



Central Coast Council
Business Paper
Ordinary Council Meeting
25 March 2025





COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

RESPONSIBLE

WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.



Good governance and great partnerships

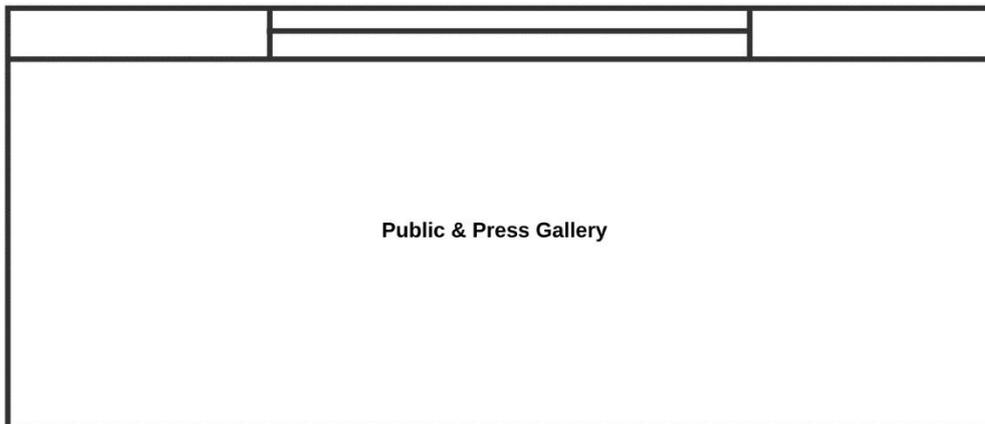
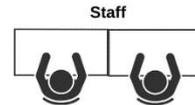
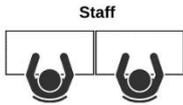
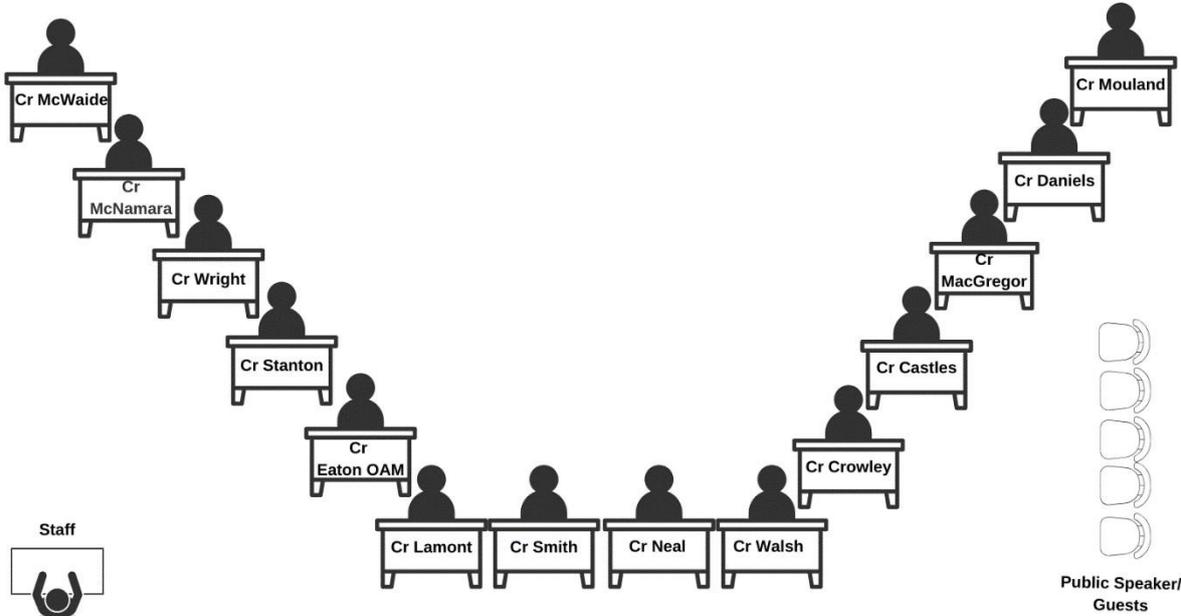
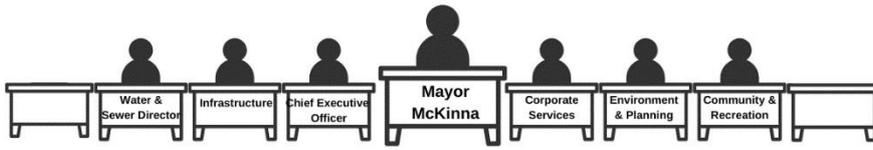
G2 Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.





Oath or Affirmation of Office

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of the Central Coast and Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities, and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993*, or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement. Councillors are also reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Disclosures of Interest

Councillors are reminded of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to declare any conflict of interest in a matter considered by Council.

Pecuniary interest: A Councillor who has a **pecuniary interest** in any matter with which the Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the Council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting. The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:

- a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, or
- b) At any time during which the Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

Non-Pecuniary conflict of interest: A Councillor who has a **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** in a matter, must disclose the relevant private interest in relation to the matter fully and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter.

Significant Non-Pecuniary conflict of interest: A Councillor who has a **significant** non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to a matter under consideration at a Council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.

Non-Significant Non-Pecuniary interest: A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is **not significant** and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest it must also be explained why the conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.

Recording

In accordance with the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, you are advised that all discussion held during the Open Council meeting is recorded for the purpose of livestreaming the public meeting and verifying the minutes. This will include any public discussion involving a councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

Meeting Notice

**The Ordinary Council Meeting
of Central Coast Council
will be held in the Central Coast Council Chambers,
2 Hely Street, Wyong
on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 6.30pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

**The Public Forum will commence at 6.00pm, subject to any
registered speaker/s to items listed on this agenda.**

Further information and details on registration process:

www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings-and-minutes/council-meetings

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Item No: 1.1
Title: Disclosure of Interest
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Recommendation

That Council now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

Item No: 1.2
Title: Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16518732

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 February 2025, and as read and a true record of the Meeting.***
- 2 Confirms the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 March 2025, and as read and a true record of the Meeting.***

Summary

Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 February 2025.

[Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting 25 February 2025](#)

[Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting 11 March 2025](#)

Item No: 1.3
Title: Items Resolved by Exception
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16567311



Recommendation

That Council determines the items on Council's Agenda that will be adopted without debate.

Summary

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, items that are dealt with by exception are items where the recommendations contained in the staff reports in the agenda are adopted without discussion.

Item No: 2.1
Title: Australian Local Government Association's 'Put Our Communities First' campaign
Department: Councillor



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16728531

Author: Mayor Lawrie McKinna

The next Federal Election must be held by 17 May 2025.

Working in conjunction with its member state and territory associations, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has developed a national advocacy campaign that will run in the lead up to this election called "Put Our Communities First".

The goal of the campaign is to secure additional federal funding that will support councils to play a bigger role in delivering local solutions to national priorities.

All Australian councils have been asked to participate. Participating will strengthen the national campaign and does not preclude Council from advocating on additional local issues.

'Put Our Communities First' campaign will advocate for new federal funding to be distributed to all councils on a formula-basis, similar to the Commonwealth's Roads to Recovery Program, or the previous Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Five national funding priorities have been determined by the ALGA Board. These are:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply;
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure;
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads;
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity; and
- \$400 million per year for climate change adaptation.

These priorities provide an opportunity to secure additional funding for projects that are important for the growth and prosperity of the Central Coast and of the nation.

**2.1 Australian Local Government's 'Put Our Communities First' campaign
(cont'd)**

Accordingly, I formally move the below.

1 That Council:

- a) Supports the national federal election funding priorities identified by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA);**

- b) Supports and participates in the 'Put Our Communities First' federal election campaign via Council's website and social media channels;
and**

- c) Writes to the local federal member(s) of Parliament, all known election candidates in local federal electorates and the President of the Australian Local Government Association expressing support for ALGA's federal election funding priorities.**

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 3.1
Title: Monthly Finance Report February 2025
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/03205 - D16628099
Author: Garry Teesson, Section Manager Financial Planning and Business Support
Manager: Emma Galea, Chief Financial Officer
Executive: Marissa Racomelara, Director Corporate Services

Recommendation

That Council

- 1 Receives and notes the Monthly Financial Report – February 2025***
- 2 Authorises the 2024-25 Operational Plan be updated to include the following capital projects:***
 - a. Embankment Stabilisation - Tapley Road***
 - b. Embankment Stabilisation - Coorara Road***
 - c. Drainage Renewal Program - Various Locations***
 - d. Heavy Patch Program - Various Roads***
 - e. Water and Sewer Legislated Security Upgrades - Various Locations***
 - f. Sewer Reactive and Program Planning - Various Locations***
 - g. Water Reactive and Program Planning - Various Locations***
 - h. Digital Video and Photography Equipment Renewal***
 - i. IT Infrastructure Disaster Recovery and Resilience***
 - j. Sewage Treatment Plant Road Renewal - Mannering Park and Woy Woy***
 - k. Water Main Extensions and Renewal Program***
 - l. Water Reticulation Critical Plant Equipment Renewals***
 - m. Water Main Relocation Program - Infrastructure Upgrades***

Report purpose

To present to Council the monthly financial report for February 2025.

Executive Summary

For 2024-25 FY Council has budgeted, on a consolidated basis, an adopted operating surplus before capital income of \$19.1M. (Original Budget \$10.7M). As at 28 February 2025 Council has an operating surplus of \$24.1M, compared to a YTD budgeted operating surplus of \$8.8M.

The budgeted net operating position will fluctuate throughout the financial year, reflecting income and expenditure timing. The YTD operating surplus variance of \$15.3M represents 2% of Council's gross annual operating expenditure budget of \$796M.

As at the end of the reporting period, there are no concerns regarding Council's performance against the adopted budget. Based on financial performance as at the end of the reporting period, Council is tracking to achieve a better operating result than budgeted.

As part of Council's financial management framework, actual results for income and expenditure, against the amounts estimated for the reporting period, are monitored monthly. Reasons for significant variations, as well as any mitigation actions required are identified. Any required budget changes are submitted to Council as part of the legislated Quarterly Budget Review process.

Background

The monthly financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, and the relevant accounting and reporting requirements of the Office of Local Government prescribed Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting and Australian Accounting Standards.

Report

Consolidated Operating Statement

As at 28 February 2025, Council has a consolidated net operating surplus of \$24.1M, before capital income, which is favourable to YTD budget by \$15.3M. The overall variance is predominantly driven by a YTD favourable variance in operating expenses, being a favourable YTD variance of \$13.3M (1.7% of full year budget) of operating expenses and a YTD favourable variance in operating income against budget of \$2M (0.3% of full year budget).

YTD income and YTD expenditure respectively are within 3% variance when compared to the YTD Budget.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

The net operating surplus including capital income is \$116.1M which is favourable to YTD budget by \$29.7M.

Variances are summarised and detailed below.

It is noted that the Q2 Quarterly Budget Review changes are reflected in the full year budget. Ongoing monitoring will continue and if required further adjustments will be proposed in the Quarter 3 review.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Table 1 – Consolidated (all Funds) Operating Statement February 2025

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Consolidated</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Operating Statement February 2025</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> </div>							
	PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Operating Income							
Rates and Annual Charges	421,528	460,606	461,731	304,405	304,014	(391)	0%
User Charges and Fees	169,410	170,284	176,864	106,525	106,637	112	0%
Other Revenue	24,155	15,532	17,710	8,229	10,123	1,894	23%
Interest	38,249	26,022	28,926	18,233	20,146	1,913	10%
Grants and Contributions	52,810	44,668	51,947	20,693	20,462	(231)	1%
Gain on Disposal	3,084	-	590	590	804	214	36%
Other Income	10,306	10,462	10,719	7,578	7,678	100	1%
Internal Revenue	57,120	56,950	66,743	41,789	40,183	(1,605)	4%
Total Income attributable to Operations	776,662	784,524	815,229	508,042	510,047	2,004	0%
Operating Expenses							
Employee Costs	194,560	217,710	218,821	142,856	140,327	2,529	2%
Borrowing Costs	12,466	12,010	12,664	5,192	5,065	127	2%
Materials and Services	229,244	245,138	244,324	151,462	142,274	9,187	6%
Depreciation and Amortisation	197,293	202,942	210,225	139,039	139,655	(616)	0%
Other Expenses	43,096	47,217	51,026	24,529	23,394	1,135	5%
Loss on Disposal	11,911	-	1,446	1,414	1,533	(118)	8%
Internal Expenses	49,488	48,807	57,663	34,761	33,697	1,065	3%
Overheads	(0)	-	-	(0)	0	(0)	100%
Total Expenses attributable to Operations	738,060	773,823	796,168	499,253	485,944	13,308	3%
Operating Result after Overheads and before Capital Amounts	38,602	10,701	19,061	8,790	24,102	15,313	174%
Capital Grants	63,325	85,684	72,042	30,234	37,866	7,632	25%
Capital Contributions	43,842	23,908	55,733	47,405	54,168	6,763	14%
Grants and Contributions Capital Received	107,167	109,592	127,774	77,639	92,034	14,395	19%
Net Operating Result	145,769	120,293	146,835	86,429	116,137	29,707	34%

Variance analysis on the consolidated operating result is as follows:

Rates and Annual Charges

\$0.4M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

- This variance predominantly relates to budget phasing.

User Fees and Charges

\$0.1M Favourable to YTD budget.

- No significant individual variances. Contributing to the variance is additional income arising from higher usage of Council facilities across various operations.

Other Revenue

\$1.9M Favourable to YTD budget.

- \$0.5M favourable variance in unrealised gains on investments that are subject to market movements. This income item is subject to volatility as it is driven by external market forces. Accordingly, the budget is updated each quarter based on actual unrealised gains recorded at that point in time. This approach is applied to minimise the risk of significant adverse budget impacts in the event of a major market downturn. The relevant proposed budget adjustments will be included in the Q3 Review.
- \$0.4M favourable variance in income from community events and the associated sales and sponsorship revenue.
- \$0.7M favourable as a result of the sale of biodiversity credits exceeding the budgeted amount. This income is restricted to Conservation Fund restriction.
- Balance is made up of variances across various operations.

Interest

\$1.9M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Favourable variance due to interest received being higher than budget due to a combination of a more favourable interest rate environment than expected, and the level of funds invested. It is noted that this current variance allows a buffer for any future interest rate drops to be absorbed without an actual adverse impact on the budgeted amount.

Operating Grants and Contributions

\$0.2M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

- Nil significant individual funding variances to budget. Balance is made up of variances across various operations.

Gain on Disposal

\$0.2M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Predominantly due to favourable results from disposals of plant & equipment through the programmed change overs.

Internal revenue

\$1.6M Unfavourable to YTD budget. Minor variance that will be monitored.

- Largely related to decreased internal tipping and plant hire activity in relation to the delivery of externally funded roads maintenance programs. Internal expenses are offset by internal income.

Operating Expenses

Employee Costs

\$2.5M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Favourable predominantly due to staff vacancies trending higher than budget, offset by unfavourable variances in other employee costs.

Borrowing Costs

\$0.1M Favourable to YTD budget

- This variance predominantly relates to budget phasing.

Materials and Services

\$9.2M Favourable to YTD budget. Variances are mainly timing in nature. Main variances include:

- \$1.4M favourable in Water & Sewer due to timing of programmed delivery.
- \$1.6M favourable in Governance Risk and Legal predominantly relating to timing of election expense payments against budget. Council has been advised that the invoice will be sent to Council in April 2025.
- \$0.8M favourable in Information Technology (timing of contract payments).
- \$1.3M favourable in Roads Maintenance delivery (timing of contract payments).
- \$0.9M favourable in Waste Management (timing of contract payments).
- \$0.7M favourable predominantly in Holiday Parks and Commercial Property (timing of contract payments).
- \$0.7M favourable in Environmental Management and Strategic Planning due to timing of program delivery and invoicing.
- \$1.0M favourable in Community and Culture due to timing of program delivery and invoicing.
- Balance is made up of variances across various operations, of under \$0.5M individually.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Depreciation

\$0.6M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

- Predominantly timing in nature, this variance relates to the timing of capitalisation processing, and the recognition of donated assets.

Other Expenses

\$1.1M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Decreased EPA levy in line with decreased tipping revenue as at the end of the reporting period.

Loss on Disposal

\$0.1M Unfavourable to YTD budget.

- Variance due to asset values having residual values at time of disposal due to earlier than anticipated infrastructure replacement.

Internal expenses

\$1.1M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Predominantly related to increased internal tipping and plant hire activity in relation to the delivery of externally funded roads maintenance programs. Internal expenses are offset by internal income.

Capital Income

Capital Grants

\$7.6M Favourable to YTD budget. Timing differences associated with the recognition of income with capital delivery and payment milestones.

Capital Contributions

\$6.8M Favourable to YTD budget.

- Predominantly driven by the recognition of donated assets and some favourable activity in developer contributions. Budget adjustments are included in future quarterly reviews as assets are recognised.

