above, a follow-up report will be presented to Council outlining the take-up of the fast-tracked certification through the WSE one year on from the adoption of Amendment No. 14.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Existing budget will be used to cover any further marketing and communications.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Community Consultation was undertaken by Council via public exhibition of the draft Amendment for a period of six weeks from 21 June 2020 until 31 July 2020 (inclusive).

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

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

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

### **9.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS MARCH 2021 – FILE NO**

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

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Council Investments March 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 March 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 in April. The media release put forth by the RBA was positive concerning the economic recovery of Australia with above trend growth predicted for this year and next. Despite this positive information the RBA is not offering any positive signs that would suggest increased returns on Council’s investments.

In accordance with Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the details of all money Council have invested as at 31 March 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	10,788,069	46,000,000	0	56,788,069	33.81%
BOQ	0	20,500,000	0	20,500,000	12.21%
CBA	0	22,500,000	0	22,500,000	13.40%
St George	0	7,000,000	0	7,000,000	4.17%
TCorp	0	0	2,877,449	2,877,449	1.71%
Westpac	0	58,276,459	0	58,276,459	34.70%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,788,069</b>	<b>154,276,459</b>	<b>2,877,449</b>	<b>167,941,977</b>	<b>100%</b>

The amount invested at 31 March 2021, has decreased by \$150,239.31 compared to funds held at 28 February 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	6,085,098	3.62%
General	Internally Restricted	37,259,121	22.19%
General	Externally Restricted	11,416,349	6.80%
	<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>54,760,568</b>	<b>32.61%</b>
Water	Unrestricted	2,211,934	1.32%
Water	Internally Restricted	23,145,700	13.78%
Water	Externally Restricted	25,261,589	15.04%
	<b>Water Fund Total</b>	<b>50,619,223</b>	<b>30.14%</b>
Sewer	Unrestricted	2,244,467	1.34%
Sewer	Internally Restricted	44,761,907	26.65%
Sewer	Externally Restricted	15,555,812	9.26%
	<b>Sewer Fund Total</b>	<b>62,562,186</b>	<b>37.25%</b>
	<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>167,941,977</b>	

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.



## 9.2 SUBMISSION ON REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

### RECOMMENDATION

*That in relation to the report “Submission on Remote Attendance by Councillors at Council Meetings”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the report; and*
- (ii) endorse a submission to be sent to Office of Local Government supporting the proposal to attend Council Meetings remotely however recommending the following changes:*
  - addition of the ability for a Councillor to attend a Meeting via audio visual link in the case of remoteness (e.g. living more than 50km from the Council Chambers);*
  - addition of a Councillor being able to attend a Meeting via audio visual link if the Councillor is away on Council related business; and*
  - remove the provision that the Councillor must be in NSW or within 100km of the NSW border to attend via audio visual link if the Councillor is away on Council related business or on a prior work commitment.*

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Consultation Paper released by the Office of Local Government on the Remote Attendance by Councillors at Council Meetings and to endorse a submission to be sent on behalf of Tamworth Regional Council.

### COMMENTARY

The Office of Local Government have released a Consultation Paper on Remote Attendance by Councillors at Council Meetings **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The Paper proposes non-mandatory provisions to be included in Council’s Code of Meeting Practice to allow the attendance of a Councillor (not all Councillors) to attend a Council Meeting via audio visual link under certain circumstances. The circumstances are:

- a prior work commitment (max. of 3 per year);
- ill health;
- disability,
- carer responsibilities; and
- natural disaster.

The Councillor will need to give the General Manager at least five working days notice and normal Meeting rules will apply such as Conflicts of Interest and confidentiality.

However, the Paper fails to consider that Councillors in rural and regional areas may live some distance from the Council Chambers and it is not always practicable or safe to travel late at night or at other times and at times Councillors are also away from the Local Government Area on Council business, in these circumstances Councillors should be given the option to attend Council Meetings via audio visual link.

The Consultation Paper states that where attending a meeting by audio-visual link, Councillors will be required to do so from a location within NSW or within 100km of the NSW border. While suitable for most of the circumstances listed, if the Councillor is away on a prior work commitment or on Council business they may be anywhere in Australia and it may be recommended that this provision should be removed in this situation.

Submissions on the Consultation Paper close on 3 May 2021.

**(a) Policy Implications**

If the Legislation is amended, Council would need to consider the non-mandatory provisions and adopt in the Tamworth Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice to take effect.

