



Central Coast Council
Business Paper
Ordinary Council Meeting
25 May 2021





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.



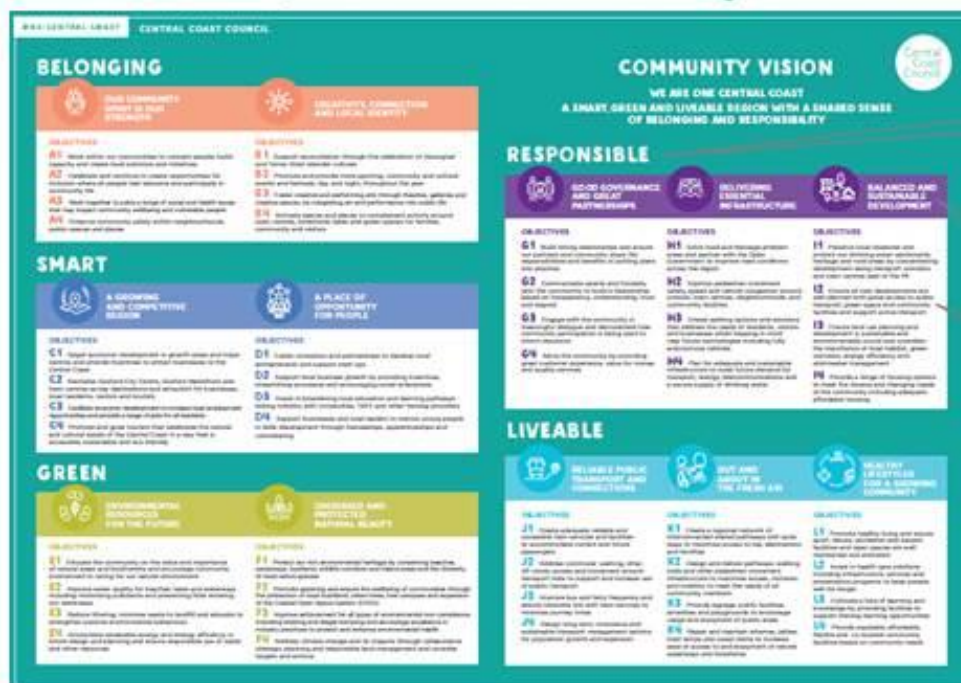
Good governance and great partnerships

G2 Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect

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.



Theme

Focus Area

Objective

Meeting Notice

**The Ordinary Council Meeting
of Central Coast Council
will be held in the Council Chamber,
2 Hely Street, Wyong
Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 6.30 pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

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David Farmer
Chief Executive Officer

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

25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00035 - D14594866



Recommendation

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

Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("LG Act") regulates the way in which the councillors and relevant staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public functions.

Section 451 of the LG Act states:

- "(1) A councillor or a member of a council committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the council or committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.*
- (2) The councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the council or committee:*
 - (a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the council or committee, or*
 - (b) at any time during which the council or committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.*
- (3) For the removal of doubt, a councillor or a member of a council committee is not prevented by this section from being present at and taking part in a meeting at which a matter is being considered, or from voting on the matter, merely because the councillor or member has an interest in the matter of a kind referred to in section 448.*
- (4) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a councillor who has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting, if:*
 - (a) the matter is a proposal relating to:*
 - (i) the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, or*

- (ii) *the amendment, alteration or repeal of an environmental planning instrument where the amendment, alteration or repeal applies to the whole or a significant part of the council's area, and*
- (a1) *the pecuniary interest arises only because of an interest of the councillor in the councillor's principal place of residence or an interest of another person (whose interests are relevant under section 443) in that person's principal place of residence, and*
 - (b) *the councillor made a special disclosure under this section in relation to the interest before the commencement of the meeting.*
- (5) *The special disclosure of the pecuniary interest must, as soon as practicable after the disclosure is made, be laid on the table at a meeting of the council and must:*
 - (a) *be in the form prescribed by the regulations, and*
 - (b) *contain the information required by the regulations."*

Further, the Code of Conduct adopted by Council applies to all councillors and staff. The Code relevantly provides that if a councillor or staff have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed as well as providing for a number of ways in which a non-pecuniary conflicts of interests might be managed.

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

25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00035 - D14594874



Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 May 2021.

Summary

Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 11 May 2021.