This variance is consistent with the nature of forecasting the exact timing of these external activities.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Financial Performance by Fund

The following Tables summarise the financial performance for the reporting period by Fund.

Table 2 – General (including Drainage and Waste) Fund Operating Statement - February 2025

Total General (+Drainage & Waste) Fund 							
Operating Statement February 2025							
	PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Operating Income							
Rates and Annual Charges	313,733	329,428	330,552	219,920	219,446	(474)	0%
User Charges and Fees	76,366	75,789	79,358	56,093	56,379	286	1%
Other Revenue	22,826	15,532	17,360	7,879	9,598	1,718	22%
Interest	28,347	22,440	23,001	13,881	14,768	888	6%
Grants and Contributions	52,506	44,668	51,846	20,616	20,446	(170)	1%
Gain on Disposal	2,482	-	590	590	804	214	36%
Other Income	10,306	10,462	10,719	7,578	7,678	100	1%
Internal Revenue	52,827	54,085	62,254	39,281	37,908	(1,373)	3%
Total Income attributable to Operations	559,392	552,403	575,681	365,839	367,027	1,188	0%
Operating Expenses							
Employee Costs	159,433	177,004	177,861	115,457	114,229	1,228	1%
Borrowing Costs	4,934	3,352	4,897	877	797	80	9%
Materials and Services	183,599	191,871	194,932	122,431	114,675	7,756	6%
Depreciation and Amortisation	116,976	118,464	123,700	81,865	82,869	(1,005)	1%
Other Expenses	42,817	47,217	50,856	24,359	23,202	1,158	5%
Loss on Disposal	8,703	-	1,173	1,141	1,263	(122)	11%
Internal Expenses	36,876	34,518	36,222	23,784	23,577	207	1%
Overheads	(24,514)	(23,585)	(26,743)	(15,724)	(15,724)	(0)	0%
Total Expenses attributable to Operations	528,824	548,841	562,897	354,190	344,888	9,302	3%
Operating Result after Overheads and before Capital Amounts	30,569	3,562	12,783	11,649	22,140	10,491	90%
Capital Grants	52,066	65,482	59,032	21,107	29,332	8,225	39%
Capital Contributions	36,009	17,908	48,396	42,068	49,209	7,140	17%
Grants and Contributions Capital Received	88,075	83,390	107,427	63,176	78,541	15,365	24%
Net Operating Result	118,644	86,951	120,211	74,825	100,680	25,855	35%

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Table 3 – Water and Sewer Fund Operating Statement - February 2025

Total Water & Sewer Fund							
Operating Statement							
February 2025							
	PRIOR YEAR Actuals	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)	YTD Variance (excluding commitments)
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Operating Income							
Rates and Annual Charges	107,795	131,178	131,178	84,485	84,568	84	0%
User Charges and Fees	93,044	94,495	97,505	50,432	50,258	(175)	0%
Other Revenue	1,329	-	350	350	525	175	50%
Interest	9,902	3,582	5,925	4,352	5,378	1,025	24%
Grants and Contributions	304	-	101	76	16	(61)	79%
Gain on Disposal	602	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Internal Revenue	4,294	2,866	4,488	2,508	2,275	(233)	9%
Total Income attributable to Operations	217,269	232,122	239,548	142,203	143,019	816	1%
Operating Expenses							
Employee Costs	35,127	40,705	40,960	27,398	26,098	1,301	5%
Borrowing Costs	7,533	8,658	7,767	4,315	4,268	47	1%
Materials and Services	45,645	53,267	49,391	29,031	27,600	1,431	5%
Depreciation and Amortisation	80,317	84,478	86,525	57,174	56,786	389	1%
Other Expenses	279	-	170	170	192	(23)	13%
Loss on Disposal	3,208	-	273	273	270	3	1%
Internal Expenses	12,612	14,289	21,441	10,977	10,120	857	8%
Overheads	24,514	23,585	26,743	15,724	15,724	-	0%
Total Expenses attributable to Operations	209,236	224,982	233,271	145,063	141,057	4,006	3%
Operating Result after Overheads and before Capital Amounts	8,033	7,139	6,277	(2,859)	1,963	4,822	169%
Capital Grants	11,259	20,202	13,010	9,127	8,534	(593)	6%
Capital Contributions	7,833	6,000	7,337	5,337	4,960	(377)	7%
Grants and Contributions Capital Received	19,092	26,202	20,347	14,464	13,494	(970)	7%
Net Operating Result	27,125	33,341	26,624	11,604	15,456	3,852	33%

Financial Performance Benchmarks

Below is a summary of Council's performance, on a consolidated basis against main industry financial performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government.

Table 4 – Financial Performance Benchmarks - February 2025

Financial Performance Ratio	Industry Benchmark	Full year Forecast	Ratio – YTD Actuals	
Operating Performance Ratio	> 0%	1.47%	5.1%	✓
Own Source operating Revenue Ratio	> 60%	81.57%	79.8%	✓
Unrestricted Current Ratio	> 1.5x	2.57x	4.8x	✓
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	> 3 months	3.44 months	4.8 months	✓
Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio	100%	145%	112.8%	
Infrastructure Maintenance Ratio	100%	n/a	47.0%	

As at the end of the February 2025, on a consolidated basis, Council exceeded the mandated benchmark for the operating performance ratio, achieving 5.1%.

Council has also performed favourably against the unrestricted current ratio, achieving 4.8x against a benchmark of >1.5x. This ratio considers all current assets and liabilities, including cash.

Council maintained positive performance regarding the cash expense cover. Council is in a strong liquidity position.

The infrastructure ratios are monitored each month and are based on a point in time. The quoted performance is indicative of trend, with actual performance being formally measured on an annual basis. The Infrastructure Renewal Ratio is based on the actual renewal expenditure as at the end of the reporting period, compared to the depreciation over the same period. The Asset Maintenance Ratio is calculated based on actual maintenance as at the end of the reporting period compared to the required maintenance estimated over the same reporting period. Annual performance in regard to these ratios is included in the Special Schedules in the annual Financial Statements, noting that the infrastructure section within the Schedules does not form part of the NSW Audit Office audit.

Council is currently renewing its assets at a faster rate than the annual depreciation, therefore exceeding the 100% renewal benchmark. This reflects Council's focus on addressing the backlog of assets in less than satisfactory condition. Further, when assessing the most cost-effective intervention, a renewal approach may be chosen over a maintenance approach. This results in increased renewal and reduces reactive maintenance, and consequently a temporary lower than benchmark asset maintenance ratio.

Noting the volatility in the timing of asset renewal and maintenance, performance as at the end of a reporting period is an indication only of Council's likely performance against the benchmark for the year. To further enhance the reliability of these measures, a cross unit project is currently underway to ensure that all maintenance and renewal activities are appropriately captured and accounted for. The required maintenance will be subject to ongoing review within the context of the level of renewal being undertaken, and if required, will be adjusted on an annual basis.

Cash and Investments

Details on cash and investments as at 28 February 2025 are included in the Monthly Investment Report February 2025.

Loans

As at 28 February 2025 Council has borrowings totaling \$209.3M, across all Funds and including the remaining Emergency Loan that is due to be fully paid in November 2025.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Table 5 – Outstanding loan borrowings by fund – February 2025

Fund	General Fund (\$'000)	Drainage Fund (\$'000)	General Fund Consolidated with Drainage Fund (\$'000)	Water and Sewer Fund (\$'000)
External loans – current	4,390	581	4,971	15,830
External loans - non current (excluding emergency loan)	9,005	5,997	15,002	137,663
Emergency loan	35,833	0	35,833	0
Total external loans	49,228	6,578	55,806	153,493

Current loans refer to loans payable in the next 12 months, while non-current loans are those payable after that.

Borrowing for infrastructure assets such as sewer, water, and drainage assets, which benefit multiple generations is appropriate, and is good practice, to achieve intergenerational equity.

General Fund Debt

Although council has sufficient unrestricted cash to extinguish all General Fund loans, it is not prudent to do so as early payment would result in break costs and the investment portfolio is returning a higher rate than the holding costs of the loans.

After the extinguishment of one of the emergency loans taken out in 2020, Council has the second emergency loan due to be refinanced or extinguished in November 2025.

During the month of February 2025, a repayment of \$0.3M was made against the emergency loan, reducing the balance from \$36.1M reported as at the end of January 2025 to \$35.8M as at the end of this reporting period.

Council is setting aside \$1.4M each month in an internal restriction to be able to repay the Emergency Loan in November 2025 without the need to refinance any part of the loan, and without impacting on unrestricted cash at time of payment.

Excluding the outstanding emergency loan, Council has a relatively low level of debt considering the size of this Council.

Capital Works

At its Council meeting on 25 February 2025, Council considered the December 2024 (Q2) Quarterly Operational Plan and Budget Review which proposed a net reduction in the capital expenditure budget of \$12.5M.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Council resolved (in part):

That Council

551/25 Approves the changes proposed to each individual project and notes the effect on future years' indicative program. The net reduction of \$12.5M to be applied to works to the equivalent total value and fund so as to maintain the adopted capital budget at \$316.5M.

In accordance with this resolution, projects with capital budgets totalling \$12.5M have been identified to be added to the total capital expenditure budget after the adjustments adopted as part of the Q2 full year budget changes.

Subject to Council endorsement of the following projects, the capital budget for FY 2024-25 will return to the same level as it was prior to the reductions adopted as part of the Q2 changes, at \$316.5M:

Table 5 - Proposed additional projects

Fund	Project Number	Project Name	March 2025 Variation
General	27201	Embankment Stabilisation - Tapley Road (House No 74)	40,000
Drainage	27436	Embankment Stabilisation - Coorara Road (House No 29)	20,000
Drainage	26977	Drainage Renewal Program - Various Locations	399,737
General	26134	Heavy Patch Program - Various Roads	264,529
Sewer	26820	Water and Sewer Legislated Security Upgrades - Various Locations	850,000
Sewer	23782	Sewer Reactive and Program Planning - Various Locations	2,030,315
Water	23788	Water Reactive and Program Planning - Various Locations	1,700,000
General	27810	Digital Video and Photography Equipment Renewal	8,600
General	27811	IT Infrastructure and Disaster Recovery Refresh	3,600,000
Sewer	27809	Sewage Treatment Plant Road Renewal - Mannering Park and Woy Woy	1,000,000
Water	27806	Water Main Extensions and Renewal Program	1,200,000
Water	27808	Water Reticulation Critical Plant Equipment Renewals	200,000
Water	27807	Water Main Relocation Program - Infrastructure Upgrades	1,150,000
Total			12,463,181

Table 6 - Proposed additional capital budget by Fund

Fund	March 2025 Variation
General and Drainage Funds	4,332,866
Water and Sewer Funds	8,130,315
Total	12,463,181

Excluding the above proposed additional projects, as at 28 February 2025 capital expenditure is \$157.2M against a YTD budget of \$163.5M for the same period, and a 2024-25 FY budget of \$304.1M. Commitments (approved purchase orders to external suppliers) of \$62.2M have been raised for delivery this year.

3.1 Monthly Finance Report February 2025 (cont'd)

The current expenditure against budget indicates that delivery of works is trending behind anticipated timing, noting that delivery of works will accelerate in the second half of the financial year. Delivery of works is impacted by a number of factors including weather conditions, availability of suppliers, and any required approval processes.

The Table and Charts below reflect the full year budget including the adopted reduction of \$12.5M relating to projects considered at the February 2025 meeting. The FY Budget will be updated to reflect the addition of projects to offset this reduction subject to Council endorsement of the above projects and will be reported accordingly in the March Monthly finance report submitted to the Council meeting in April 2025.

Table 7 - Capital Expenditure - February 2025

Department	Original Budget	FULL YEAR Budget	YTD Budgets	YTD Actuals	Commitments	YTD Variance	YTD Variance
	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	\$ 000s	%
01. Office of the Chief Executive Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
02. Community and Recreation Services	51,420	48,536	19,338	18,540	6,427	798	4.1%
03. Infrastructure Services	106,650	111,937	65,949	62,608	18,301	3,341	5.1%
04. Water and Sewer	122,366	114,235	64,082	62,142	28,613	1,940	3.0%
05. Environment and Planning	9,911	10,933	4,467	3,883	1,532	584	13.1%
06. Corporate Services	18,180	18,440	9,687	10,054	7,347	(367)	-3.8%
Total	308,527	304,082	163,522	157,227	62,220	6,295	3.8%

Figure 1 – Capital Expenditure by Directorate

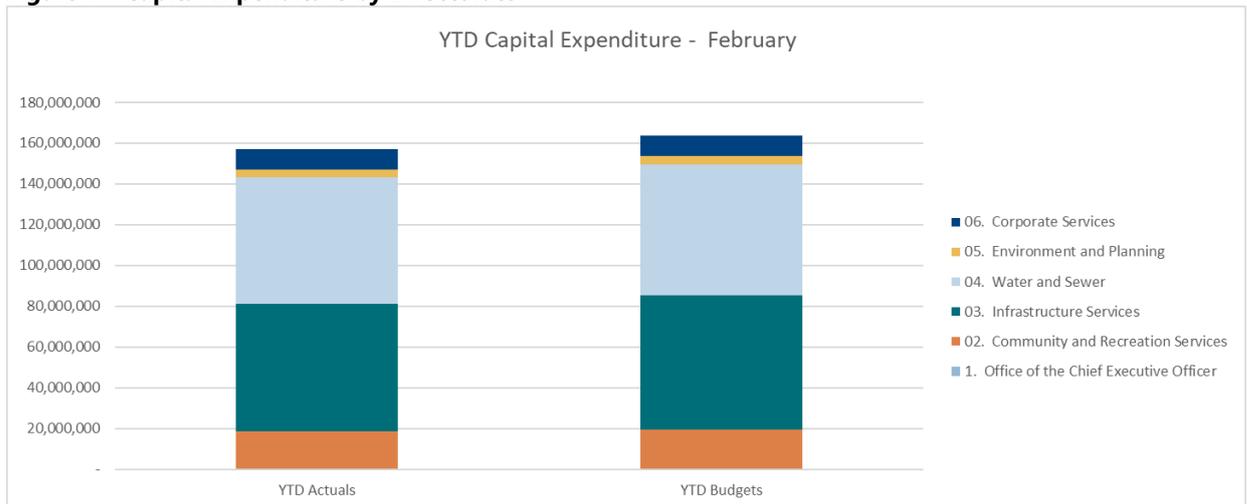
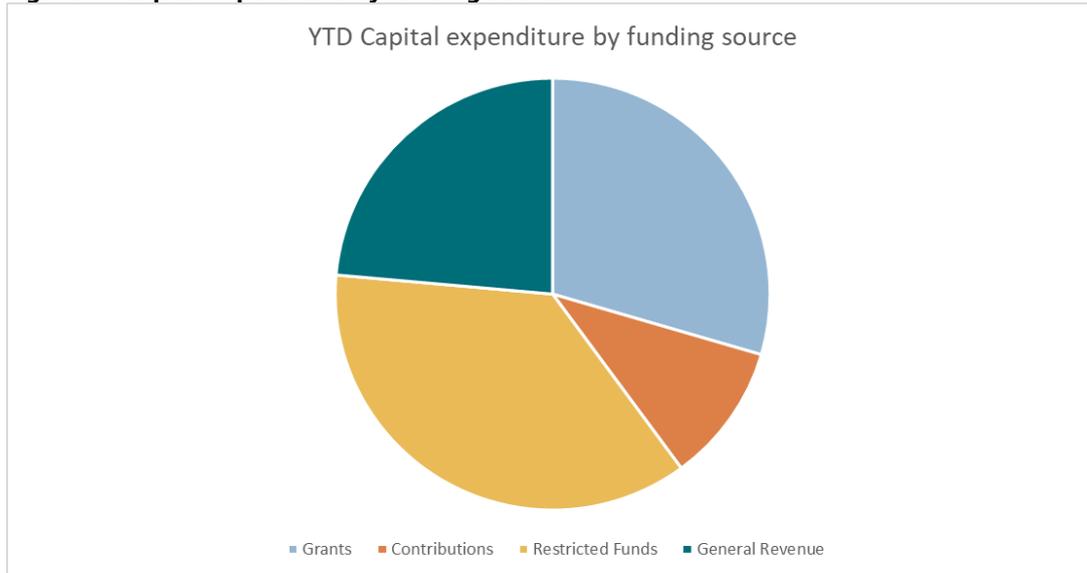


Figure 2 – Capital Expenditure by Funding Source



Stakeholder Engagement

The preparation of the February 2025 monthly financial report included engagement with business units across Council to identify the reasons and mitigation strategies for significant variances to budget.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications

The proposal has cost and revenue implications for the current FY only.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

This report presents the financial position of Council as at 28 February 2025. Variations from budgeted amounts are detailed and an explanation provided. To date, there are no concerns regarding Council's financial performance for the remainder of the financial year.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G3: Provide leadership that is transparent and accountable, makes decisions in the best interest of the community, ensures Council is financially sustainable and adheres to a strong audit process.