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

The Code of Meeting Practice must be publicly advised for 28 days for comment and to receive submissions for 42 days.

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

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

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**9.3 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2021 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - MARCH 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 – March 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 March 2021.

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## 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 March 2021, for which there has been no previous specific report or approval.

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

### Variations identified March 2021

Division	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Airport & Aviation	3,092	0	3,092	0	0
Pilot Training Facility	(212,968)	36,500	(249,468)	0	0
Legal	17,850	17,850	0	0	0
General Purpose Income	36,058	36,058	0	0	0
Sport & Rec Services	0	0	(10,000)	0	10,000
Waste Management	(375,034)	(375,034)	0	0	0
Water & Wastewater	280,410	24,034	150,000	0	106,376
Laboratory	(7,285)	0	0	0	(7,285)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(257,877)</b>	<b>(260,592)</b>	<b>(106,376)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>109,091</b>

### Material differences between budget and actual income or expenditure

Nothing material to report in this period.

#### (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	(284,626)	(256,376)	0	2,715
Water	11,572	0	0	118,619
Sewer	12,462	150,000	0	(12,243)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(260,592)</b>	<b>(106,376)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>109,091</b>

**(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.

**9.4 INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING - EXHIBITION OF DRAFT 2021/22 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN**

**DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY**

**AUTHOR: Anna Russell, Acting Manager Strategy and Performance**

**3 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Integrated Planning and Reporting – Exhibition of Draft 2021/22 Annual Operational Plan”, Council:*

- place the proposed Draft 2021/22 Annual Operational Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with section 402 (6), 404 (4) and 405 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993; and*
- require a further report to be submitted at the completion of the formal exhibition period detailing any submissions received during exhibition for Council’s consideration and final adoption of the Plan.*

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft 2021-2022 Annual Operational Plan to Council to obtain a resolution for public exhibition of each of the related documents. The related documents **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURES 1, 2 and 3** include the:

- Draft Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022;
- Draft Revenue Policy 2021-2022; and
- Draft Fees and Charges 2021-2022.

## COMMENTARY

### Background

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Council is required to prepare a number of documents to facilitate integration of long-term planning and implementation of Council activities. Core documents include the 10-year Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program aligning to the term of office for each elected Council, and an Annual Operational Plan for each year of the prevailing Delivery Program.

### The Impact of COVID-19

Normally the Delivery Program aligns to the term of office for each elected Council, however due to the impact of COVID-19 the Minister for Local Government announced the postponement of the September 2020 local government elections to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus. The *Local Government Act 1993* was amended to confer on the Minister a time-limited power to postpone council elections.

The postponement of the elections has had implications for Council with regards to its current and next integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) cycles. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has extended the current IP&R cycle for twelve months, converting it into a five year cycle, with the next cycle to be truncated to three years. The OLG will be providing further detailed guidance on this and other changes to statutory timeframes that may become necessary as a result of deferring elections.

The addition of a fifth year into this cycle has resulted in a transition year, where many of the strategies and actions identified in 2016, have now been completed. To bridge the gap, Tamworth Regional Council has drawn on the Blueprint 100 Strategic Vision, adopted in 2020, to establish goals for the 2021-2022 financial year, and those goals are reflected in this Annual Operational Plan. As a result the original Keychange four year Delivery Program will be reviewed at the end of Council's term in September this year.

After the election in September 2021 the newly elected Council is required, in consultation with the community, to develop new strategies and goals for their three year term.

### 2021-2022 Annual Operational Plan

The 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan, and corresponding Delivery Program, were endorsed by Council on 27 June 2017. Council must now produce the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) for 2021-2022, being the final year of the current five year Delivery Program (DP). Tamworth Regional Council's AOP 2021-2022 is made up of three Annexures, as **ATTACHED**, refer:

**ANNEXURE 1:** Draft Annual Operational Plan 2021-2022: contains the proposed program of services and works that Council has prioritised for the next 12 months and aligns to the 2017-2022 Delivery Program;

**ANNEXURE 2:** Draft Revenue Policy 2021-2022: contains the proposed Revenue Policy which includes the schedule of rates; and

**ANNEXURE 3: Draft Fees and Charges 2021-2022:** contains the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges.

In regard to the Draft Fees and Charges, the following additions were made to the list that was put to council on 13 April 2021, for adoption in principle;