Attachments

1 Minutes - Ordinary Meeting - 11 May 2021 [Click here for Attachment](#) D14622636

Item No: 1.3
Title: Notice of Intention to Deal with Matters in Confidential Session
Department: Corporate Affairs

25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2021/00035 - D14581882



Recommendation

That Council note that no matters have been tabled to deal with in a closed session.

Summary

It is necessary for the Council to adopt a resolution to formalise its intention to deal with certain matters in a closed and confidential Session. The report is incorporated in the "Confidential" business paper which has been circulated.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires the Chief Executive Officer to identify those matters listed on the business paper which may be categorised as confidential in terms of section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. It is then a matter for Council to determine whether those matters will indeed be categorised as confidential.

Context

Section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) states that a Council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises:

- 2(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),*
- 2(b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,*
- 2(c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,*
- 2(d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:*
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or*
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council, or*
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,*
- 2(e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,*
- 2(f) matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property,*

- 2(g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,*
- 2(h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.*
- 2(i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440*

It is noted that with regard to those matters relating to all but 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d)(iii) it is necessary to also give consideration to whether closing the meeting to the public is, on balance, in the public interest.

Further, the Act provides that Council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (section 10A(3)).

As provided in the Office of Local Government Meetings Practice Note August 2009, it is a matter for the Council to decide whether a matter is to be discussed during the closed part of a meeting. The Council would be guided by whether the item is in a confidential business paper, however the Council can disagree with this assessment and discuss the matter in an open part of the meeting.

Attachments

Nil

Item No: 2.1
Title: 2020-2021 Q3 Business Report
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/01964 - D14485965

Author: Mellissa McKee, Financial Controller
Michelle Best, Financial Controller
Sharon McLaren, Section Manager, Corporate Planning and Reporting
Paul Foote, Corporate Planner
Manager: Peter Correy, Unit Manager, Finance
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer
Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

- 1 That Council adopt Central Coast Council's Q3 Business Report for 2020-2021 including the proposed budget amendments.**
- 2 That Council note that it is the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Central Coast Council for the quarter ended 31 March 2021 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2021 will be unsatisfactory at year end because the forecast year-end consolidated operating result before capital amounts for Council is a loss of \$103.3M. Council is undertaking the following remedial actions: structural reduction in operating expenditure, obtaining special rate variation approval from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, reducing capital expenditure, secured bank loans, generating additional income and selling underperforming assets.**

Report Purpose

This paper reports on Central Coast Council's performance progress as measured against the organisation's Operational Plan for 2020-2021 to 31 March 2021 (Q3). The report covers the progress on the operational plan activities and financial performance for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Executive Summary

Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires a Council's Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the governing body of Council. The quarterly budget review statement must show, by reference to the estimated income and expenditure that is set out in the Operational Plan adopted by Council for the relevant year, a revised estimate of income and expenditure for that year. It also requires the budget review statement to include a report by the Responsible

Accounting Officer as to whether or not they consider the statement indicates Council to be in a satisfactory financial position and if not, to include recommendations for remedial action. Council's Operational Plan sets out the achievements, goals and revenue policy, including estimates of income and expenditure. The quarterly budget review statement plays an important role in monitoring Council's progress against the plan.

Operational Plan Action and Target Progress

At the end of Quarter 3 the overall performance against the Operational Plan actions and targets shows that out of the 108 actions / targets, four have been Completed, 68 are on Track, one has Not Commenced, and 35 are either Delayed, On Hold or have been Closed. The majority of which have been impacted by the financial situation.

Financial Performance

- The year to date (YTD) operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions) is showing a favourable, variance of \$52.8M, consisting of an actual surplus of \$34.3M compared to a budget deficit of \$18.5M.
- The year to date (YTD) operating result (including capital grants and contributions) is showing a favourable variance of \$59.7M, consisting of an actual surplus of \$71.1M compared to a budget surplus of \$11.4M.
- The proposed Q3 adjustments will move the adopted 2020-2021 budget from an operating deficit (excluding capital grants and contributions) of \$107.4M to an operating deficit of \$103.3M.
- The proposed Q3 adjustments will move the adopted 2020-2021 budget from an operating deficit (including capital grants and contributions) of \$60.2M to an operating deficit of \$46.7M.
- The year to date (YTD) capital expenditure is \$115.0M compared to a year to date budget of \$131.7M.
- The proposed Q3 capex budget adjustment is a decrease of \$7.1M that will result in a revised 2020-2021 full year capital works program of \$163.2M from \$170.3M.