Risk Management

Council's financial management framework includes the monthly review and reporting of significant variances to budget. This ensures that any issues are identified and rectified in a timely manner, with any necessary adjustments being captured in the appropriate Quarterly Budget Review.

This process mitigates the risk of Council's financial performance deviating from the adopted budget and ultimately altering the trajectory of Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Council receives monthly financial reports to ensure that Council is kept up to date with Council's financial performance.

Attachments

Nil



Item No: 3.2
Title: Monthly Investment Report February 2025
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/03205 - D16628122
Author: Michelle Best, Section Manager Financial Accounting and Assets
Manager: Emma Galea, Chief Financial Officer
Executive: Marissa Racomelara, Director Corporate Services

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Notes the Investment Report for February 2025.**
- 2 Notes that the February 2025 unrestricted funds deficit in the Drainage Fund is offset by the unrestricted funds available in the General Fund.**

Report purpose

To present the monthly Investment Report for February 2025.

Executive Summary

This report provides details of Council's investment portfolio and performance as at 28 February 2025.

Background

Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* stipulates:

- (1) The Responsible Accounting Officer of a Council*
 - a must provide the council with a written report (setting out details of all money that the council has invested under section 625 of the Act) to be presented*
 - i. if only one ordinary meeting of the council is held in a month, at that meeting, or*
 - ii. if more than one such meeting is held in a month, at whichever of those meetings the council by resolution determines, and*

3.2 Monthly Investment Report February 2025 (cont'd)

- b must include in the report a certificate as to whether the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the council's investment policies.*
- (2) *The report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting.*

Certification

I hereby certify the investments summarised in the report have been made in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

Emma Galea, Responsible Accounting Officer

Report

Council's cash and investment portfolio totalled \$860.20M as at 28 February 2025. A listing of investments is attached as (Attachment 1) to this report.

Council continues to look for Environmental, Social and Green (ESG) investment opportunities subject to prevailing investment guidelines. Current ESG investments are highlighted green in (Attachment 1).

As at 28 February 2025 Council's ESG investments comprised 2.20% or \$17M of the total investments portfolio.

Table 1 - Council's Cash and Investment Portfolio by Type

Type	Carrying Value (\$'000)
Investment Portfolio:	
At Call Account	\$8,328
Term Deposits	\$300,000
Floating Rate Notes	\$426,150
Fixed Rate Bonds	\$39,630
Floating Bonds	\$5,000
Transactional accounts and cash in hand	\$81,090
Total	\$860,198

3.2 Monthly Investment Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Council's portfolio is held in separate funds by purpose and is summarised in the Table below:

Table 2 - Council's Portfolio by Fund

Fund	General Fund	Drainage Fund	General Fund Consolidated with Drainage Fund	Domestic Waste Fund	Water and Sewer Fund
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
External Restricted Cash	229,838	40,026	269,864	123,235	228,403
Internal Restricted Cash	149,259	19	149,278		
Total Restricted Cash	379,097	40,045	419,142	123,235	228,403
Unrestricted Cash	124,207	(34,789)	89,418		
Total Cash	503,304	5,256	508,560	123,235	228,403

Detailed restrictions have been provided in (Attachment 2). It is noted that the amount shown for each respective fund above may be reflected over various restrictions in (Attachment 2). The balances above will increase and decrease during each financial year as revenues are received and expenditures occur.

Council continues to set aside funds to enable extinguishment of the remaining emergency loan in November 2025, restricting \$1.4M each month for this purpose.

Council is continuing to manage the reported negative unrestricted funds balance in the Drainage Fund through its consolidation with the General Fund. The negative unrestricted funds balance in the Drainage Fund is currently \$34.79M. From 2026-27 the Drainage Fund will become part of Council's General Fund as IPART will no longer regulate Stormwater Drainage prices.

In the interim, the unrestricted funds deficit of \$34.79M in the Drainage Fund is proposed to be offset through the General Fund's available unrestricted cash balance.

Portfolio Management

Council's Investment Portfolio is managed through term deposits, floating rate notes and bonds maturities and placements.

3.2 Monthly Investment Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Council's cash inflows including investment maturities have been used to manage outflows with maturities during the month re-invested taking into consideration operational cashflow requirements.

Table 3 – Portfolio Movement (Investments only)

	2024-25 YTD Actuals (\$'000)
Opening Balance	704,398
Net Movement	74,710
Closing balance	779,108

Net movement includes maturities and new investments.

Refer to Portfolio Valuation Report in (Attachment 3) for more information.

Table 4 - Investment Maturities

Time Horizon	Percentage Holdings	Maturity on or before	Value \$'000
At Call	1.07%	Immediate	8,328
Investments			
0 - 3 months	9.24%	Apr-2025	72,000
4 - 6 months	16.49%	Jul-2025	128,500
7 - 12 months	29.48%	Jan-2026	229,680
1 - 2 years	29.49%	Jan-2027	229,750
2 - 3 years	7.48%	Jan-2028	58,250
3 - 4 years	4.18%	Jan-2029	32,600
4 - 5 years	2.57%	Jan-2030	20,000
Total Investments	98.93%		770,780
Total Portfolio	100.00%		779,108

Portfolio Performance

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reduced the cash rate by 0.25% to 4.10% at its meeting in February 2025. BBSW has followed cash rate trends and has fallen alongside the cash rate.

Investments are made within Council policy and at the best rates available at the time of placement. Interest rates on investments in the month, ranged from 1.03% to 6.40%.

3.2 Monthly Investment Report February 2025 (cont'd)

A comparison of the weighted running yield to key indicators is shown below:

Table 5 – Investment returns

	Weighted running yield	RBA Cash Rate	BBSW benchmark
February 2025	5.09%	4.10%	4.16%

Table 6 – Performance Statistics

	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month	Since Inception
Portfolio Return ¹	0.41%	1.31%	5.48%	2.64%
Performance Index ²	0.34%	1.10%	4.48%	2.34%
Excess Performance	0.07%	0.21%	1.00%	0.30%

¹ Portfolio performance is the rate of return of the portfolio over the specified period

² The Performance index is the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index

³ Excess performance is the rate of return of the portfolio in excess of the Performance Index

Table 7 – Policy Compliance – Credit Rating

Credit Rating Group	% of portfolio	Policy Limit	
BBB	45.20%	60.0%	✓
A	39.95%	70.0%	✓
AA	14.85%	100.0%	✓
AAA	0.0%	100.0%	✓
	100%		

*Based on face value and Long-Term Rating of Institutions

3.2 Monthly Investment Report February 2025 (cont'd)

Table 8 – Policy Compliance – Terms

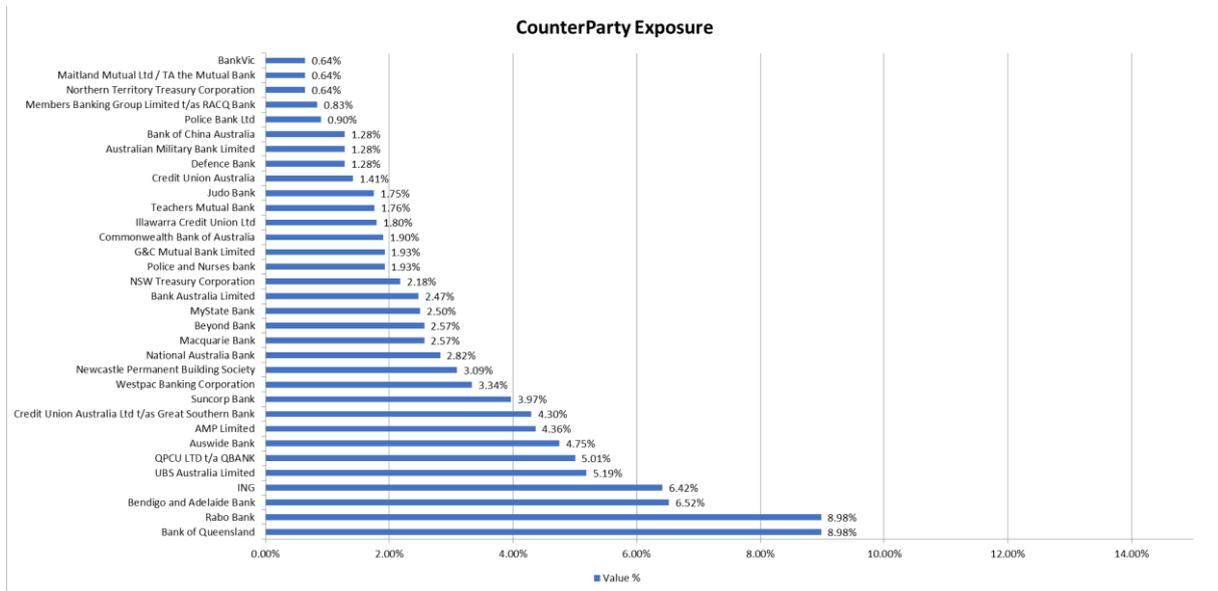
Term	% of portfolio *	Policy Limit	
Cash At Call	1.07%		
Less than 1 year	55.21%	100%	✓
Between 1 and 3 years	36.97%	70%	✓
Between 3 and 5 years	6.75%	40%	✓
Over 5 years	0.0%	5%	✓
	100%		

*Based on face value

- ✓ compliant
- × non-compliant

Exposure to counterparties will be restricted by their rating as per Council's Policy, so that single entity exposure is limited. Graph 1 shows Council's counter party exposure as at 28 February 2025.

Graph 1 – Counter Party Exposure



Stakeholder Engagement

Nil

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications

The proposal has revenue financial implications for the current FY only.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes the impact for this proposal.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G3: Provide leadership that is transparent and accountable, makes decisions in the best interest of the community, ensures Council is financially sustainable and adheres to a strong audit process.

Risk Management

Cash that is surplus to Council's immediate requirements is invested within acceptable risk parameters to optimise interest income while ensuring the security of these funds.

Council's investments are made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Council's adopted Investments Management and Borrowings Policy, Ministerial Investment Order issued February 2011 and Division of Local Government (as it was then known) Investment Policy Guidelines published in May 2010.

Council monitors and manages the portfolio taking into consideration credit ratings of financial institutions, interest rates offered for the maturity dates required and counterparty exposure.

All of Council's investments were within Policy guidelines as at 28 February 2025.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

1	Summary of Investments as at 28 February 2025	Provided Under Separate Cover	D16715196
2	Summary of Restrictions as at 28 February 2025	Provided Under Separate Cover	D16715539
3	Portfolio Valuation Report as at 28 February 2025	Provided Under Separate Cover	D16715191



Item No: 3.3
Title: Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government
Department: Environment and Planning

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2023/00721 - D16711800
Author: Shannon Turkington, Unit Manager Strategic Planning
Executive: Jamie Loader, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Notes the legislative changes in the Water Management Amendment (Central Coast Council) Bill 2024 which effectively prevents Council from levying a stormwater drainage charge under the Water Management Act beyond 30 June 2026.***

- 2 Seeks the Minister for Local Government use their power under Section 506 of the Local Government Act 1993 to vary Council's general income by an amount sufficient to enable Council to levy a drainage charge (of an equivalent amount to the Council's current stormwater drainage charge) under the Local Government Act 1993.***

Report purpose

To seek a resolution to write to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, to request the Minister use their powers under Section 506 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to vary Council's general income to enable Council to levy a drainage charge under the *Local Government Act 1993* from 1 July 2026.

Executive Summary

Since establishment of Central Coast Council, a stormwater drainage service charge has been levied on most properties in the Council area. This charge has been levied via the Water Management Act and regulated by IPART in conjunction with Council's Water and Sewer charges.

3.3 Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government (cont'd)

In the 2022 Determination of Water, Sewer and Stormwater Drainage, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) resolved that they would not support the Stormwater Drainage Charge being levied under the *Water Management Act 2000* beyond the current determination period ending 30 June 2026.

IPART's view is that stormwater services provide benefits to the entire community not just specific customers and therefore should be funded through local government rates like other services that benefit the whole community such as maintaining public parks, roads and bridges.

Following that, Government legislative changes confirmed that Council would no longer be able to levy a Stormwater Drainage Charge under the Water Management Act post 25/26, effectively requiring Council to replace this income via the Local Government Act.

To enable this change Council would need to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation to allow for an amount equivalent to the stormwater drainage charge to be levied under the *Local Government Act 1993* instead of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

It should be made clear that Council is not seeking a real increase in the amount paid by ratepayers and property owners, rather levying income that was previously raised under the Water Management Act, under the Local Government Act.

If this proposal is successful ratepayers/property owners will pay no more (apart from annual IPART indexation) across their combined water and rates bills.

As Council is not seeking to change where the stormwater drainage charge is levied or how the amount is calculated, Council is requesting the Minister for Local Government use their powers under Section 506 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to vary Council's general income to allow Council to levy a drainage charge under the Local Government Act 1993 equivalent to the stormwater drainage charge foregone.

Background

Council's stormwater drainage services including floodplain risk management planning, asset planning, maintenance, and capital construction, are funded via the Stormwater Drainage Charge that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) previously set for Council as a Water Authority under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

In the 2022 Determination for Water, Sewer and Stormwater Drainage, IPART resolved they would not support the Stormwater Drainage Charge being levied under the *Water Management Act 2000* beyond the current determination period ending 30 June 2026.

3.3 Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government (cont'd)

The Determination made it clear that it would be the last time IPART would set stormwater drainage prices on the basis that stormwater services provide benefits to the whole community, not just specific customers. IPART's view is that they should be funded through local government rates like other services that benefit the whole community, such as maintaining public parks and sportsgrounds, roads, and bridges.

To enable the change required by IPART, Council would need to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) seeking their approval to enact the change of levying stormwater drainage services under *Local Government Act 1993* instead of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Council demonstrated its commitment to the 2022 IPART Determination via a resolution made at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 November 2021. The relevant resolutions have been reproduced below:

276/21 *That Council note the intention to transfer the Stormwater Drainage Charge under the Water Management Act to a Stormwater Drainage Special Rate Variation or equivalent under the Local Government Act.*

276/21 *That Council commits to transferring the stormwater drainage charge from the Water Management Act to the Local Government Act by the 2026/27 financial year in parallel with the 2026 Water and Sewer Pricing Review, acknowledging that this will also require a concurrent special rate variation application to IPART.*

On the 15 August 2024 the NSW Government assented to changes to the *Water Management Act 2000*, through the *Water Management Amendment (Central Coast Council) Bill 2024*. The objects of the Bill are:

- a) To amend the *Water Management Act 2000* as follows:
 - i) to provide that Central Coast Council (the Council) is no longer a water supply authority,
 - ii) to provide for the transition from the Council levying service charges, including for water, sewerage and drainage, under the *Water Management Act 2000* to levying special rates or charges for the same services under the *Local Government Act 1993* like other councils,
- b) to amend the *Local Government Act 1993* to enable the Council to use special rates and charges received for water supply or sewerage services under the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide either water supply or sewerage services,

3.3 Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government (cont'd)

- c) to amend the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* to provide that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) continues to have standing reference to determine the pricing for certain services provided by the Council, including water supply and sewerage services, but excluding stormwater drainage services,
- d) to repeal the Central Coast Water Corporation Act 2006,
- e) to make consequential amendments to other legislation

These changes streamlined how Council's water and sewerage services are regulated and administered to support good governance and sound decision making and brought Central Coast Council's water supply and sewerage services in-line with all other local governments across regional NSW.

Report

Preparation of a SRV is a complicated process, that will require significant Council and community time and resources, through the preparation of the application and community consultation requirements. The outcome of the SRV would be to continue levying the stormwater drainage charge exactly as outlined in the 2022 IPART Determination, but under the *Local Government Act 1993*, instead of the *Water Management Act 2000*, with no other change proposed.

The Council will already be undertaking extensive community engagement on the next Water and Sewer Pricing submission and the new Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, all within a very condensed timeframe.

As an alternative, Section 506 of the *Local Government Act* (variation of general income) provides the Minister with the power to specify the percentage (or specific methodology) by which councils' general income for a specified year can be varied. Section 506 is provided below:

506 Variation of general income

- 1) *The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette specify the percentage by which councils' general income for a specified year may be varied.*
- 2) *Without limiting subsection (1), the order may—*
 - a) *specify different percentages for different areas of councils, and*
 - b) *specify a methodology for calculating a percentage rather than specifying an particular percentage, including by specifying a base percentage to which an additional figure may be added in specified circumstances.*

Should the Minister use their powers under Section 506 to vary Council's general income, this would alleviate the need to prepare a Special Rate Variation and allow for the continuation of the stormwater drainage charge under different legislation with no change to Council's services and planned works.

3.3 Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government (cont'd)

This is a unique situation, created by the NSW Government and its organ IPART, addressing a legislative peculiarity that only applies to Central Coast Council. It is therefore appropriate that the NSW Government resolves this matter for the benefit of the Central Coast community.

The intent of the Special Rate Variation process is to prevent Council's raising income above the rate cap and was not designed to capture a situation where the amount of charge is not changing, only the legislation being used to generate the charge.

Stakeholder Engagement

If a SRV is required there will be public consultation requirements as outlined by IPART.