Name	Pricing Policy	CSO	GST	Year 21/22 Fee (incl. GST)
<b>Regional Youth Centre</b>				
Facilitated program – hourly rate	A	N	Y	\$20.00
Facilitated program – half day	A	N	Y	\$65.00
Facilitated program – full day	A	N	Y	\$120.00
Facilitated program – community/schools non-commercial per hour	A	N	Y	\$80.00
Facilitated program – commercial per hour	A	N	Y	\$95.00

The following requirements for the Annual Operational Plan have been included, as outlined in the local government Act and Regulations:

1. principal activities have been identified for each strategy and the plan directly relates to the themes and objectives of the Community Strategic Plan;
2. the Revenue Policy includes all of the following requirements:
  - a statement detailing income estimates;
  - Council's Ordinary Rate Policy;
  - Council's Charges Policy;
  - Council's Fees for Services;
  - Council's Pricing Methodology; and
  - proposed borrowings.
3. Council's Ordinary Rate Policy for 2021-2022, included in the Revenue Policy, meets legislative requirements and best practice guidelines and includes for each rating category and sub-category:
  - the ad valorem amount (the amount in the dollar) of the rate;
  - advice on whether the rate has a base amount; the value of the base rate, and the percentage and yield of the total amount payable by the levying of the rate; and

- maps demonstrating the parts of Council's local government area categorised into each of the different ordinary rate category and sub-categories.
- 4. Council's Charges Policy included in the Revenue Policy, meets legislative requirements and best practice guidelines and includes the amount or rate per unit of the charge, differing amounts for the charge (where applicable) and the estimated yield of the charge; and
- 5. financial information included in the Annual Operational Plan includes:
  - the forecast operating results for each fund;
  - the forecast cash results for each fund;
  - budget allocations linked to the CSP; and
  - details of capital works for 2021-2022.

An outline of the measures used by Council to determine the level of success in delivering the activities identified in the Annual Operational Plan has been included in the AOP. Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 financial year staff will develop a new set of key performance indicators reflective of the transitional nature of this year, and these indicators will be used to report to Council and the community during 2021-2022.

The Revenue Policy also includes a detailed budget by Council Directorates and functions, as well as forecast Income Statements by type and function and external borrowings proposed.

This report confirms that Council has addressed the Integrated Planning and Reporting legislative requirements of sections 402, 404, 405 and 406, and legislative requirements associated with Council's Revenue Policy, Charges, Rating and Public Notice requirements of sections 532, 610B-F and 706(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. As such, it recommends the public exhibition of the Draft 2021-2022 Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan.

A further report, at the completion of the exhibition period, will be presented to Council outlining submissions received and recommendations for response, to allow Council to consider community feedback prior to final adoption of the plan.

**(a) Policy Implications**

The Draft Annual Operational Plan will update Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents. The documents form the basis for all Council's decision-making and operational activity.

**(b) Financial Implications**

As per the Draft 2021-2022 Annual Operational Plan **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

**(c) Legal Implications**

The public exhibition and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Revenue Policy is required under sections 404 and 405 of the *Local Government Act* to:

- legitimise budgets;
- set rates;
- charges and fees; and
- create performance reporting actions.

**(d) Community Consultation**

The Act requires Council, as a minimum, to place the Draft Annual Operational Plan on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days. Adopting the recommendation of this report will meet the requirement for community consultation.

Copies of the draft documents will be made available for download from Council's website.

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

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

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## **10 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **10.1 TAMWORTH REGION ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAAC) - MINUTES - MEETING 11 MARCH 2021**

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

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) – Meeting – 11 March 2021”, Council receive and note the report.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) meeting held 11 March 2021, and to provide Council with an overview of the meeting outcomes.

#### **COMMENTARY**

The TRAAC committee held its March meeting at the Tamworth Regional Gallery, with one special guest attending the meeting, Professor Debra Dunstan – UNE, Chair of Tamworth industry academic advisory group. The minutes of the meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

UNE is partnering with the Tamworth Region and Regional Blueprint 100. In supporting a growth agenda and lift of supply of qualified professionals, UNE is offering Undergraduate Certificates in Professional Development. A diverse range of specialisations in areas that have been identified as growth industries in the Tamworth Region. They are:

- Business Studies;
  - Community Welfare & Wellbeing;
  - Creative Industries;
  - Event Management;
  - Sports Equine Management; and
-



- Sports Science.