For more information and details of progress and financial performance please refer to the Attached Q3 Business Report.

Context

The attached report is the 2020-2021 Q3 Business Report for Central Coast Council. It incorporates reporting on the progress of actions and targets against the objectives of the Operational Plan and a Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* requires that no later than two months after the end of each quarter (except the June quarter), the Responsible Accounting Officer of Council must prepare and submit to Council a Quarterly Budget Review Statement that shows a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year.

Sub-section 404(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that Council report as to its progress with respect to its actions and targets against the objectives of the Operational Plan, at least every six months. This report contains progress information for Quarter 3 and is prepared to coincide with the Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

This quarterly report is presented in the necessary format and is considered to satisfy the legislative requirements.

Current Status

The 2020-2021 Q3 Business Report is included as Attachment 1 and reports on progress for the year to 31 March 2021 (Q3 YTD), against the Operational Plan 2020-2021, including budget.

Operational Plan Actions and Targets

The table below is a summary of the overall progress on the actions, measures and projects for Q3. The information contained in the Q3 Business Report includes specific details of progress.

Theme:	Belonging	Smart	Green	Responsible	Liveable	Total
Completed	0	0	2	0	2	4
On Track	15	9	5	25	14	68
Delayed	2	3	4	2	0	11
Not Commenced	0	0	0	0	1	1
On Hold	1	7	4	8	3	23
Closed	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	18	20	15	35	20	108

Financial Performance

The year to date (YTD) operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions) is showing a favourable, variance of \$52.8M, consisting of an actual surplus of \$34.3M compared to a budget deficit of \$18.5M. For more information please refer to sections 1.1 and 2.2 of Attachment 1.

The year to date (YTD) operating result (including capital grants and contributions) is showing a favourable variance of \$59.7M, consisting of an actual surplus of \$71.1M compared to a budget surplus of \$11.4M. For more information please refer to sections

1.1 and 2.2 of Attachment 1.

These results are reported in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Guidelines) which requires Council to recognise rates income at the beginning of the financial year when levied. The impact of this on Council's operating results is a large surplus at the beginning of the financial year which will reduce as the year progresses as Council incurs expenditure from delivering services to the community.

Q3 YTD capital expenditure is \$115.0M compared to a year to date budget of \$131.7M.

Consultation

All Units of Council were consulted during the development of this Report and contributed to the information contained in the Report.

Options

Quarterly reporting of Council's financial performance is mandatory under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

Financial Impact

Budget adjustments are proposed in this report and are detailed in the attached 2020-2021 Q3 Business Report.

The proposed Q3 adjustments will move the adopted 2020-2021 budget from an operating deficit (excluding capital grants and contributions) of \$107.4M to an operating deficit of \$103.3M.

The proposed Q3 adjustments will move the adopted 2020-2021 budget from an operating deficit (including capital grants and contributions) of \$60.2M to an operating deficit of \$46.7M.

Adjustments proposed to be adopted as part of the Q3 budget review include:

Operating Budget

- Reduction of \$4.2M in operating income budgets
 - (\$6.0M) reduction in Environmental Management Bio-certification scheme where forecast revenue will not be received in 2020-2021.
 - (\$0.4M) reduction in tipping fee income due to reduced tonnages being received at Waste facilities.
 - (\$0.2M) reduction in Theatre income forecasts as Council's theatres have only recently returned to full capacity following COVID restrictions.

- \$1.0M increase in user fees and charges at Leisure Centres, Pools and Holiday Parks where usage and occupancy rates have continued to outperform budget expectations.
- \$0.6M increase in several minor Other Revenue sources across Council.
- \$0.4M increase waste services annual charges.
- \$0.3M increase in pavement remediation funding.

- Increase of \$9.4M in capital income budgets
 - \$16.2M increase in capital grant income largely in Infrastructure Services for road, bridges, shared pathway, drainage and traffic facility programs.
 - \$0.1M additional funding from other minor capital contribution programs.
 - (\$3.9M) reduction in non cash contribution forecast income.
 - (\$3.0M) reduction in S64 developer contribution forecast income.