Whether Council is granted a ministerial exemption or has to undertake a SRV, all income will be identified in Council's Statement of Income Policy which will be publicly exhibited in conjunction with the Operational plan and budget for the 2026-27 year. Members of the public will be able to provide input and Council must give consideration to their submissions.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP includes an allowance for the ongoing impact.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP includes an allowance for the ongoing impact.

The below table summarises the IPART approved stormwater drainage charge revenue phasing from 2022-23 through to the end of the current determination period (30 June 2026), showing the annual financial impact if the stormwater drainage charge was to not continue.

IPART Approved Revenue 2022-23	IPART Approved Revenue 2023-24	IPART Approved Revenue 2024-25	IPART Approved Revenue 2025-26
\$18.4 million	\$19.5 million	\$19 million	\$19.6 million

Council relies on the stormwater drainage charge to deliver essential services to the community. Without this ongoing revenue Council would need reallocate general rate income to provide stormwater services and then implement significant service level reduction in other areas. The impact of this reduction on Council's assets and services would be significant.

3.3 Stormwater Drainage Charge - Request to Minister for Local Government (cont'd)

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal H: Delivering essential infrastructure

R-H1: Solve road and drainage problem areas and partner with the State Government to improve road conditions across the region.

Risk Management

Council is required to find a resolution to the issue created by the 2022 IPART Determination and ensuing legislative changes. While there is no immediate risk in seeking a resolution to ask the Minister for Local Government to use his powers to vary Council's general income, there is a significant financial risk to Council and ultimately its services to the community, if there is no mechanism to levy a stormwater drainage charge after 30 June 2026.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

The current IPART determination expires 30 June 2026, Council will be unable to continue to levy the stormwater drainage charge if the Minister does not vary Council's general income or an SRV is approved by IPART.

Attachments

Nil.

Item No: 3.4
Title: 10 Year Road Renewal Program
Department: Infrastructure Services



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16734635
Author: Jay Spare, Unit Manager Roads and Drainage Infrastructure
Executive: Boris Bolgoff, Director Infrastructure Services

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Notes that the current planned level of capital investment for road renewal projects meets the forecast depreciation for road segment assets over the next ten years.***
- 2 Endorses the inclusion of an additional \$20 million in Council funding to support an increase in Council's planned capital Road Renewal Program over the next four years with the budget to be added to the Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan prior to public exhibition.***
- 3 Endorses ongoing advocacy for grant funding to support a further expansion of the Road Renewal Program and ensure the long-term sustainability of Council's road network.***
- 4 Endorses the publication of the draft interactive 10 Year Road Renewal Program map to internal stakeholders and Councillors effective immediately.***
- 5 Endorses the publication of the new interactive 10 Year Road Renewal Program website map to the community subject to and following adoption of the final Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan.***

Report purpose

To note and endorse an increase in Council's planned capital investment on road renewal to help improve the network condition and support it's long-term sustainability - with the budget to be added to the Four-year Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan. To endorse publication of a new interactive website map to use as a tool for internal stakeholders and to communicate with the community regarding Council's 10 Year Road Renewal plans.

Executive Summary

Council currently plans to invest \$395.4 million on road renewal over the next ten years - budgeting to spend road network depreciation and meeting the NSW Office of Local Government Benchmark for Infrastructure Renewal Ratios. Despite this, our road network infrastructure backlog is forecast to increase for a number of reasons, but primarily due to construction costs increasing faster than depreciation. Noting that this issue is impacting most local government areas and is not unique to Central Coast Council.

A number of strategies are being pursued to improve overall road network condition and infrastructure backlog trends. In alignment with community satisfaction survey feedback and Councillor priorities, this includes allocating an additional \$20 million on road renewal over the next four years by bringing forward road renewal projects identified via technical pavement management processes, that align with Councillor and community priorities.

The Report seeks endorsement for the increase in road renewal funding, with the budget to be added to the next Four-year Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan. It also seeks support to publish a new interactive 10 Year Road Renewal Program website map in stages, to demonstrate our forward road renewal plans and improve the way we communicate with the internal stakeholders and the community.

Background

Council's road network is over 2,200 kilometres in length and is valued at approximately \$2.0 billion. The network is comprised of 180 kilometres of Regional Roads, 443 kilometres of high traffic Distributor or Collector Roads and 1,627 kilometres of lower traffic local roads. The remainder is comprised of State Roads, which are the Regions main road network and are managed by Transport for NSW.

The cost effective and sustainable management of Council's road network is one of our core responsibilities, and is the focus of one of our largest annual investments in terms of budget and resources. This level of importance is also reflected in our Community Strategic Plan, Asset Management Strategies, the Central Coast Regions Key Enabling Projects, Delivery Programs and Operational Plans as well as being a dominant theme in Community Satisfaction Surveys and associated Councillor priority workshops.

In July 2024, Council completed a full road network condition survey ensuring we have the most accurate and up to date information possible on every Council managed road in the network. We also completed an independent review of our pavement modelling practices ensuring that the way we prioritise road renewal projects and develop road renewal programs is as effective as possible utilising road asset industry best practice and innovation.

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

The above information has been used to develop a robust 10 Year Road Renewal Program to guide our investment on road renewal over the next 10 years, and to inform the Four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans. While it will need to be updated on an annual basis, and some change is expected from year to year, the 10 Year Road Renewal Program forms the basis of Council's road renewal planning and provides a consistent platform for consultation and engagement with internal stakeholders and the community.

The 10 Year Road Renewal Program has been developed based on investing road network depreciation in full, on road renewal projects. Depreciation is an estimate of the extent to which our roads will be consumed during the period. The current Program would see Council spending \$395.4 million for renewal programs and projects over the next ten years.

By investing road network depreciation on road renewal projects, we ensure that Council's Infrastructure Renewal Ratio will meet the 100% benchmark recommended by the NSW Office of Local Government. In theory, this demonstrates that Council is replacing road segments as they meet the end of their useful lives.

However current road network modelling shows that based on our current level of investment, the infrastructure backlog will increase over time and the overall condition of our road network will decline without an increased investment on road renewal. This is due to construction industry costs rising faster than depreciation funding, multiple natural disaster weather events impacting our region and the fact that Council already has an historic infrastructure backlog.

Report

A number of strategies are being pursued to improve the overall condition of Council's road network and improve the long term infrastructure backlog trend. This includes grant advocacy to generate more funding for road renewal, with a \$50 million increase in road renewal being identified in Central Coast Region's Key Enabling Infrastructure Projects. Other strategies also include undertaking asset revaluations to align forward budgets with current cost estimates and forecasts, and the use of innovative new technologies to drive the cost of renewal works down and / or to extend the life of the road renewal works we complete.

In addition to this we are proposing an increase in Council's own investment on road renewal and have modelled the delivery of an additional \$20 million in road renewal over the next four years. This has been done in consultation with Council's Finance team and the outcomes have been tested / validated via Councillor Workshops which incorporated community feedback via various means, on what roads they considered to be priorities for renewal.

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

The additional \$20 million road renewal program has been developed using the current 10 Year Road Renewal Program. This Program was put together using industry best practice road network data collection and advanced pavement modelling, and is supported by expert field validation and consideration of factors such as the maintenance spend, road safety, strategic location, traffic volumes, procurement strategies and other adjacent major projects being delivered by Council, developers or Transport for NSW.

The figure and table below shows the additional \$20 million road renewal budget overlaid against the current Road Renewal Program, noting this includes road renewal which has been prioritised via asset management processes as well as road renewal delivered incidentally as part of grant or developer contribution funded road upgrade projects. The budget phasing has also been developed to ensure the expanded program can be delivered leveraging existing panel contracts and in consideration of available contractor resources.

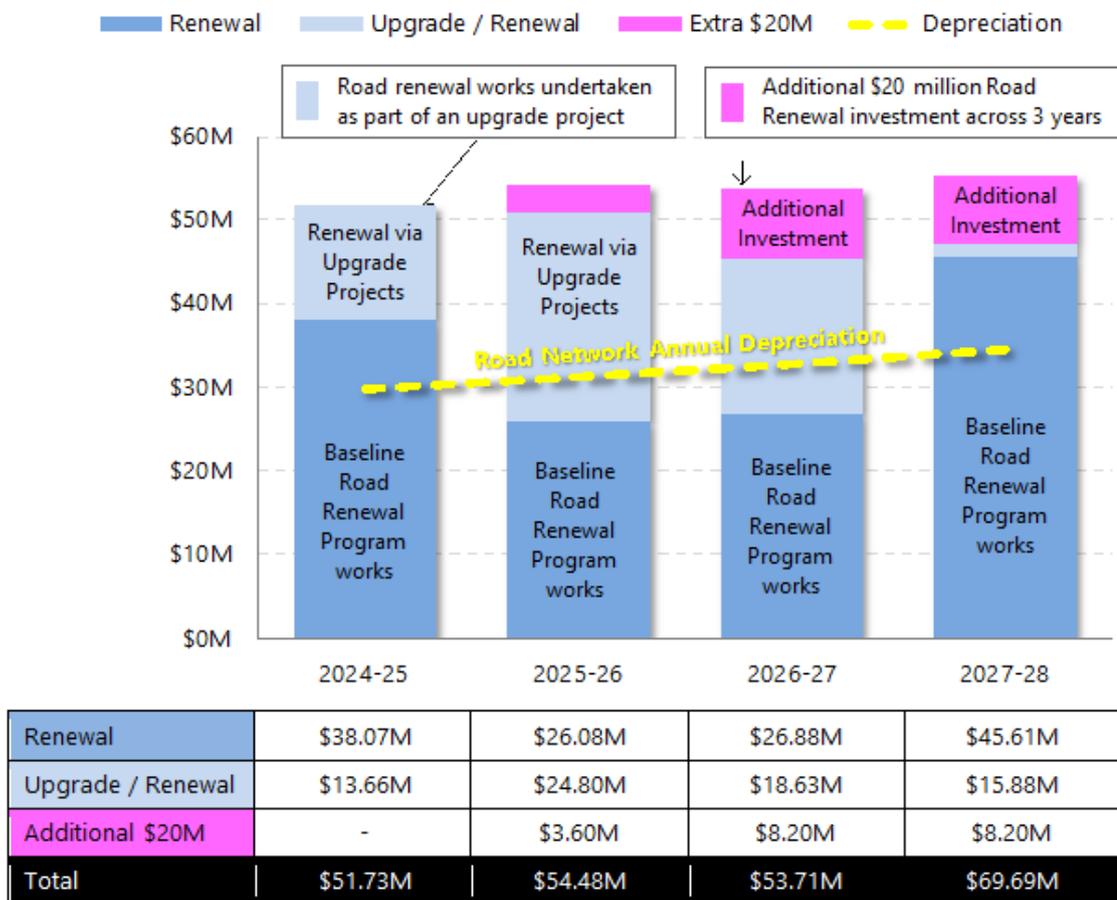


Figure 1 – Council's total Road Renewal Program capital investment including baseline road renewal, renewal undertaken as part of road upgrade projects and the additional \$20 million proposed in this report

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

The next table shows the planned allocation of the additional \$20 million in road renewal investment including the various sub-programs of work as well as itemised road renewal projects for all major renewal works i.e. typically end of life road rehabilitation projects or major asphalt surfacing projects.

The itemised / major road renewal projects were identified by seeking feedback from the Councillors, and through them the community via online surveys, door knocking, and a review of customer and maintenance enquiries, as to which roads they considered to be priorities for renewal. Nominated projects were then verified by technical staff for suitability for inclusion in the 4 Year Delivery Program, essentially by bringing forward projects identified in future financial years.

The final program was determined by workshopping these results with the Councillors, while considering technical criteria such as asset condition, maintenance burden, road safety, traffic volumes, procurement strategies and other adjacent major projects being delivered by Council, developers or Transport for NSW.

This process ensured that the \$20 million road renewal program was developed based on a sound asset management and technical pavement management justification, while demonstrating alignment with community and Councillor priorities.

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

Table 1 – Proposed phasing of the additional \$20 million Road Renewal Program investment

Street Name	Suburb	From	To	Treatment
Killcare Rd	Killcare	House Number 25	Araluen Drive	Asphalt Overlay
Broadwater Dr	Saratoga	House Number 20	Benjamin Place	Rehabilitation
View Pde	Saratoga	Brooklyn Rd	House Number 56A	Rehabilitation
Malinya Rd	Davistown	House Number 106	House Number 137	Rehabilitation
Malinya Rd	Davistown	House Number 137	Henderson Rd	Rehabilitation
Cullens Rd	Kincumber	House Number 95	Boundary Rd	Rehabilitation
Barralong Rd	Erina	Central Coast Hwy	House Number 15	Asphalt Overlay
Belar Ave	Terrigal	Kings Ave	House Number 27	Asphalt Overlay
Hastings Rd	Terrigal	Brunswick Rd	House Number 138	Rehabilitation
Hastings Rd	Terrigal	Lot No 1	Serpentine Rd	Rehabilitation
Naelcm Ave	Killarney Vale	Wyong Rd	Lucinda Ave	Asphalt Overlay
Stella St	Long Jetty	Tuggerah Pde	The Entrance Rd	Rehabilitation
Tumbi Rd	Wamberal	Currawong Rd	House Number 441	Rehabilitation
Tumbi Rd	Tumbi Umbi	Tesoriero Tce	Roberta St	Rehabilitation
Werrina Pde	Blue Bay	Toowoan Bay Rd	House Number 46	Rehabilitation
Lumeah Ave	Wamberal	Ocean View Dr	Lake View Rd	Rehabilitation
Tuggerah Pde	The Entrance	House Number 64	House Number 70	Asphalt Overlay
Lakedge Ave	Berkeley Vale	Shannon St	House Number 199	Asphalt Overlay
Jilliby Rd	Dooralong	House Number 964	Mandalong Rd	Rehabilitation
Jilliby Rd	Dooralong	House Number 873	House Number 964	Rehabilitation
Yarramalong Rd	Wyong Creek	M1 Overpass	Woodburys Bridge	Rehabilitation
Yarramalong Rd	Wyong Creek	Primary School	House Number 650	Rehabilitation
Tuggerawong Rd	Tuggerawong	Palmer St	House Number 447	Rehabilitation
Hillview St	Woy Woy	Veron Rd	House Number 43	Asphalt Overlay
Hillview St	Woy Woy	House Number 43	Miami Ave	Asphalt Overlay
Barrenjoey Rd	Ettalong	The Esplanade	Barrenjoey Rd	Asphalt Overlay

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

Street Name	Suburb	From	To	Treatment
Patonga Dr	Patonga	Sewer Pump Station	800 metres East	Rehabilitation
Brisk St	Patonga	House Number 3	Bay St	Asphalt Overlay
Brisk St	Patonga	Bay St	Patonga St	Rehabilitation
Brisk St	Patonga	Patonga St	Lagoon Foreshore	Asphalt Overlay
Woy Woy Rd	Woy Woy	Rawson Rd	Rail Underpass	Rehabilitation
White St	East Gosford	York St	Henry Parry Dr	Rehabilitation
Kanangra Dr	Gwandalan	250m south of Summerland Rd	75m north of Summerland Rd	Rehabilitation
Kanangra Dr	Gwandalan	House Number 5	Rosemeadow Dr	Rehabilitation
Kanangra Dr	Gwandalan	Rosemeadow Dr	House Number 75	Rehabilitation
Goorama Ave	San Remo	Pacific Highway	Emu Dr	Rehabilitation
Parraweena Rd	Gwandalan	Kanangra Drive	Goorawin St	Rehabilitation
Natuna Ave	Budgewoi	Natuna Ave	House Number 25	Rehabilitation
Total Road Rehab Program				\$14.87M
Total Asphalt Overlay Program				\$1.18M
Heavy Patch Program				\$1.20M
Road Resealing Program				\$2.15M
Pavement Testing and Design				\$0.60M
Total Additional Road Renewal Program				\$20.0M

In support of the above, Council has developed a new interactive website map which shows the proposed 10 Year Road Renewal Program. This map has been developed using the same platform as Council's interactive capital works map and will show the location of every road renewal project Council is planning for over the next 10 years as well as key information such as the planned year of delivery, extent of work, treatment types and current costs.

The new website maps will allow Council to demonstrate its forward road renewal plans in detail and provide a consistent basis for consultation and communication with internal stakeholders and the community. The map will need to be updated on an annual basis and some change is expected due to the completion of pavement testing and design, associated or adjacent new developments and projects, or to address reactive project priorities e.g. works resulting from Natural Disasters.

It is proposed to release the new website map to internal stakeholders subject to the outcome of this Report, and then to the general public, subject to this Report and following adoption of the Four-Year Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan.

Stakeholder Engagement

The program leverages and responds to recent consultation with the community via the Community Satisfaction Survey. This showed that road network condition remains an issue of high importance and low satisfaction with the community, supporting plans to increase Council's investment in the same.

Specific consultation was also undertaken with the Councillors, and through them the community via online surveys, door knocking and reviews of maintenance and customer enquiries, to determine which roads the community felt were a priority for renewal.