An update was provided on the progress of the new Performing Arts Centre as the functional and technical design brief has been approved by Council and we have been given the approval to go out and seek the lead Architect.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided to all Committee members in attendance, giving an overview of the proposed Public Art projects for 2021-2022.

The following reports were received:

- Tamworth Regional Gallery and Museums Report; and
- Entertainment Venues Report.

Lastly, the TRAAC committee members had a general discussion identifying several actions and areas for further discussion including projects to support the 'Recovery of Our Arts and Culture Sector from COVID-19'. The committee discussed that the arts engagement with our communities are now returning to reasonable levels of attendance and participation rates.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

The TRAAC includes six community members who represent a broad range of art disciplines. The Committee provides strategic advice to the Council in relation to Arts and Culture matters within the region, and make recommendations regarding priority areas for development.

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

A Spirit of Community – C21 Preserve and celebrate the character, heritage and culture of our city, towns and villages

## 10.2 DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY 2021

**DIRECTORATE:** GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

**AUTHOR:** Karina Tyler, Economic Development Officer

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library 2021”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the report;*
- (ii) allocate \$70,000/year from the Youth Services Reserve to assist in funding the project for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 financial years;*
- (iii) promote the initiative across the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government Area and actively pursue corporate and community sponsorship of the project; and*
- (iv) evaluate the project at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 year to determine future funding.*

### **SUMMARY**

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL) is a practical and effective program aimed at improving the status of early childhood literacy in the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA). The initiative gifts every child in the Tamworth region born from 1 January 2019, a high quality, age-appropriate book each month until they turn five. In the Tamworth LGA, as at 10 March 2021, there were 1,415 children registered on the program, with approximately 60-70 additional enrolments each month. It costs \$9/child per month to administer the program.

United Way Australia is licenced to manage the program Australia-wide, and all donations from the Tamworth region are held by United Way Australia and quarantined for books for children in the Tamworth Regional Council LGA specifically.

### **COMMENTARY**

#### **Importance of Early Literacy**

In 2014, the American Academy of Paediatrics released official guidelines saying parents should read to their children as often as possible and as close to birth as possible. Following this recommendation research was conducted at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital at the Reading and Literacy Discovery Centre to understand how language develops in the brain and its importance in developing cognitive abilities. The research conducted MRI studies whilst the children listened to stories through headphones. The results showed that the children who had stronger, richer early reading experiences at home had greater activation in the part of their brain which supports two things; semantic processing, which is understanding what is going on in the story, and visual imagery and imagination, even though the test were conducted using audio only.

Paediatrician, Dr John Hutton, was heavily involved in the research and explains that the more stimulation a child receives through reading the more neural connections happen. Dr Hutton also explains that reading is not a skill that humans are hard-wired to do; reading is the knitting together of various aspects of the brain such as language, vision, memory and

executive functions. The way those networks (required for reading) come together is through practice see **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Early literacy is very important because 50% of language is learnt by age three and 90% of brain development occurs by age five. Research shows poor literacy skills are linked to early school dropout rates, lower wages, welfare dependency, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

### Why Tamworth

The Australian Early Development Census (2018) showed some Tamworth communities have over twice as many developmentally vulnerable children in the language domain. This is up to four times as many developmentally vulnerable children in the communication domain, compared to the NSW average.

Developmentally vulnerable children experience a number of challenges in reading/writing characters and numbers; inability to read and write simple words and are uninterested in trying.

The Tamworth region also has an above average school drop-out rate, with only 35.6% percent of youth aged over 15 years having completed Year 12 (or equivalent) as of 2016. This is less than the state average of 52%. (Source: AEDC Community Profile 2018 Tamworth).

Early reading becomes the building block of everything else. Reading prepares children for school and develops healthy reading habits for life.