- Reduction of \$8.3M in operational expenditure budgets
 - \$9.7M reallocation of budget for restructuring costs to other lines of the operating statement to mitigate the impact of unexpected and unplanned impacts such as unfunded storm event and flooding costs from February/March 2021, external loan restructuring costs, reduced recovery of internal costs such as plant and fleet and tipping expenses due to reduced capital works program and non-receipt of biocertification income.
 - \$1.7M reduction in materials and contracts as a result of continued expenditure control.
 - \$1.6M reduction in other expenses as a result of continued expenditure control.
 - (\$2.1M) reduced recovery of internal costs from capital works, including plant and fleet and tipping expenses due to the reduced capital works program which has an unfavourable impact on the operating result.
 - (\$1.5M) storm recovery costs from the flooding event in February this year.
 - (\$1.1M) increase in borrowing costs to recognise break costs and adjustment to interest budgets due to the early repayment of 3 sewer fund loans with a capital value of \$15.5M as approved by Council on 13 April 2021. Repayment funded by unrestricted funds in the sewer fund.

Council's focus continues to be on reducing expenditure, raising additional income, monitoring incoming cash flow, performing cashflow forecasts and ensuring a more sustainable cash preservation. Council's Business Recovery Plan is a multi-faceted approach to address the current liquidity issues and introduce structural changes aimed at ensuring the longer-term financial sustainability of Council operations. For more information on the proposed budget adjustments please refer to section 3.1 and 3.2 of Attachment 1.

Capital Works Program

Council's capital works program was reviewed in Q1 and Q2, resulting in a revised 2020-2021 full year capital works program of \$170.3M.

The proposed Q3 budget adjustment is a decrease of \$7.1M, resulting in a revised 2020-2021 full year capital works program of \$163.2M.

For a full list of proposed changes to the capital works program please refer to section 3.3 of the Attachment.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Sub-clause 203(1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* requires a Council's Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the Council within two months of the end of each quarter (excluding June).

Social Impacts

The Operational Plan 2020-2021 Q3 Business Report is a key method for Council to maintain accountability and transparency with the community. The Plan focuses on the delivery of key projects along with essential services and the maintenance of the assets Council utilised to deliver services to the community. It reflects the Community Strategic Plan Themes of *Belonging, Smart, Green, Responsible* and *Liveable*.

Environmental Considerations

The section 'Operational Plan 2020-2021 Performance' reflects the Community Strategic Plan Themes of *Belonging, Smart, Green, Responsible* and *Liveable*. It includes progress reporting and achievements around the environment under the Theme of *Green*.

Summary

Councils are required to prepare Quarterly Budget Review Statements, which present a summary of Council's financial position at the end of each quarter.

It is the mechanism whereby the community are informed of Council's progress against the Operational Plan and the budget along with recommended changes and reasons for major variances.

It is recommended that Council adopt the proposed budget adjustments.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

- 1036/20 *That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Council's 2020-2021 budget to be updated as detailed above, including:

- An operating deficit (excluding capital income) of \$103.3M.
- A revised capital works budget of \$163.2M.

Ongoing review of costs and opportunities for additional revenue will continue to be implemented.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

Attachments

1  Q3 Business Report [Click here for Attachment](#) D14634010

Item No: 2.2
Title: Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00499 - D14560474
Author: Melissa McCulloch, Acting Section Manager Financial Services
Manager: Peter Correy, Unit Manager, Finance
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

- 1** *That Council seek guidance on a Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates action as set out in this report in consultation with the existing legal service provider – Legal Force and their appointed Solicitor.*
- 2** *That the land detailed in the schedules attached to this report may be submitted for sale by public auction at a date to be fixed by Council. Noting that the schedule includes 50 vacant lots*
- 3** *That Council note that there is no proposal for any action on pensioner land, however, pensioner land meeting the criteria for sale for rates equal the value of \$2,249,609.*
- 4** *That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to certify in writing the requirements under Section 713(3) of the Act for each property.*
- 5** *Pursuant to section 11(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, that Attachments 1, 2 and 3 of this report remain confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act as it contains information that relates to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.*

Report purpose

For Council to seek guidance on a sale of land for unpaid rates campaign.

Executive Summary

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* Council can proceed with sale of land, vacant, commercial and residential to recover outstanding rates and water.