The increase in investment also directly aligns with the Central Coast Regions Key Enabling Projects document which identifies that a \$50 million increase in road renewal funding is required to improve the overall condition of Council's road network, reduce the infrastructure backlog and support the Region's long term asset and financial sustainability.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP will need to be updated in the next review.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP includes an allowance for the ongoing impact.

The proposed additional \$20M capital expenditure can be funded by Council's unrestricted cash. Based on current financial settings and projections Council will continue to hold sufficient funds over the years when this expenditure is being undertaken.

The table below shows the proposed budget phasing of the additional \$20 million Road Renewal Program investment. The phasing of the program has been carefully considered to ensure that there is sufficient time to progressively undertake the pavement testing and design ahead of commencement of any major works.

3.4 10 Year Road Renewal Program (cont'd)

Table 2 – Proposed phasing of the additional \$20 million Road Renewal Program investment

Treatment	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Comments
Heavy Patching	-	\$1.20M	-	-	\$1.20M	Large / localised asphalt patching which improves pavement condition
Road Resealing	-	\$2.15M	-	-	\$2.15M	Heavy patching followed by road resurfacing

Treatment	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Comments
Asphalt Overlay	-	-	\$1.18M		\$1.18M	Milling of the pavement and / or heavy patching following by asphalt resurfacing
Road Rehabilitation	-	-	\$6.77M	\$8.10M	\$14.87M	Pavement stabilisation and reconstruction followed by asphalt resurfacing
Pavement Testing and Design	-	\$250K	\$250K	\$100K	\$600K	A testing and design allocation required to support thin asphalt and rehabilitation projects
Total	-	\$3.60M	\$8.20M	\$8.20M	\$20.00M	

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

R-H1: Solve road and drainage problem areas and partner with the State Government to improve road conditions across the region.

Risk Management

The expanded road renewal program has been carefully developed to ensure that it can be delivered leveraging existing panel contracts and in consideration of available contractor resources. Preliminary discussions have already occurred with key external contractor resources to gauge their capacity and ability to deliver an expanded program.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

The additional \$20 million Road Renewal investment needs to be confirmed at this Council Meeting to ensure that the Delivery Program and 2025-26 Operational Plan can be updated to reflect the intended additional investment prior to public exhibition which is planned in April-May 2025.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 3.5
Title: Strategic Property Acquisition - Coastal Open Space - 2 Toomeys Road, Mount Elliot - LOT 232 DP 755227

Department: Environment and Planning

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00491 - D16726358
Author: Chris Barrett, Commercial Property Manager Commercial Property
Manager: Christie Flippence, Cemeteries Manager Cemeteries
Executive: Jamie Loader, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Authorises Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute a contract for the purchase of property at 2 Toomeys Road Mount Elliot.***
- 2 Authorises funds for the purchase of the property at 2 Toomeys Road Mount Elliot to be allocated from the Coastal Open Space Reserve.***
- 3 Resolves, in accordance with provisions of Section 11(3)) of the Local Government Act 1993, that Attachment 1 remain confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993 as it contains 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 Council.***

Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to ensure that Council can act on a timely basis to secure the purchase of property of high strategic environmental value located at 2 Toomeys Road Mount Elliot. As outlined in the report, the subject property is considered to be of particular importance in terms of ensuring the future integrity of a key component of the coastal open space system.

Executive Summary

An opportunity has arisen to acquire a property at 2 Toomeys Road Mount Elliot via the open market. The property is of high importance for the ongoing integrity of the coastal open space system on the Central Coast. In particular, purchase of this property by Council will help to ensure preservation of the ridgeline of outstanding scenic beauty that runs between the coast itself and the Lisarow valley.

3.5 Strategic Property Acquisition - Coastal Open Space - 2 Toomeys Road, Mount Elliot - LOT 232 DP 755227 (cont'd)

(Attachment 1) has been deemed to be confidential on the basis that it contains 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 Council.

Background

The Coastal Open Space System (COSS) Strategy was established and implemented by the former Gosford City Council in order to ensure that a strategic network comprising high value conservation land could be preserved in coastal areas of the Central Coast that are otherwise subject to significant urban development pressures.

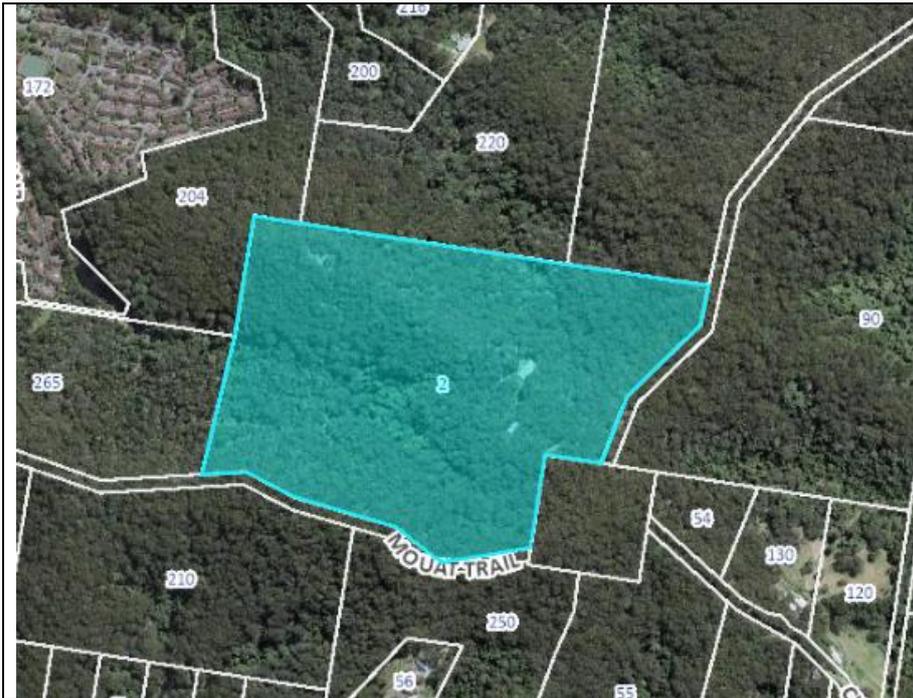
The strategic network includes areas of outstanding natural beauty such as the environs of Mount Elliot, which overlooks both the Lisarow valley and the Matcham/Holgate valley.

Funding for land acquisitions as part of COSS has been generated via development contributions that have been received by Central Coast Council and its predecessor in respect of concessional subdivisions (bonus lots) that relate to land that is included in the current round of Deferred Matters amendments to the Central Coast Local Environment Plan.

Report

The property of interest comprises an elevated lot of 28.83 hectares that is mostly heavily forested land and which is prospectively zoned as a mix of C2 (Environmental Conservation) and C3 (Environmental Management) under currently proposed amendments to the Central Coast Local Environment Plan 2022.

The legal description of the land is Lot 232 in DP 755227. There is a 5-bedroom dwelling house which has substantial garaging and various other improvements on the land. The internal area of the dwelling is about 300 square metres. The house and other improvements are in good condition and together with their immediate curtilage would be eminently rentable.



**Figure One:
2 Toomeys Rd -
general location -
extract from
Council GIS**

Acquisition of the land at 2 Toomeys Road has been of ongoing interest to Council for many years.

Multiple initiatives have been commenced to purchase the property as a whole or alternatively to acquire all of the property other than the land on which the house/outbuildings and their immediate curtilage.

These initiatives have included negotiations with the owners to purchase all of the site in 2011 which ended inconclusively.

Separately, there were negotiations with the owners in 2019 to purchase the balance of the property (i.e. not including the house/improvements and immediate curtilage). On this second occasion, the inability to obtain subdivision consent proved to be a stumbling block and the negotiations were again inconclusive.

Based on what occurred in 2019, purchase of the whole of the site is considered to be the preferred pathway forward, particularly if a suitable opportunity should arise to purchase via the open market. This is the situation at the current time.

The land itself (i.e. the property exclusive of improvements such as the dwelling house) has been most recently valued by the Valuer General for rating purposes at \$1.27 million as of 1 July 2024. This figure is somewhat lower than the previously recorded Valuer General figure of \$1.52 million as of 1 July 2022.

3.5 Strategic Property Acquisition - Coastal Open Space - 2 Toomeys Road, Mount Elliot - LOT 232 DP 755227 (cont'd)

In the current market, and given the diminishing availability of large residential lots in premium settings due to ongoing urban infill, a market value in the vicinity of \$1.5 million would be considered realistic for the land itself on a stand-alone basis (i.e. ignoring the significant improvements on the land).

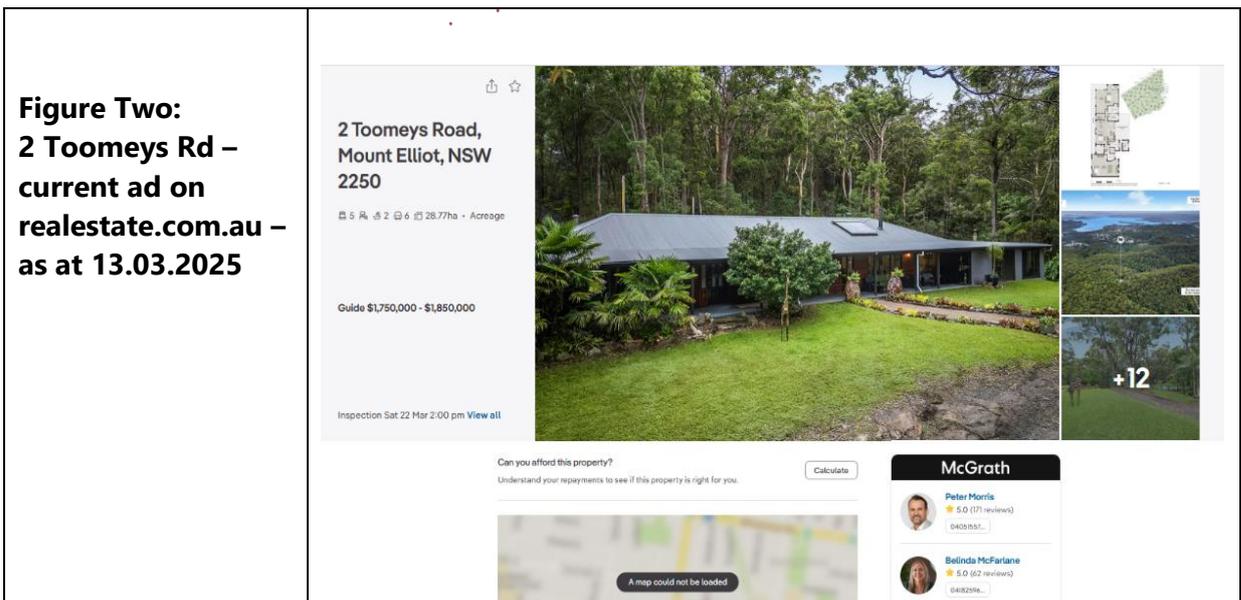
The property (i.e. the combined land and improvements) has been recently placed on the market with a market estimate of \$1.75 million to \$1.85 million plus purchase costs.

This information is publicly available via the realestate.com.au website (see Figure 2).

There has been a significant level of buyer interest and offers in excess of the higher element of the market estimate have already been made. The offers that have been made are receiving active consideration by the owner.

An offer that is commercially competitive would need to be made by Council in order to secure the acquisition.

Further information of a commercially sensitive nature as to what the terms and quantum of this offer should be are provided to councillors in (Confidential Attachment 1) which is circulated separately to this open report.



Stakeholder Engagement

There has been ongoing engagement with internal and external stakeholders in relation to the purchase of this land for more than a decade. Externally, this has included consultations about the need to actively pursue strategic acquisitions with the former COSS working group. Internally, this has included engagement with the Natural Assets and Biodiversity Team, which has advised that this particular site is one of the top five (5) lots of interest in the

3.5 Strategic Property Acquisition - Coastal Open Space - 2 Toomeys Road, Mount Elliot - LOT 232 DP 755227 (cont'd)

schedule of land that has been identified for possible acquisition as part of the COSS strategy.

The strategic importance of this site is emphasised by the fact that nearly all the surrounding land has been acquired by Council or is Crown reserve (see Figure 3) and this land is a key part of the continuous green ridgeline visible from both the coast and the Lisarow valley.



Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal has revenue financial implications for the current FY only.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget does not include funding for this proposal and the amount will need to be included in a future Quarterly Budget Review.

The moneys that are proposed to be spent on this acquisition will be taken from the reserve that was set up for strategic land acquisitions by the former Gosford City Council. This reserve is known as the Coastal Open Space Reserve. The amount of funds that is currently held in this reserve is \$7.3 million.

3.5 Strategic Property Acquisition - Coastal Open Space - 2 Toomeys Road, Mount Elliot - LOT 232 DP 755227 (cont'd)

This acquisition will not impact adversely on other areas of Council operations on an ongoing basis. On the assumption that the house will be retained and leased out on a commercial basis, ongoing annual rental income of about \$45,000 to \$50,000 can be offset against future maintenance obligations associated with ownership of the property. More than likely, because acquisition will allow more integrated management of adjoining land owned/managed by Council, the nett impact of ownership will be neutral to positive from a financial point of view.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

Risk Management

The primary risk associated with this initiative is that it does not proceed and Council is obliged to consider other options in order to ensure the future integrity of coastal open space in this strategic corridor.

Other options to ensure the ongoing integrity of the scenic beauty of the area are potentially more expensive and also may cause inconvenience to an incoming purchaser (as it can be safely assumed that that the property will be sold at this time).

Critical Dates or Timeframes

A decision to proceed with the proposed purchase must be taken at the ordinary meeting on 25 March in order for the proposed purchase to proceed on terms that have been indicated as agreeable to the current owners.

In the event that a decision is not made, it is highly likely that the property will be sold to another prospective purchaser before the following Council meeting.

Attachments

- | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Confidential attachment - Report - Strategic acquisition - Number 2 Toomeys Road Mount Elliot | Provided Under Separate Cover | D16729069 |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|-----------|



Item No: 3.6
Title: Gosford Regional Library Project Status Update
Department: Infrastructure Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: PROJ/24215-03 - D16645060
Author: Mark Butterfield, Project Manager
Manager: Beth Burgess, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That Council notes the progress on the Gosford Regional Library outlined in this report.

Report purpose

To provide information to Council on the progress of the Gosford Regional Library project.

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the progress of the Gosford Regional Library project for the last three (3) months, to 28 February 2025.

Background

At the 26 September 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, the following was resolved:

158/23 Resolved

- 1 That Council notes that a contract for the Design Development and Construction of Gosford Regional Library has been entered into with North Construction & Building Pty Ltd, in accordance with Resolution 104/23.*
- 2 That Council notes Attachment 1, which details progress on the Gosford Regional Library project.*
- 3 That Council notes that, in accordance with the Office of Local Government, further reports will be provided to Council every quarter to inform Council on the following items for the Regional Library project:*
 - The project's progress.*
 - Costs and budget variances*

- *Any issue that may have an adverse impact on the project, both monetary and non-monetary*

This report contains detail on the progress made last quarter on the construction of Gosford Regional Library (Library).

Report

As of 28 February 2025, the total expenditure for the project is \$18,405,455 against a total budget of \$32.7M.

The structural steel installation on level 3 is complete and roofing works are nearing completion. Northern façade works are underway. Ground floor, level 1, and level 2 internal works are progressing.

The Practical Completion date for the construction of the building drives the projected opening date for the Library. The current projected timeframe for opening the Library is mid-2025.

Project risks are being controlled using a Risk Management Plan and Risk Register, which is regularly reviewed and actioned by the Project Management Group.

The reporting milestones for the Community Development Grants Programme grant for the library project have been updated for the Library's delivery timeline and accepted by the Federal Funding Body.

The progress report for the next quarter will be reported to Council in June 2025.

Progress of Works

North Construction and Building Pty Ltd (North) has completed the following works as of 28 February 2024:

- Completion of the structure (concrete and steel)
- Commencement of interior services fitout

North plans the following works for next quarter:

- Complete exterior façade
- Complete interior fitout
- Commence landscaping
- Commence commissioning and testing

Current Open Contracts

The following contracts are open for the Library project:

- CPA/3691 – Design Development and Construction of Gosford Regional Library
- CPA/5849 – Supply and Installation of Compactus

Stakeholder Engagement

Regular consultation has taken place with external stakeholders throughout the process including the surrounding business and neighbours.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications

The proposal has cost financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal and the LTFP includes funding for the ongoing impact.