### Local Results

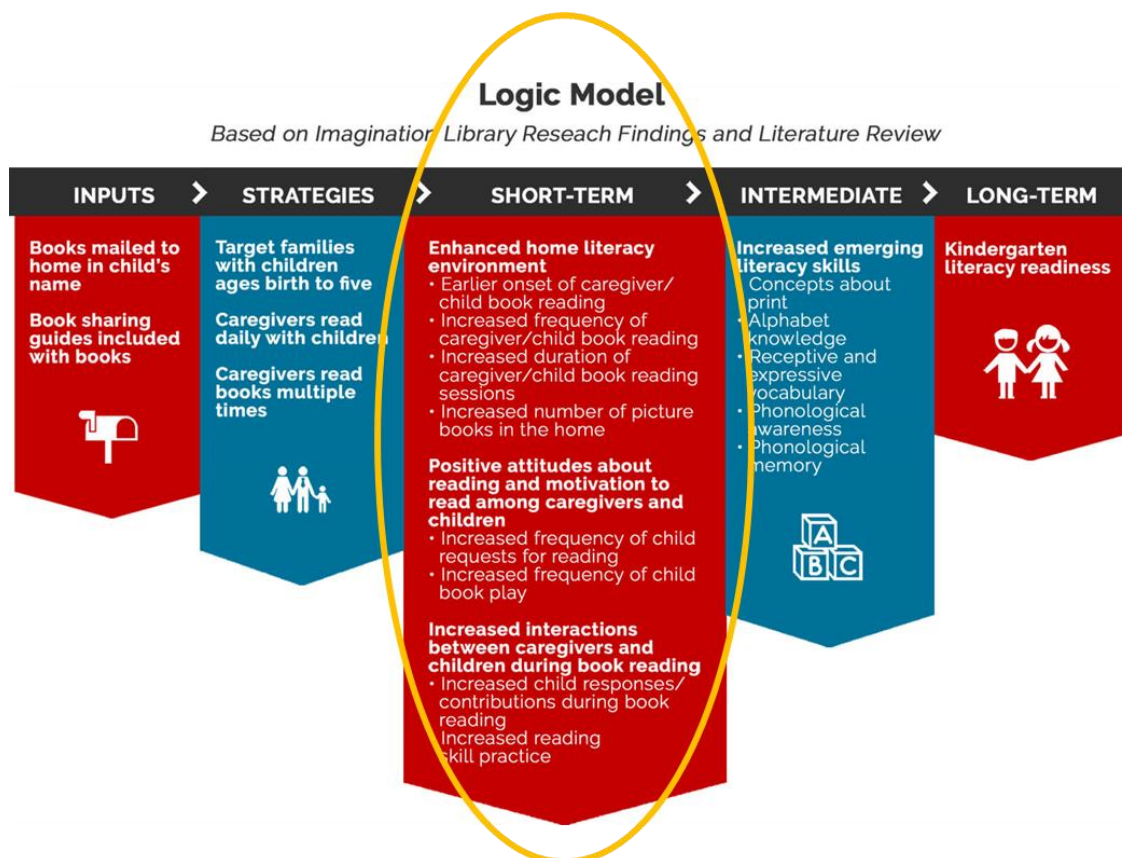


Figure 1: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Logic Model

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches through the program's logic model are used to measure activities, outcomes and impact.

The 2021 report provides results of the short-term outcomes, as highlighted in the Logic Model. It provides data from optional surveys sent to parents before receiving the Imagination Library, after receiving the Imagination Library for six months, as well as after receiving the Imagination Library for 12 months. To inform the data, each response needs to be matched to an individual parent-child for each survey. 124 matching responses were received between the enrolment and six-month survey however, only 46 matching responses were recorded for the 12-month survey. Data from the first six months reveals increased reading time and frequency, and positive changes in parent behaviour, enjoyment and attitudes associated with reading to their child. Early results from the 12-month data suggest positive trends in reading time and frequency, and parental behaviour changes.

After receiving the Imagination Library for six months, the proportion of parents reading to their child more than once a day doubled (13% to 26%).

After receiving the Imagination Library for six months, parents reading to their child for more than 10 minutes a day more than doubled (15% to 38%).

New methods of reading, such as counting objects and describing images, increased substantially across all methods surveyed.

The introduction of the Imagination Library to homes saw a substantial increase in other people reading to a child (3% to 47%).

Between enrolment and the six-month survey, parents' belief that it is important to read to their child increased from 47% to 96%. Parents' enjoyment of reading to their child also increased substantially in this time, from 9% to 62%.

Parents' confidence to read to their child increased from 9% to 77% during the first six months of receiving the Imagination Library.

81% of parents surveyed at six months reported spending more quality time together as a family with books after receiving the Imagination Library.