There is over \$3M currently outstanding in Council rates. It is proposed that Council proceed with the sale of land as permitted under the *Local Government Act*. Council could expect to recover outstanding rates (including water arrears) of \$1,787,624.

Should Council endorse this action it will be managed in consultation with the existing legal service provider and their appointed solicitor in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

It is recommended that Council proceed with the sale of land for unpaid rates noting that it is not recommended that action be taken with regard to land owned by pensioners on which there are unpaid rates.

Background

At the Council meeting of 11 May 2021, Council resolved, in part:

- 149/21 7 *That a further report be urgently brought to Council for its consideration regarding Rate arrears and options to address the arrears.*

The *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (the Act) provides a mechanism that allows councils to sell land for unpaid rates (and charges) in certain circumstances. Where any rate or charge is overdue and remains unpaid for more than one year in respect to vacant land or five years in respect to any other land, from the date it became payable, Council may proceed to sell the land, as a last resort. (Division 5, Part 1, Chapter 17 of the Act).

Section 713 of the Act sets out when land can be sold, and it is related to how long rates and charges have been outstanding. Section 713 states that a rate is overdue if:

- (a) In the case of vacant land, it has remained unpaid for more than one year (and other conditions are met); or
- (b) In the case of any other land, it has remained unpaid for more than five years

Report

Collections for unpaid rates follows two processes. Internal collections for unpaid rates commence at 15 days in arrears for amounts over \$10.

Unpaid rates balances that exceed \$2,000 (inclusive of both water and rates charges) are outsourced to a legal services provider for recovery at two or more quarters in arrears (approximately 6-7 months overdue). There are several strategies that are used by the legal service provider to settle arrears with rate payers, these include:

- a) Contact Letter is Issued by LSP
- b) Notice of Legal Action is Issued by LSP
- c) Statement of Claim is served
- d) Default Judgment is entered
- e) A bank and wage garnishee may be executed
- f) A writ over the property may be executed

2.2 Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates (contd)

- g) A formal written demand may be made on the mortgage
- h) An examination notice/summons is issued
- i) A warrant for arrest is issued
- j) A recommendation for Sale for Rates is made

A Summons/Statement of Claim is issued to property owners when their outstanding balances exceeds \$2,000 and they have not responded to the initial contact letter from the legal service provider or entered into an arrangement that meets council guidelines.

Council requires that arrangements to pay must not exceed 9 months (inclusive of new bills) unless supported by an application for genuine hardship.

Please note that Council has exhausted all other methods of recovery available to it under the *Local Government Act 1993* for the properties listed in the attachments to this report.

The table below is a summary of properties, by the separate rate books, eligible under the relevant legislation. It should be noted that pensioners' land is **not** being recommended for Sale for Rates action; this information has been included in balances for an overall view of the debt recovery book meeting the criteria for sale of land for unpaid rates.

Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates 2020-21

Gosford	No. of Properties	Period Outstanding	Rates Outstanding	Water Outstanding
Vacant	25	> 1 year	\$ 121,323	\$ 39,981
Business	2	> 5 years	\$ 20,161	\$ 10,145
Residential	50	> 5 years	\$ 691,809	\$ 279,386
Residential (Pensioners)	110	> 5 years	\$ 1,755,131	
Total Gosford incl Pensioners			\$ 2,588,424	\$ 329,512

Wyong	No. of Properties	Period Outstanding	Rates Outstanding	Water Outstanding
Vacant	25	> 1 year	\$ 259,404	\$ 30,244
Business	7	> 5 years	\$ 38,423	\$ 5,509
Residential	14	> 5 years	\$ 173,165	\$ 118,073
Residential (Pensioners)	34	> 5 years	\$ 494,478	
Total Wyong incl Pensioners			\$ 965,470	\$ 153,826

Total excl Pensioners	\$ 1,304,285	\$ 483,338
Total Pensioners	\$ 2,249,609	
Total CCC incl Pensioners	\$ 3,553,894	

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Council could expect to recover outstanding rates of approximately \$450,952 including water arrears from vacant land, \$74,238 including water arrears from commercial land, and \$1,262,434 including water arrears from residential land. The estimated total recoverable through this action is \$1,787,624.

All costs to proceed to sale are recoverable from settlement and are listed as follows:

Legal expenses – flat fee	\$2,000 (exc GST)
Real estate fees – flat rate per sale	\$10,500 (inc GST)

The real estate fees include a marketing levy of \$3,038 per block.