The project will continue into the 2025-26 financial year and committed funds will be carried over. Whilst the library is slated to open to the public in mid-2025, final transactions for the completion of the project will be realized in the following months. Current performance against project budget is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Financial Performance to 28 February 2025

Central Coast Council*									
Natural Account Details									
For Period Feb 25									
Feb 25 Actuals									
Natural Account	2024/25 This Period Actuals	2024/25 This Period Budgets	2024/25 This Period Variance	2024/25 YTD Actuals	2024/25 YTD Budgets	2023/24 YTD Variance	2024/25 Full Year Budget	2023/24 Current Encumbra nce	YTD Act % YTD Bud
24215. Gosford Regional Library and Innovation Hub									
270002. WIP Labour	10,193	0	(10,193)	84,445	0	(84,445)	0	0	
270003. WIP Labour Hire	0	0	0	0		0		0	
270004. WIP Internal Expense - Plant and Fleet Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
270007. WIP Materials and Contracts	1,455,410	1,180,859	(274,551)	9,019,173	8,856,006	(163,167)	22,176,457	14,109,078	
270011. WIP Labour - Overtime	28		(28)	970		(970)			
270012. WIP Oncost - Leave and Super	3,924	0	(3,924)	32,511	0	(32,511)	0	0	
Total 24215. Gosford Regional Library and Innovation Hub	1,469,556	1,180,859	(288,697)	9,137,099	8,856,006	(281,093)	22,176,457	14,109,078	103.2%
Grant Revenue									
760020. Capital Grants - Library	0	0	0	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	0	(2,450,000)	0	100.0%
Actuals for 19-20, 20-21, 21-22, 22-23 & 23-24 at 28 Feb 25									
Natural Account	2019/20 Full Year Actuals	2020/21 Full Year Actuals	2021/22 Full Year Actuals	2022/23 Full Year Actuals	2023/24 Full Year Actuals	2024/25 YTD Actuals	Total Cost as at 28th Feb 25		
24215. Gosford Regional Library and Innovation Hub									
270002. WIP Labour	30,401	81,108	65,518	62,805	150,889	84,445	475,166		
270003. WIP Labour Hire			294	0	0	0	294		
270004. WIP Internal Expense - Plant and Fleet Hire		17	0	0	0	0	17		
270007. WIP Materials and Contracts	140,930	588,783	681,375	908,924	6,468,820	9,019,173	17,808,006		
270011. WIP Labour - Overtime				1,151	1,683	970	3,803		
270012. WIP Oncost - Leave and Super	0	0	5,271	22,296	58,091	32,511	118,169		
Total 24215. Gosford Regional Library and Innovation Hub	171,331	669,908	752,458	995,176	6,679,484	9,137,099	18,405,455		

3.6 Gosford Regional Library Project Status Update (cont'd)

The library is partially funded from Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications through a Community Development Grants programme grant of \$7M. The funding agreement for this grant requires regular reporting as detailed in the funding deed.

Funding sources for the revised budget of \$32.7M are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Funding Sources for Gosford Regional Library Building

Funding Sources	Amount	Restriction Type
Council Special Levy	11,569,666	131025 Internal Restrictions (Regional Library)
Federal Government Grant	7,000,000	Grants Received
Developer Contributions	9,487,656	s. 7.12 Developer Contributions
Internal Restriction	4,642,678	131041 - Internal Restriction (Strategic Priorities)
Total	32,700,000	

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Liveable

Choose Focus Area

L-L3: Cultivate a love of learning and knowledge by providing facilities to support lifelong learning.

Risk Management

Council implemented a risk management plan and associated risk register to capture and monitor risks and implement appropriate risk controls for the Library project when required.

The project's Risk Management Plan defines the requirements for the identification, management, escalation, and report of risks identified for all phases of the project. The outcomes of this plan are to:

- Ensure all relevant potential project risks are identified,
- Develop risk mitigation measures,
- Identify the governance structure by which risks are monitored and mitigation measures implemented,
- Detail specific risk management and reporting requirements, at project team and Project Control Group levels.

The project's risk register is the document in which project risks are identified; uncontrolled risk ratings identified for various categories; controls documented; and controlled risk rating identified.

The risk register is used to capture risks identified and associated mitigation measures developed as outcomes of the implementation of the Risk Management Plan.

One (1) risk that may have a material adverse impact on the project, either monetary or non-monetary, was identified in this reporting quarter. This risk was:

- Authority approval delays (Ausgrid assets)

Council is negotiating the terms of two (2) easements required for two Ausgrid pillar boxes, proposed by Ausgrid for installation inside the Library's Lot. These pillar boxes will replace two existing boxes that are located too close to the Library's Lot boundary. The pillar boxes are an Ausgrid asset that distribute electricity from Ausgrid's network to neighbouring buildings.

The terms of the easements must be agreed before the pillar boxes can be installed and the old boxes removed. Progress on the landscaping and public works elements of the Library's construction may be delayed if there are delays finalising the easements. These delays may ultimately affect the current planned time frame for the Library's opening.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Delivery timeframes for the library project are heavily influenced by the performance of contract CPA/3691, as delivery of this contract makes up the bulk of activities required to open the new building.

At this stage of the project's delivery phase, four – six weeks are estimated post Practical Completion for completion of Council's change management and transition projects from existing facilities to the new building. This estimate is subject to change as the scope of these projects are developed and CPA/3691 progresses.

The projected timeframe of the Library Opening is mid-2025.

Attachments

Nil

Item No: 3.7
Title: Review Committee - Current Library Building -
Minutes and Recommendations February 2025
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16716605



Due notice is given of this matter in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

The report and any relevant attachments will be provided prior to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March 2025.



Item No: 3.8
Title: Economic Development Committee - Minutes
February 2025
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16713068
Author: Briony Stiles, Team Leader Civic Support
Manager: Louise Rampling, Unit Manager Governance Risk and Legal
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held in March 2025.

Report purpose

To provide minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting.

Executive Summary

The Economic Development Committee met on 4 March 2025. Minutes of the meeting are provided for the information of Council.

Report

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4 March 2025 are reported for the information of Council. The following minutes have been approved by the Committee Coordinator and will be reported to the Committee for confirmation at the next scheduled meeting:

[Economic Development Committee - Tuesday 4 March 2025](#)

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making.

Risk Management

Nil

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Nil

Attachments

Nil



Item No: 3.9
Title: Proposed Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule - July to December 2025
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16569410
Author: Briony Stiles, Team Leader Civic Support
Manager: Louise Rampling, Unit Manager Governance Risk and Legal
Executive: Marissa Racomelara, Director Corporate Services

Recommendation

That Council determines to hold Ordinary Meetings of Council at the Wyong Administration Centre, or the Gosford Regional Library, at 6.30pm, on the following dates:

- ***22 July 2025***
- ***26 August 2025***
- ***23 September 2025***
- ***28 October 2025***
- ***25 November 2025***
- ***9 December 2025***

Report purpose

This report is to confirm the date, time and place for holding Ordinary Council Meetings during the second half of 2025.

Executive Summary

Council is required to meet at least ten times per year, each time in a different month. The Code of Meeting Practice requires Council to set the frequency, time, date and place of its Ordinary Meetings by resolution.

Background

Section 365 of the [Local Government Act 1993](#) (the Act) provides that Council must meet at least ten times per year, with each meeting being in a different month.

3.9 Proposed Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule - July to December 2025 (cont'd)

Clause 5.1 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice states:

Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the months of January to November inclusive and on the second Tuesday of the month of December at 2 Hely Street, Wyong commencing at 6.30 PM.

Clause 5.2 of the Code requires Council to set or vary the frequency, time, date and place of its Ordinary Meetings by resolution.

On 29 October 2024, Council resolved the dates and times for Ordinary Meetings from January to June 2025 as follows:

That Council:

1/24 Determines to hold Ordinary Meetings of Council at 2 Hely Street, Wyong commencing at 6:30pm, on each of the following dates in 2025:

- 25 February 2025*
- 25 March 2025*
- 29 April 2025*
- 27 May 2025*
- 24 June 2025*

2/24 That Council note the desire to hold some Council Meetings at the Gosford Regional Library once it is opened.

3/24 That Council consider whether it holds a meeting in January at the next Council Meeting.

On 25 February 2025, Council resolved to vary the above ordinary meeting schedule by replacing "24 June 2025" with "23 June 2025", to facilitate the Mayor's attendance at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly and Regional Cooperation and Development Forum from 24 to 27 June 2025.

Report

It is anticipated that the new Gosford Regional Library will be opened in the middle of the year. Therefore a meeting at this location could occur from the October meeting to enable sufficient time to commission and test equipment.

3.9 Proposed Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule - July to December 2025 (cont'd)

It is proposed that Ordinary Council Meetings be held during the second half of 2025 as follows, with councillors to determine the preferred location for each meeting:

Date	Day	Time	Location
22 July 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong
26 August 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong
23 September 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong
28 October 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong / Gosford Regional Library
25 November 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong / Gosford Regional Library
9 December 2025	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2 Hely Street, Wyong / Gosford Regional Library

Subsequent changes to the arrangements for Ordinary Meetings can be made via Council resolution.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal has cost financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

Funding to support the proposed scheduling of Ordinary Council Meetings is included in the existing operational budget.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making.

**3.9 Proposed Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule - July to December 2025
(cont'd)**

Risk Management

Council meetings provide an open and transparent public forum where the decisions of Council are made. Setting the schedule for Ordinary Council Meetings in advance provides the community with certainty and the opportunity for engagement.

Attachments

Nil

Item No: 3.10
Title: Draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy - For public exhibition
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2022/02582 - D16716992



Due notice is given of this matter in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

The report and any relevant attachments will be provided prior to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March 2025.



Item No: 3.11
Title: Draft Community Engagement Strategy - For Adoption
Department: Community and Recreation Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2015/00319 - D16580868
Author: Sheree Gover, Section Manager Communications Engagement and Digital Marketing
Manager: Nicole Jenkins, Executive Officer Performance and Communications

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Endorses the proposed improvements to engagement planning and activities based on community feedback received during the public exhibition of the draft Community Engagement Strategy including Community Participation Plan 2024-28 as per Attachment 1.**

- 2 Adopts the draft Community Engagement Strategy including the Community Participation Plan 2024-28 as per Attachment 2.**

Report purpose

To present the Engagement Evaluation and Key Findings Report of the draft Community Engagement Strategy's public exhibition and market research, and to adopt the draft Community Engagement Strategy that includes the Community Participation Plan 2024-28.

Executive Summary

In 2021, the *Local Government Act 1993* was amended to include Section 402A, which requires councils to establish and implement a four-year engagement strategy called its 'Community Engagement Strategy' (The Strategy). The Strategy must form part of Council's IP&R Framework and include mandatory requirements in accordance with the legislation. Additionally, the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) has provided standards and recommended inclusions to consider when developing the Community Engagement Strategy.

Following community feedback through the public exhibition and market research this proposed document will replace two (2) separate documents currently used to guide engagement at Council; the Engagement Framework, which guides all engagement, and the Community Participation Plan, which specifically outlines engagement requirements for planning matters.

Background

Central Coast Council carries out community engagement on key projects, initiatives, policies, strategies and plans to ensure a balanced and collaborative decision-making process between the community and Council is achieved.

The Community Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) outlines Council's approach to engaging with the community and stakeholders. It meets Council's statutory obligations and provides transparency and clarity for the community and all stakeholders so that they can understand their role in the decision-making process.

The Community Participation Plan has been incorporated into, and combined with, the final draft Community Engagement Strategy. Under both the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) there are provisions for the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan to be within one (1) document.

Previously, three (3) adopted documents used by Council to guide our approach to community engagement were:

- Central Coast Council Engagement Framework,
- Central Coast Council Community Participation Plan,
- Central Coast Water and Sewer Community Engagement and Education Strategy.

Water and Sewer Community Engagement and Education Strategy will remain a stand-alone document and is not subject to the recommendations of this report.

The proposed Strategy will form part of Council's IP&R Framework and includes the mandatory requirements as outlined in the legislation.

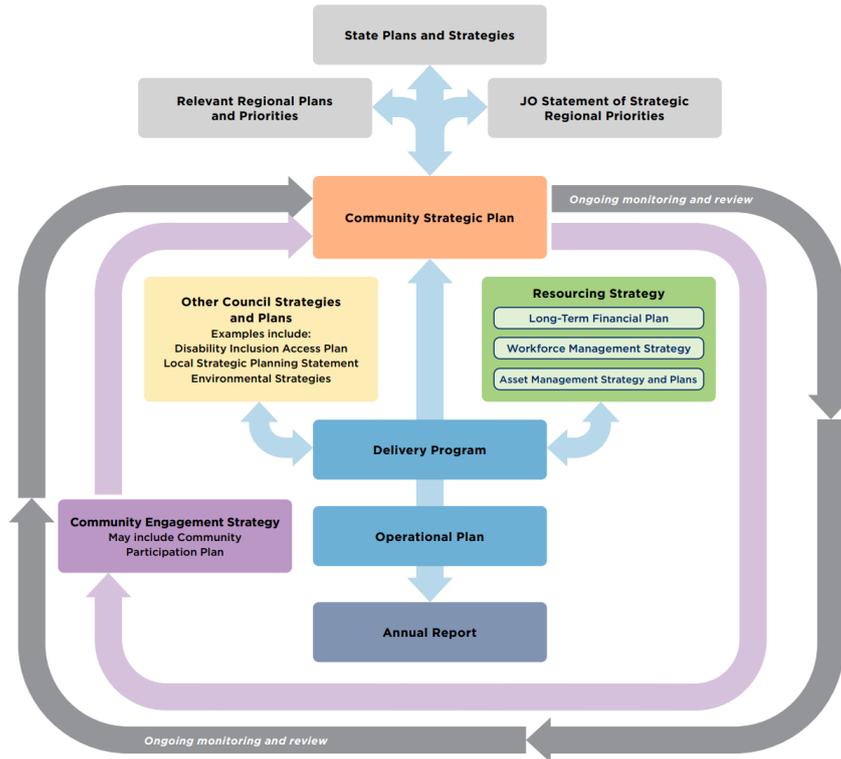


Figure 1. The IP&R framework, showing how the Community Engagement Strategy encompasses the entire IP&R process, and reflecting how engagement extends to all aspects of council engagement.

At its Ordinary Council meeting, held Tuesday 25 June 2024 Council resolved the following:

- 211/24 Notes the changes to the Local Government Act 1993 Section 402A, which requires councils to establish and implement a four-year engagement strategy (called 'Community Engagement Strategy') and which forms part of Council's IP&R Framework.
- 212/24 Places the draft Community Engagement Strategy (including Community Participation Plan) (Attachment 1) on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.
- 213/24 Carries out engagement activities in relation to the draft strategy, including, but not limited to:
- a) Public exhibition
 - b) Market research and conversations with targeted stakeholder groups to understand barriers to participation.

Following completion of Community Consultation including Public Exhibition, the draft Community Engagement Strategy was presented at the Ordinary Council meeting, Tuesday 10 December 2024. At this meeting Council resolved the following:

- 521/24 *That the draft Community Engagement Strategy be deferred to the February 2025 meeting for finalisation.*
- 522/24 *That the CEO conduct place-based engagement activities in each ward in the first half of 2025 and before finalisation of the Operational Plan 2025-26 and including consultation on the Local Strategic Planning Statement and Community Strategic Plan.*
- 523/24 *That a workshop is organised for Councillors prior to the February meeting.*

Progress on resolutions 522/24 and 523/24:

1. Planning is underway for place-based engagement activities in each ward in the first half of 2025.
2. A Councillor workshop was undertaken on Tuesday 11 February 2025. Updates to the draft Community Engagement Strategy from this workshop included:
 - a) New page outlining Councillor's role in Community Engagement.
 - b) Message from the Chief Executive Officer be replaced with Message from Central Coast Councillors.
 - c) The section, Our Commitment to place-based engagement.
Replace the two (2) paragraphs that starts "From time to time, we engage in targeted geographical areas, or 'places'", with "Where possible and appropriate, we will endeavour to undertake place-based engagement.
 - d) Include a page including all Councillors photos and contact details.

Report

Council commenced consultation on the Strategy through a public exhibition and market research process that was undertaken for a period of eight (8) weeks from Tuesday 30 July until Monday 30 September 2024.

A range of resources were developed to support and promote the public exhibition and consultation of the draft Strategy noted below and details are included in (Attachment 1):

Summary of key findings from the public exhibition and market research:

- As a whole, over 90% of the community believe engagement and an engagement strategy is important,

3.11 Draft Community Engagement Strategy - For Adoption (cont'd)

- More than half of online respondents and just under half of phone research respondents are 'satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with Council communications,
- An overwhelming number of respondents (94%) agreed place-based engagement is important,
- Awareness and time constraints are cited as the primary barriers to participation,
- Effective engagement needs to be multimodal, a mix of face to face and digital options will need to be provided in order to reach the widest population,
- Messaging needs to be relevant, simple to understand, and provide a clear call to action,
- Council needs to ensure engagement opportunities are accessible to all,
- When it comes to specific topics or issues, Central Coast residents are most interested in hearing from Council about:
 - Roads and footpaths management,
 - Long-term planning,
 - Recreational facilities, parks/reserves/playgrounds, and
 - Large scale residential development.

Specific feedback provided:

Across the public exhibition and market research activities there was widespread approval of the strategy, many respondents agree that the strategy is comprehensive and covers key areas, but there are concerns about its implementation in practice and others made further suggestions to incorporate into future engagement and approaches to planning engagement activities.