Feedback from Tamworth families:

*"I feel so privileged to be a part of the program and know that my child's development is supported and will improve dramatically with daily reading. Each time a book arrives **I'm reminded that my community cares about my child**, and that the investment of reading daily will result in higher chances of success in his future. It's a win/win! Books can be so much fun, **it supports me in engaging with my baby and gives me the tools to ensure his language, learning and literacy continue to improve.**"*

*"This program is absolutely fantastic! Every single new mum I have spoken to has been enrolled at the hospital (midwives enrol babies at the hospital so vulnerable or socially isolated people don't miss out). **This not only helps our children's literacy, but our own as well.** It is such **a beautiful bonding experience** and I just love our dedicated reading time each day. Thank you thank you thank you!!!!"*

*"Love the program as being an educator I see first-hand how important language development is in the way of reading. Gives my child a variety of different books to enjoy, and **as a working parent encourages one on one time with him.**"*

(See ATTACHED refer, ANNEXURE 1)

## **Funding**

As a result of the unique partnership with the State-Wide Infant Screening Hearing (SWISH) Nurses at the Maternity Ward of the Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital, the enrolments for the Tamworth program are at almost 100%, with approximately 60-70 additional babies being enrolled on the program each month. Currently there are 1,415 registered.

The program costs \$9/child per month to administer. Community groups including Rotary, Lions and Lioness clubs have been very generous in donating to the program along with local businesses. In 2019, a total of **\$50,125** was donated to the program and in 2020, a total of **\$50,364** was donated from external organisations.

The Tamworth program has also been fortunate enough to partner with a philanthropic organisation who has donated a total of \$43,000 to date, to allow the program to gift babies their first book upon registration at the hospital.

## **Blueprint 100**

Priority theme four of Blueprint 100 is 'Build Resilient Communities - *Resilient urban and rural communities whose current and future needs are met through the effective delivery of services*'.

Action Item 4.6.2 of this priority is 'Improve communication services to towns and villages', which includes:

- improving education and opportunities for all ages to access digital services and communication;
- promoting library and existing tech-savvy seniors;
- marketing the existing library services and recognising it provides a Hub and a growing way to connect and service residents (new and old); and
- addressing early childhood literacy.

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

Nil

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

Table 1: Current financial position for DPIL- Tamworth as at 30 March 2021

<b>Funding to date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>Contribution to date by TRC</i>	\$151,666
<i>Local Donations</i>	\$100,489
<i>Philanthropic organisations (McLean Foundation)</i>	\$43,000
<b>TOTAL Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 295,155</b>
<b>Cost to Date</b>	<b>\$150,267</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$144,983</b>

Table 2: Forecasted costs for DPIL – Tamworth to 2023/2024

<b>Year</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
<i>Opening balance</i>	\$ 144,983	\$ 1,098	\$-
<i>Forecasted costs*</i>	\$ 213,885	\$ 301,437	\$ 389,556
<i>Requested Council contribution**</i>	\$ 70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
<i>Balance</i>	\$ 1,098	-\$230,339	-\$ 319,556
<i>Total additional funding to be sourced***</i>		\$ 230,339	\$319,556

\*Costs forecasted by United Way Australia based on predicted birth rate and program registrations.

\*\*Council to allocate \$70,000/year from the Youth Services Reserve to assist in funding the project for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 financial years.

\*\*\*Any additional funding sourced over the next three years would be held in quarantine for the Tamworth LGA, to continue the program beyond the 2023-2024 financial year.

It is important to note that in December 2024, the first group of children that were registered in January 2019 will graduate off the program, and the number of registrations will plateau.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Surveys of DPIL families are conducted every six months.

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

A Prosperous Region – P31 Provide quality and choice in education and vocation pathways including university options.

## **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 T049/2021 - WHITE STREET CARPARK EXTENSION**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer  
**Reference:** Item 12.4 to Ordinary Council 9 February 2021 - Minute No 19/21

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 acceptance of tender T049/2021 to award a lump sum contract for the White Street Carpark Extension as well as to seek Council's approval to allocate additional carpark reserve funding.

#### **11.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL AIRPORT APRON LIGHTING TENDER - FILE NO T028/2020**

**DIRECTORATE:** GROWTH AND PROSPERITY  
**AUTHOR:** John Sommerlad, Commercial Director - Airport and Aviation Development

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to accept a Tender for the design, supply and installation of new lighting on the main apron at Tamworth Regional Airport which complies with the standards set out by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

### **11.3 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SALE OF 87-93 BRISBANE STREET, TAMWORTH**

**DIRECTORATE:** CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Luke Stevenson, Commercial Property Officer  
**Reference:** Item 12.3 to Ordinary Council 1 December 2020 - MInute No 382/20

**3 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the outcome of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the property known as 87-93 Brisbane Street, Tamworth.