This feedback included:

- Longevity of planning: There is concern about the continuity of community planning efforts, particularly the potential for plans to be scrapped with changes in government, leading to wasted resources. Respondents want assurances for the long-term sustainability of plans,
- Integration with broader strategies: Positive feedback highlights integration with related initiatives such as the Open Space and Greening Spaces Strategies,
- Call for area-specific planning: Some suggest that planning processes should be more localised, involving the community in both design and delivery of projects, which could foster stronger engagement,

3.11 Draft Community Engagement Strategy - For Adoption (cont'd)

- Transparency and accessibility in development planning: Strong desire for more transparent communication, particularly regarding development proposals. People prefer receiving information through letters or more accessible website navigation rather than having to search laboriously online,
- Youth and disability engagement: The need for more inclusive spaces for youth, particularly youth hubs, and a stronger focus on accessibility for those with disabilities is highlighted. Some feel that the strategy lacks enough representation from people with lived experiences of disability and suggest more meaningful engagement of advocacy groups,
- Criticism of current engagement practices: Some feedback referred to these as tokenistic or insufficient engagement methods, with concerns that feedback from small groups or limited responses might disproportionately influence decisions. There are also calls for better face-to-face contact and more proactive engagement with the community,
- Accountability and staff culture: Some respondents express dissatisfaction with Council staff culture and transparency, particularly in relation to the management of development and environmental issues,
- Call for more diverse representation: Several comments suggest that the engagement process did not adequately represent full-time workers, certain demographic groups, or people with disabilities, calling for more inclusive participation in developing the strategy.

Proposed improvements

The draft Community Engagement Strategy (2024-2028) be adopted as part of the IP&R framework for Central Coast Council and feedback gathered throughout the public exhibition and market research, will be implemented into the engagement program and activities:

- Timing and constraints in participation to be considered in planning stages,
- Short and concise surveys to be utilised as much as possible,
- Multimodal activities considered for all engagement,
- A First Nations Engagement Strategy,
- Develop and publish as 'Plain English' version of the Community Engagement Strategy to support accessibility,
- Consider place-based engagement activities in the engagement programs,
- Increase in face-to-face engagement activities,

3.11 Draft Community Engagement Strategy - For Adoption (cont'd)

- Increase accessibility options and expansion of diverse voices in engagement activities,
- Ensure wide promotion of engagement opportunities.

A separate project will be required for the First Nations Engagement Strategy, this will require specialised expertise to assist Council in undertaking a co-design engagement process with all representative local groups. Budget will be required for this additional project work.

Stakeholder Engagement

There has been extensive consultation undertaken during the Strategy development, and with the draft version through a public exhibition and market research process. Engagement included activities such as face to face pop-ups, staff workshops, targeted market research, phone surveys as well as online surveys (hosted on Your Voice Our Coast). During the development of the Strategy, and in the engagement activities, Council sought to reach diverse communities.

Stage One consultation involved:

- 16 internal stakeholder meetings,
- 1,952 responses to Council's Wellbeing Survey with specific questions in relation to engagement,
- Presentation to the Executive Leadership Team.

Stage Two public exhibition/ and market research of the draft Community Engagement Strategy included:

- 234 responses to the online survey,
- 1900 people had an opportunity to engage at pop-up engagement activities such as Sustainability Future Festival and the Outdoor Movie Series,
- 402 residents undertook a 14-minute market research phone interviews.

Overall, the opportunity to engage was presented to the community on over 20,000 occasions. Approximately 1,900 community members also had the opportunity to engage in person. Over 2,600 contributions were received across both stages.

Councillors had the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategy at an induction session on Saturday 19 October 2024 and at a Councillor workshop on Tuesday 11 February 2025.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year but impacts outer years in the LTFP. The LTFP includes an allowance for the ongoing impact.

The strategy recommends a First Nations Engagement Strategy and specialist expertise and consultation activities will be required for its development.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Choose Focus Area

R-G2: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making.

Risk Management

If the draft Strategy is not adopted, Council may fail to meet legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act* and the *EP&A Act*, that:

- The Strategy must be reviewed within 3 months of the Local Government elections,
- Consistent with *clause 2.24(1)* of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, once Council has endorsed the strategy, it will be published on the NSW Planning Portal.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

The Strategy must be reviewed within three (3) months of the local government elections.

Attachments

1	Community Engagement Strategy - Engagement	Provided Under	D16515628
	Evaluation and Key Findings Report October 2024	Separate Cover	
2	Community Engagement Strategy including	Provided Under	D16688159
	Community Participation Plan 2024-2028	Separate Cover	



Item No: 3.12
Title: Local Planning Panel Submissions Policy 2025 - for Public Exhibition
Department: Environment and Planning

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16651159
Author: Andrew Roach, Unit Manager Development Assessment
Executive: Jamie Loader, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1** ***Endorses the draft Development Application Submissions Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.***
- 2** ***Requests that the CEO, in conjunction with the public exhibition, provide the draft Development Application Submissions Policy to the Secretary of the Department of Planning Housing & Infrastructure for approval.***
- 3** ***Requests that the CEO, following public exhibition and consultation with the Secretary of the Department, report back to Council the outcomes of the exhibition and consultation process, and present the final version of the Policy for adoption.***

Report purpose

To present a draft 'Development Application Submissions Policy' to Council for consideration.

Executive Summary

The draft 'Development Application Submissions Policy' has the effect of increasing the number of unique submissions by way of objection required to trigger a Development Application being referred to the Central Coast Local Planning Panel for determination. The current submissions threshold is 10 unique submissions, the draft Policy aims to raise that to 20 unique submissions.

Background

The Central Coast Local Planning Panel was constituted via resolution at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 11 May 2020, following amendments to the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation* that required such a Panel to be formed. The Panel consider a range of Development Applications, and provide advice on other planning matters, such as Planning Proposals.

3.12 Local Planning Panel Submissions Policy 2025 - for Public Exhibition (cont'd)

One of the criteria for referral of Development Applications to the Central Coast Local Planning Panel is 'contentious development' which includes Development Applications subject to a pre-determined number of unique submissions by way of objection. The current threshold is 10 submissions, as set out in Ministerial Directions. The Ministerial Directions allow Council to adopt a different submissions trigger, by adopting a 'Development Application Submissions Policy'.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 November 2024 Council resolved:

- 488/24 That Council adopts a Submissions Policy of 20 unique submissions as the trigger for referral of Development Applications to the Local Planning Panel.*

- 489/24 That this policy be submitted to the Department of Planning for approval.*

Report

The criteria for Development Applications to be referred to the Central Coast Local Planning Panel are set out in Ministerial Directions titled 'Local Planning Panels Direction – Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents' (dated 6 May 2024). One of the criteria for referral is 'contentious development' which includes Development Applications subject to a pre-determined number of unique written submissions by way of objection.

The Ministerial Directions set a threshold of 10 unique submissions by way of objection in order to trigger the referral of a Development Application to the Central Coast Local Planning Panel. However, Part 2(a) of Schedule 2 the Ministerial Directions also set out that Council may endorse a 'Development Application Submissions Policy' to provide an alternate number of unique submissions that must be received during the notification period to trigger determination of a Development Application by the Local Planning Panel. That Policy must be approved by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The draft 'Development Application Submissions Policy' (Attachment 1) has the effect of increasing the number of unique submissions by way of objection to 20 submissions.

The draft Policy will not reduce the consideration of matters raised in community submission to Development Applications. In accordance with Section 4.15(1)(d) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, all submissions received to a development application during the notification process must be considered during the assessment of the application, regardless of the determination pathway.

3.12 Local Planning Panel Submissions Policy 2025 - for Public Exhibition (cont'd)

Stakeholder Engagement

The proposed recommendation includes a public notification period of not less than 28 days and consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Planning Housing & Infrastructure. The outcomes of that consultation will be reported back to Council in due course.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications.

The proposal does not have financial implications for the current year or outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

R-12: Ensure all new developments are well planned with good access to public transport, green space and community facilities and support active transport.

Risk Management

There are minimal risks associated with the proposed Policy. The Policy does not propose any change to processes or procedures, other than altering the submission criteria for referral of Development Applications to the Central Coast Local Planning Panel. The impact will be to slightly reduce the number of applications that are referred to the Panel, and therefore slightly increase the number of applications determined by Council staff under delegation.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

There are no critical dates or timeframes.

Attachments

1	D16715328 Attachment 1 - Local Planning Panel Submissions Policy March 2025(4)	Provided Under Separate Cover	D16728399
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Item No: 3.13
Title: Administrator and Councillor Expenses and
Facilities Report - 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024
Department: Corporate Services

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16608963



Due notice is given of this matter in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

The report and any relevant attachments will be provided prior to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March 2025.

Item No: 3.14
Title: Community Support Grant Program January 2025
Department: Community and Recreation Services



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2017/02117-002 - D16676944
Author: Belinda McRobie, Manager Community Development
Executive: Melanie Smith, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Allocates \$18,926.41 (inclusive of GST where applicable) from the 2024-25 grants budget to the Community Support Grant program for the month of January as outlined below and in Attachment 1.**
 - a) Tuggerah Rural Fire Brigade - Firefighting & Support Equipment - \$4,963.17**
 - b) Brisbane Water Paddlers Incorporated - Council Fee Relief - \$342.65**
 - c) Rotary Club of Erina Incorporated - Central Coast 2025 Heat of Australian National Busking Championship - \$4,978.44**
 - d) East Gosford Community Garden Incorporated - Community Garden Safety, Maintenance, and Inclusiveness - \$3,700.00**
 - e) Toukley Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated -2025 Reconciliation Week Event - \$2,900.00**
 - f) Tuggerah Lakes Art Society Incorporated - 2025 Women in Art Exhibition - \$2,042.15**

- 2 Declines the following applications, for the reasons indicated in Attachment 1:**
 - a) Dooralong Rural Fire Brigade – Brigade Lockers - Insufficient information provided to make an accurate assessment.**
 - b) Narara Eco Living Network Incorporated - Insufficient information provided to make an accurate assessment.**
 - c) Lucy Grech - Sweet Honey - Building hives - applicant is ineligible.**

- 3 Advises the unsuccessful applicants in point 2 (above) and direct them to alternate funding sources if relevant.**

Report purpose

To seek endorsement of the recommendations for the Community Support Grant Program for the month of January 2025.

Executive Summary

This report considers the applications and recommendations for the Community Support Grant Program. The Community Support Grant Program remains open throughout the year to provide assistance for community activities that require in-kind support through the provision of subsidised access to Council services and financial assistance for community activities that require a small amount of support.

This program enables applicants to apply for funding support in a faster response time.

Background

Council's grant programs are provided to support the community to deliver quality programs, projects or events that build connections, celebrate our local community, and align with the One-Central Coast Community Strategic Plan and build capacity across the entire Central Coast community.

The Community Support Grant Program is provided to support the community to deliver activities which require a small amount of funding and/or in-kind support. The Community Support Grant Program provides assistance for community activities that require:

- In-kind support through the provision of subsidised access to Council services.
- Financial assistance for community activities that require a small amount of support. The Community Support Grant Program provides a combined original budget of \$300,000 annually as detailed in Table 1 below.

3.14 Community Support Grant Program January 2025 (cont'd)

Table 1: Community Support Grant Program

Program	Original Budget	Adopted budget	2024-25 allocation to date (inclusive of GST where applicable)	Recommendation allocation within this report (Inclusive of GST where applicable)	Allocation to date + Recommendation within report (Inclusive of GST where applicable)
Community Support Grant Program	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$150,305.01	\$18,926.41	\$169,231.42
TOTAL			\$150,305.01	\$18,926.41	\$169,231.42

Current Status

Applications submitted from 1 January - 31 January are considered in this report. The Community Support Grant Program provides up to \$5,000 per project per financial year in combined funding and in-kind Council services to applicants who are a legally constituted not-for profit organisations, or auspiced by one.

Assessment

A total of nine (9) applications were received and assessed by 10 February 2025, with six (6) applications recommended for funding in this Council report. Three (3) applications are not recommended for funding.

Of the three (3) applications not recommended for funding, one (1) is ineligible, and two (2) do not contain sufficient information to make an accurate assessment. All applicants will be advised to discuss their proposal further with Council's Grants Officers prior to resubmission in a future round.

Council's Unit Manager Community and Culture, Section Manager Community Development and the Community Grants Team assessed the Community Support Grant program applications, against the Community Support Grant Program guidelines.

Stakeholder Engagement

Information on Council's Community Grants program is provided on Council's website and promoted through Council's social media platforms.

Regular emails with relevant information were provided to the community grants database.

Council staff conducted three (3) grant writing workshops with thirty-seven attendees and four (4) grant information sessions with sixty-six attendees. Additionally, Council staff also undertook two (2) drop-in support sessions with twelve attendees to assist applicants with their submissions where required.

Financial Considerations

Financial Year (FY) Implications

The proposal has cost financial implications for the current FY and outer years in the LTFP.

Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Impact.

The FY adopted budget includes funding for this proposal and the LTFP includes funding for the ongoing impact.

Council's 2024-25 Operational Expenditure original budget allocates \$300,000 to the Community Support Grant Program.

Expenditure is approved until the end of the 2024-25 financial year. Budget funds will expire at the end of each financial year.

No additional budget is required nor sought through this report. All actions within have been funded through existing and approved operational plan budgets.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 1: Belonging

Goal B: Creativity, connection and local identity

B-A1: Work within our communities to connect people, build capacity and create local solutions and initiatives.

Risk Management

All successful applications will receive a letter of offer outlining Council's requirements of funding, service delivery and accountability for both Council and the funded organisation.

Applications recommended for funding are conditional on all relevant event/activity approvals being provided prior to the release of funds, and successful applicants are required to return any unspent funds for projects not able to be delivered as planned.

All successful applicants are required to submit a final project acquittal report no later than twelve weeks after the agreed completion date of the activity/project with copies of any photos, promotional materials, and evidence of payment/purchase for each funded item.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Many of these grant applications are dependent upon support via Council's grant program. Should decisions be delayed or not supported projects may not be undertaken.

Attachments

1	Community Support Grant Program - January 2025	Provided Under	D16678753
	- Recommended and Not Recommended	Separate Cover	



Item No: 4.1
Title: Rescission Motion: Entry into aviation services lease for a helicopter hub over part of Central Coast Airport (Warnervale)
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2024/00015 - D16577304
Author: Councillor Corinne Lamont

Council, at the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2024, gave consideration to a report regarding Entry into aviation services lease for a helicopter hub over part of Central Coast Airport (Warnervale).

At that meeting, Council resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 463/24 *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, as a matter of urgency, to negotiate, finalise and execute an aviation services lease for a helicopter hub over part of Central Coast Airport at Warnervale with parties represented by Nighthawks Aviation (ABN 15 634 085 68).*
- 464/24 *Requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide a further report to Council in the event that a suitable lease cannot be finalised for any reason.*
- 465/24 *At least 15 days prior to the Chief Executive Officer executing any lease, he provides a copy of such lease to the Council, and a summary due diligence report.*

A Rescission Motion has been received from Councillor Corinne Lamont to be moved at the Ordinary Council Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, as follows:

"MOVE that the following resolution carried at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 November 2024 be rescinded:

- ***463/24 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, as a matter of urgency, to negotiate, finalise and execute an aviation services lease for a helicopter hub over part of Central Coast Airport at Warnervale with parties represented by Nighthawks Aviation (ABN 15 634 085 68).***
- ***464/24 Requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide a further report to Council in the event that a suitable lease cannot be finalised for any reason.***

4.1 Rescission Motion: Entry into aviation services lease for a helicopter hub over part of Central Coast Airport (Warnervale) (cont'd)

- **465/24 At least 15 days prior to the Chief Executive Officer executing any lease, he provides a copy of such lease to the Council, and a summary due diligence report.**

Should the above Rescission Motion be carried, further notice is given that I will move the following motion:

That Council:

- 1 Investigates multiple scenarios for the sale of the Council owned land known as Warnervale airport, including change of use options, in order to return the best value proposition for the Central Coast community.***
- 2 As part of this process, Council conducts a cost benefit and distributional analysis on sale options, provide detailed financial inputs, forecasts, and assumptions related to different scenarios and ensure that all working documents, are accessible to Councillors for review. A comprehensive risk and benefit analysis should be provided for each model, focusing on financial, operational, and community impacts.***

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 4.2
Title: Rescission Motion - Amendment to Councillor Notice of Motion Limits
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16734756
Author: Councillor Corinne Lamont

Council, at the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 March 2025 gave consideration to a report regarding Removal of the limit on Notice of Motions at each Council meeting.

At that meeting, Council considered the motion as follows:

That Council:

- 1 *Amends the adopted Code of Meeting Practice to remove the restriction limiting Councillors to one Notice of Motion (NoM) per Ordinary Council Meeting as per the processes set out in the legislation.*
- 2 *Allows Councillors to submit multiple NoMs per meeting, provided they comply with the established rules and procedures for submitting NoMs, including deadlines and content requirements.*
- 3 *Ensures that meeting agendas continue to be managed effectively to maintain meeting efficiency and ensure that all Councillor's motions are given adequate time for discussion.*
- 4 *Allows 2 questions with Notice per meeting per Councillor*

FOR: Crs MacGregor, Castles, Crowley, Walsh, Neal, Smith and Lamont

AGAINST: Crs McKinna, Mouland, Daniels, Eaton OAM, Stanton, Wright and McWaide

The Motion was put to the vote and declared LOST on the casting vote of the Mayor.