### **11.4 T115/2021 - PEEL STREET SHARED PATH CONSTRUCTION**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Mark Gardiner, Senior Project Management Engineer

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

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Tamworth Regional Council's approval to award a lump sum contract for tender T115/2021 for the construction of a shared path on the western side of Peel Street (through the old Skate Park area), from Darling Street to the new Skate Park, including pedestrian crossing points at Peel and Macquarie Streets.

### **11.5 CALALA LANE AND CAMPBELL ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE - LAND ACQUISITION**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Mark Gardiner, Senior Project Management Engineer

**2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.



## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Tamworth Regional Council's authorisation for the proposed acquisition of land for the purpose of road widening at the corner of Calala Lane and Campbell Road, Calala and to authorise Tamworth Regional Council's acceptance of the land to be dedicated as a road.

### **11.6 Q122/2021 - PUBLIC AMENITIES REPLACEMENT PROGRAM - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

**DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR: Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Tamworth Regional Council's approval to award quotation Q122/2021 Public Amenities Replacement Program, Design and Construction of four new facilities at Attunga Rest Stop, Moonbi Lookout, Woolomin River Reserve and Somerton Recreation Reserve.

### **11.7 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SALE OF KABLE AVENUE, TAMWORTH**

**DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE**  
**AUTHOR: Luke Stevenson, Commercial Property Officer**  
**Reference: Item 14.1 to Ordinary Council 25 August 2015 - Minute No 223/15**  
**Item 12.7 to Ordinary Council 9 February 2021 - Minute No 21/21**

**2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise of the outcome of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process in this matter.

### **11.8 CALALA LANE AND CAMPBELL ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION - T097/2021**

**DIRECTORATE:** REGIONAL SERVICES  
**AUTHOR:** Mark Gardiner, Senior Project Management Engineer

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

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Tamworth Regional Council's acceptance of tender T097/2021 to award a lump sum contract for the Calala Lane and Campbell Road Intersection upgrade and the Campbell Road pavement and kerb and gutter upgrade work.

### **11.9 NUNDLE GO FOR GOLD FESTIVAL 2022 - OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJOR SPONSORSHIP**

**DIRECTORATE:** PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE  
**AUTHOR:** Kay Burnes, Senior Place Manager  
**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

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

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's determination in respect of the recommendation of the Nundle "Go For Gold" Festival S355 Committee to accept the offer of major sponsorship for the 2022 Nundle "Go For Gold" Festival.

### **11.10 CHAFFEY DAM PIPELINE OPERATION**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Bruce Logan, Director Water and Waste  
**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

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

#### **SUMMARY**

Operation of the Chaffey Dam to Dungowan Village pipeline was authorised under the Water Supply Critical Needs Act on 3 June 2020, and the authorisation is presently in place until 30 November 2021. Water NSW is required, under condition 20 to the authorisation, to provide a review report in February and October 2021.

Water NSW has provided a copy of the February review report to Council. The purpose of this report is to consider that review and seek direction from Council in relation to any action required.

### **11.11 TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL ENERGY CONTRACT PROCUREMENT**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Tracey Carr, Sustainability Coordinator

**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c)&(d)i of the Local Government Act 1993, on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

#### **SUMMARY**

Council has been approached by Sourced Energy and Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) to participate in the Program for Energy and Environmental Risk Solutions (PEERS 3) program which would offer the opportunity to combine all of Councils large and small electricity consuming sites on a single contract, join a large buying group to leverage competitive pricing and give Council flexibility in the purchase of renewable energy throughout the contract term.

This report details the PEERS 3 offer and seeks Council's direction on whether to proceed with the PEERS 3 buying group for retail electricity supply.

### **11.12 DETAILED DESIGN OF CALALA WATER TREATMENT PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADE**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE  
**AUTHOR:** Daniel Coe, Manager - Water Operations

**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)ii 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 competitor of Council.

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the acceptance of a tender for the detailed design of an electrical upgrade required for the Calala Water Treatment Plant. This report discusses the merits of the tenders received, analysis based on selection criteria, and recommends a preferred Tenderer.

## **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.