A Motion has been received from Councillor Lamont to be moved at the Ordinary Council Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, as follows:

That Council:

- 1 Removes the current restriction that limits Councillors to submitting only one Notice of Motion (NoM) per meeting.***
- 2 Implements a process whereby:***
 - a) If the number of NoMs submitted exceeds 15, the first NoM submitted by each Councillor will be accepted on to the Business paper***

4.2 Rescission Motion - Amendment to Councillor Notice of Motion Limits (cont'd)

- b) Thereafter, NoMs will be accepted for the Business paper based on a first submitted basis until the cap of 15 is reached.**
- c) Any excluded NoMs may be resubmitted at subsequent Council meetings.**

3 Requests that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) update Council's governance procedures accordingly to reflect these changes and report back on the implementation process if required.

Councillors Note:

The current rule limiting each Councillor to only one Notice of Motion per meeting can be restrictive, particularly when important matters arise that require Council attention. This proposed amendment seeks to provide greater flexibility for Councillors while ensuring that Council meetings remain efficient and manageable.

By introducing a cap of 15 NoMs per meeting, this approach balances Councillor participation with practical meeting management. The first-in system ensures fairness in processing NoMs while also preventing an overwhelming volume of motions at any single meeting. This will also align with the existing maximum of 15 possible NoMs per meeting, ensuring consistency in governance procedures.

Furthermore, an analysis of the last four Council meetings shows that only a total of 12 NoMs were raised by Councillors out of a possible maximum of 60. In the most recent meeting, despite three motions originating from one Councillor, the total number of NoMs raised was still only five out of a possible 15. These figures indicate that the current restriction is unnecessary and that Councillors having the ability to submit more than one NoM per meeting would not overwhelm the meeting agenda.

This change aligns with best practice governance by allowing Councillors greater autonomy to represent the community while ensuring that Council meetings remain structured and effective.

Chief Executive Officer Response

As this matter was considered by Council on 11 March 2025, this motion is effectively a motion to rescind the previous decision of Council to not proceed with changes to the Code of Meeting Practice (CoMP). This is in accordance with Section 372 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is currently updating the Model Code of Meeting Practice (Model CoMP). Once released, Council's CoMP will need to be updated to align with the Model CoMP following the process outlined below. That would be the most appropriate time to review and update the clause in relation to Notices of Motion.

4.2 Rescission Motion - Amendment to Councillor Notice of Motion Limits (cont'd)

Clause 5.14 of Council's current Code of Meeting Practice ('CoMP') provides that a Councillor is limited to submitting one Notice of Motion per Ordinary Meeting. Removing the restriction on councillor Notices of Motion would therefore require an amendment to the CoMP.

The requirements for amending the CoMP are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* ('LG Act'), which provides that:

- The process for amending a Code is the same as the process for adopting a Code (s363),
- Before adopting a Code, a council must prepare a draft Code which is put on public exhibition for not less than 28 days (s361),
- There must be a period of not less than 42 days during which submissions may be made to the council (s361),
- After considering all submissions received, the council may adopt the draft Code as its Code of Meeting Practice (s362).

The LG Act does allow for a Code to be amended without public exhibition, but only if the Council considers the amendments are not substantial (s362(2)).

Relevantly, the Model Code of Meeting Practice is currently under review by the Office of Local Government (OLG). Consultation on proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code recently closed, and it is anticipated that the new Model Meeting Code will be prescribed shortly. The draft Model Code does not include any limitation on the number of notices which may be submitted by councillors.

Under section 360 of the LG Act, Council is required to adopt a CoMP that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Model Code within 12 months after an ordinary election. Clause 2.1.4.14 of the Performance Improvement Order also requires that Council ensure its CoMP complies with the Model Code.

If Council commences the process of amending the CoMP before the new Model Code is released, it is likely the process will need to be repeated so the mandatory provisions of the new Model can be included.

It is therefore recommended that the recommendations of this NoM be taken as feedback on the Code of Meeting Practice to be considered as we progress a review in line with the the forthcoming updated Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Attachments

Nil.

Item No: 5.1
Title: Notice of Motion - Davistown Wetlands Funds
Department: Councillor



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16711133
Author: Councillor Sharon Walsh,
Emma Galea, Chief Financial Officer
Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Councillor S. Walsh has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 25 March 2025 she will move the following motion:

That the amount previously held in the Davistown Wetlands restriction and now held in the Conservation Fund, be released from the Conservation Fund and reapplied specifically for the Davistown Wetlands.

Chief Executive Officer Response

Due notice is given of this matter in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

A CEO response and any relevant attachments may be provided prior to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March 2025.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 5.2
Title: Notice of Motion - The Coast Council
Sustainability and Climate Action Plan 2022-2025
Review
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16724896

Author: Councillor Belinda Neal

Councillor B. Neal has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 25 March 2025 she will move the following motion:

- 1 That the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, Central Coast Green Grid: Our Place and Central Coast Climate Change Policy be reviewed to ensure all actions are progressing including 1d and 3c. The review of these documents is not included in Council's Operational Plan and accordingly this motion is necessary.***

- 2 Further, that Councillors be advised at the 29 April 2025 Council meeting the period required for this work to be undertaken.***

Councillors Note

The Coast Council Sustainability and Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 Review

The five key themes outlined in the sustainability and climate action plan are as follows:

1. Protect, enhance and or manage natural systems, including hydrological processes (the water cycle) towards climate mitigation and adaptation, ensuring climate impacts to natural systems are reduced.
2. Council to become a leader in water and energy efficiency in the Central Coast region.
3. Empower the Central Coast community to become advocates towards climate mitigation for the region.
4. Support reduced waste generation via enhancing community awareness and action around waste avoidance and adopting a circular economy approach to reusing or

5.2 **Notice of Motion - The Coast Council Sustainability and Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 Review (cont'd)**

recycling materials to reduce waste and raw material extraction, production and transport costs.

5. Strategic Planning incorporates sustainability principles into town centres, urban renewal and greenfield development.

Further to the 5 themes there are 27 actions identified in the document with various Council Sections/ Units responsible for achieving outcomes. There is no specialised team within Council that manages the implementation and review of the Action Plan; a whole of Council approach has been taken. It is the responsibility of the lead Sections/Units (noted in the plan) to identify relevant actions within their works program and operational plan. The following actions are underway:

- 1a - Undertake environmental management activities that increase the ecological resilience of Council's natural areas, water ways and riparian zones
- 1b - Prepare Species Management Plans for key threatened species
- 1e - Develop and use geospatial data to inform and guide strategic planning
- 2a - Ensure Council fleet purchases meet strict greenhouse gas emissions requirements and support the uptake of electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles.
- 2b - Adopt best practice energy and water efficiency measures and install renewable energy on council buildings.
- 2c - Roll out energy efficiency lighting (particularly street lighting) across the region.
- 4b – Reduce the amount of organic material going to landfill through the investigation and planning for a large-scale waste processing solution for food and garden organics (FOGO).
- 4c – Council will develop and deliver a program to engage with residents and businesses to enhance community awareness and behaviour change around waste avoidance and reuse/repair/repurposing through targeted education campaigns.
- 5c – Identify the most suitable public locations for fast-charging infrastructure for electric vehicles throughout the region considering EV infrastructure as part of Council's Integrated Transport Strategy for the region.
- 5f – Support improved rail transport powered by renewables, including the fast rail project.

I note that Actions 1d and 3c are not listed as underway which is of particular concern to many residents on the coast.

5.2 Notice of Motion - The Coast Council Sustainability and Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 Review (cont'd)

Action 1d - *Invest in urban forest canopy in areas of high pedestrian and cyclist activity to mitigate urban heat island effects.*

Action 3c - *Develop a program to provide free long-lived large shrubs and trees (or nursery vouchers) to the community to assist them in reducing urban heat islands at their home.*

Attachments

Nil.

Item No: 5.3
Title: Notice of Motion - Establishment of Dredging and Water Management Advisory Panel
Department: Councillor



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16732604
Author: Councillor Rachel Stanton

Councillor Stanton has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 25 March 2025 she will move the following motion:

That Council:

- 1 Establishes a Dredging and Water Management Advisory Panel.***
- 2 The Panel is to provide advice and recommendations (where appropriate) on all matters involving dredging on the Central Coast and the management of waterways within the local government area, and will:***
 - a) Review and evaluate any existing Council documents and strategies relating to dredging, water management and flood mitigation measures.***
 - b) Review the appropriateness of dredging, including maintenance dredging, in local waterways such as Tuggerah Lake and Brisbane Water and any exacerbates to flooding and provide recommendations.***
 - c) Assess and advise on methods for water quality improvement including debris and wrack management.***
 - d) Assist in formalising an arrangement with Lake Macquarie Council and MIDO in respect of shared use of a dredge.***
 - e) Investigate and pursue avenues for grant funding through the NSW Government and access through MIDO; and***
- 3 Supports Council to work with the NSW State Government, Federal Government and relevant bodies on solutions to improve waterflow in local waterways.***
- 4 The Panel is to comprise 5 Councillors; up to 3 Council staff as determined by the CEO; and up to 3 community members with relevant skills and expertise on a consultative and rotational basis per Panel meeting.***

5.3 Notice of Motion - Establishment of Dredging and Water Management Advisory Panel (cont'd)

5 The Panel is to provide a report in conjunction with the CEO and Director of Environment and Planning, to be presented to Council at the July 2025 meeting.

Councillors Note

Background:

Central Coast residents have experienced extreme flooding, in particular over the last 5 years, including at least 2 major flood events reaching heights of 1.67-1.72m and many minor and moderate floods in between. There are around 120,000 people who live and work around Tuggerah Lake and are affected during flood events, with residents in Chittaway Bay and Point unable to enter or exit their road and properties. Notable flooding also occurs in Ourimbah Creek and Wyong River. These same waterways are no longer safe for recreational activities, such as boating, due to sand build up, and poor water quality and wrack management has led to decreased public amenity.

Council formerly owned and operated a dredge but this has been decommissioned and there are limited guidelines and frameworks in place within Council to manage this issue. It is imperative that we assess solutions to reduce flooding and its impacts across the local area and improve the quality and usability of our waterways.

A Panel that involves contributions from Council staff, expert opinion and community perspectives, enables a united approach to this complex issue and will provide a better, more proactive and sustainable management of our waterways.

Reason:

It is imperative that we assess all solutions to reduce flooding and its impacts across the local area. We need a proactive approach to flood mitigation with a key focus on floodplain management to ensure residents are protected during weather events. A comprehensive review is required to find the best way forward and enable well informed decision making.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 5.4
Title: Notice of Motion - Status of Coastal Management Programs (CMP's)
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16733641
Author: Councillor Margot Castles

Councillor Margot Castles has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 25 March 2025 she will move the following motion:

That Council:

- 1 Provides a comprehensive report at the next Ordinary Meeting outlining the status of all five Coastal Management Programs specifically:***
 - A timeline detailing when each stage was complete for each CMP***
 - A breakdown of all funding received from the NSW Government Coastal and Estuary Grants Program, including :***
 - a) The total amount received per CMP.***
 - b) How these funds have been allocated and expended.***
 - c) An explanation as to why, nearly 5 years after the commencement of the process, only the Lake Macquarie CMP has been completed and certified and what is required to finalise the remaining CMPs.***
 - d) The next steps and expected completion timeframes for each outstanding CMP.***
- 2 Directs Council Staff to update the CMP section/page on Council's website, to:***
 - a) Provide clear, stage-by-stage updates with associated dates.***
 - b) Include links to all relevant reports, technical studies, and community consultation outcomes.***
- 3 Ensures that Council's community engagement strategy for CMPs is improved to facilitate better public access to information and provide clear and transparent updates on progress.***

Councillors Note

The motion seeks to enhance transparency and accountability regarding the development of CMPs, ensuring the community has access to clear, factual, and timely information about this critical program. Given that funding has been received, and work has been ongoing for four years, the community deserves clarity on what has been achieved, what remains outstanding, and when these essential management programs will be completed.

5.4 Notice of Motion - Status of Coastal Management Programs (CMP's) (cont'd)

Background

The development of Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) is critical for the sustainable management of our coastal and estuarine environments. According to Council's website, the process commenced in 2020, and since then, each of the new CMPs Council is developing has received funding through the NSW Government Coastal and Estuary Grants Program to support their development. Despite nearly five years of progress, only the Lake Macquarie CMP, developed in collaboration with Lake Macquarie City Council, has been completed and certified by the NSW Minister for the Environment on 26 September 2023.

For an average community member searching for information on CMPs on Council's website, the available details are inadequate. There is only one apparent webpage published on 11 April 2024 that lacks critical specifics such as a timeline of progress, dates for each completed stage, and links to relevant materials. Moreover, the single link to the "Your Voice Our Coast" page leads to a non-functional "Page Not Found" error.

Attachments

Nil.

Item No: 6.1
Title: Question with Notice - Council's Affordable and
Emergency Housing Strategy & Implementation
Department: Community & Recreation Services



25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16700871
Author: Councillor John Mouland

6.1 Question with Notice - Council's Affordable and Emergency Housing Strategy & Implementation

The following question was submitted by Councillor J. Mouland :

When will Council be provided with a comprehensive update on the progress regarding each strategy identified in the Central Coast Affordable and Alternative Housing Strategy, including the progress of sites identified in a Report prepared for Council Administrator Rik Hart, which outlined Council owned sites suitable for affordable and emergency housing, tabled at the meeting 22nd August 2023?

Response

A comprehensive update report will be provided to the Community and Culture Committee at it's first meeting on 13 May 2025.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 6.2
Title: Question with Notice - Council processes - Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 - GIPA Act
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16716095

Author: Councillor Margot Castles

6.2 Question with Notice - Council processes - Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 - GIPA Act

The following question was submitted by Councillor M. Castles :

Recent events have highlighted the requirement for Council to improve their processes under the Government Information Public Access Act 2009. Could you please provide information on what changes Council will implement to ensure this service meets all legislative requirements including timeframes and success measures?

Response

There are a number of process improvements which Council can implement to ensure it meets legislative requirements under the *Government Information Public Access Act 2009* ('GIPA'). These process improvements include:

- Proactively releasing open access information, with the aim of enabling customers to 'self-serve', thereby reducing GIPA requests,
- Enhancing the information available to customers on Council's website in relation to requesting information, which will ensure customers take the most appropriate and efficient pathway to obtain information,
- Implementing Council's Information & Records Improvement Plan, to reduce the time taken for GIPA staff to locate relevant information in Council's corporate records system,
- Applying processing charges for time spent dealing with GIPA applications, to encourage customers to consider the scope of GIPA requests,
- Exploring the imposition of a property request fee or property information package fee, on the basis the majority of informal GIPA requests come from solicitors and/or conveyancing firms seeking records in relation to properties for sale.

**6.2 Question with Notice - Council processes - Government Information
(Public Access) Act 2009 - GIPA Act (cont'd)**

The implementation of any of these process improvements depends on sufficient internal resourcing. Council currently has one (1) permanent full-time and one (1) permanent part-time Access to Information Officer. Since January 2024, Council has received a total of 2,746 informal GIPA applications and 219 formal GIPA applications.

By way of comparison, in 2019 Council employed five (5) full-time staff to deal with GIPA applications. During 2019, Council's records indicate that 1,227 informal applications and 121 formal applications were received by Council.

Benchmarking against other Councils can be undertaken. However, information which has been informally provided by one other council indicates that, for the 2024 calendar year, a total of 757 informal GIPA applications and 209 formal applications were received, and that council has four (4) full-time Information Officers.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 6.3
Title: Question with Notice - Old Gosford Library
Department: Councillor

25 March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2025/00016 - D16724867

Author: Councillor Belinda Neal

6.3 Question with Notice - Old Gosford Library

The following question was submitted by Councillor B. Neal :

Re Old Gosford Library

The Gosford Urban Design Framework 2018 at page 40 Being Item 1.4 Civic Heart Design Principles at item 3 states;

Re-purpose library as a public building- possible town hall, meeting place, flexible exhibition space.

The Kibble Park Plan final of 2021 states in design principle 3 states;

Re-purpose library as a public building – possible Town Hall, meeting place, flexible exhibition space. Investigate upgrade or new cafe integrated with park.

Along side the words is a diagram showing the retention of the Gosford Library building.

The Kibble Park Plan final of 2022 states in design principle 3;

Re-purpose restaurant building as a public building – possible cultural centre, meeting place, flexible exhibition space.

Again, there is a diagram showing the retention of the Gosford Library building despite the words being contradicted by the diagram.

What was the reason for this change in the Design principles of the plan from retention of the library to retention of the restaurant building and what impact does this Framework have on decisions made in relation to the Kibble Park Place Plan and future decisions on the Gosford Library.

Response

Due notice is given of this matter in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice. A CEO response and any relevant attachments may be provided prior to the Ordinary Meeting of 25 March 2025.

Attachments

Nil.