There is an assumption that properties secured with a mortgage will likely settle outside of the sale for rates process as most banking institutions would prefer to avoid a Council rate sale. It should be noted that where a sale is achieved prior to auction date being set, the costs will be invoiced to the property debt and paid prior to settlement.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

Options

- 1 Allow the debt including interest to accrue on these properties and will not be realised until a sale is achieved independently and without interference from Council as legal action has been exhausted on these matters. Not recommended.
- 2 Provide necessary authorisation to proceed with a rate sale for the properties specified at Attachments 1, 2 and 3. **This is the recommended option.**

Critical Dates or Timeframes

An auction date is to be set early in the 2021-22 FY with 30-day settlement terms.

Attachments

1	Confidential - SFR Vacant Properties	Provided under separate cover	D14598762
2	Confidential - SFR Commercial Properties	Provided under separate cover	D14598754
3	Confidential - SFR Residential Properties Non-Pensioners	Provided under separate cover	D14598759

Item No: 2.3
Title: Investment Report for April 2021
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2004/06604 - D14442825
Author: Devini Susindran, Team Leader
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

That Council receive the Investment Report for April 2021

Report purpose

To present Investment Reports on a monthly basis in accordance with cl. 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* which states as follows:

- 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*
 - b) *must include in the report a certificate as to whether or not 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.*

Executive Summary

This report details Council's investments as at 30 April 2021.

Background

Council's investments are made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the amended Investment Policy adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 3 February 2021, Ministerial Investment Order issued February

2.3 Investment Report for April 2021 (contd)

2011 and Division of Local Government (as it was then known) Investment Policy Guidelines published in May 2010.

Current Status

Council's current cash and investment portfolio totals \$466.1 million at 30 April 2021

Report

Source of Funds	April 2021 Value (\$'000)
Investment Portfolio	\$451,670
Transactional accounts Per Bank Statement and cash in hand	\$14,398
Total	\$466,069

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

Total net return on the portfolio for Council in April, comprising entirely of interest earned, was \$404k. The total value of the Council's investment portfolio as at 30 April 2021 is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Portfolio Movement

Description	2019-20 Financial Year \$'000	Jul-Sep Qtr 2020/21 \$'000	Oct-Dec Qtr 2020/21 \$'000	Jan-Mar Qtr 2020/21 \$'000	Apr-21 2020/21 \$'000	FYTD 2020/21 \$'000
Opening Balance	445,661	348,210	299,678	371,131	470,546	348,210
Movement for the period	-97,451	-48,532	71,453	99,415	-18,876	103,460
Closing Balance	348,210	299,678	371,131	470,546	451,670	451,670
Interest earnings	8,547	1,152	1,012	1,144	404	3,712

The market value of Council's investment portfolio at 30 April 2021 is \$451.67M.

During April, Council's total cash and investments decreased \$31.19M for the month from \$497.26M to \$466.07M, due in part to the repayment of Sewer loans totalling \$17M and increased supplier payments for the month (5 weekly payments) including those to contractors (construction and waste), energy suppliers and EPA.

Council's investments are evaluated and monitored against a benchmark appropriate to the risk (APRA Standards BBB long term or above) and time horizon of the investment concerned.

A summary of the term deposit and floating rate notes maturities are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Investment Maturities as at 30 April 2021

Time Horizon	Percentage Holdings	Maturity on or before	Value \$'000
At Call	5.56%	Immediate	25,134
Investments			
0 - 3 months	20.46%	Jul-2021	92,415
4 - 6 months	12.74%	Oct-2021	57,547
7 - 12 months	3.98%	Apr-2022	17,958
1 - 2 years	7.78%	Apr-2023	35,143
2 - 3 years	10.38%	Apr-2024	46,898
3 - 4 years	12.13%	Apr-2025	54,804
4 - 5 years	26.96%	Apr-2026	121,770
Total Investments	94.44%		426,536
Total Portfolio	100.00%		451,670

The investment portfolio is concentrated in AA above (30.32%), A (31.31%), and BBB (38.37%). 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.

The current spread of investments and counterparty exposure for April 2021 are shown in Graphs 1 and 2 respectively in Attachment 3.

Environmental, Social and Green (ESG) Investments

Council continues to look for 'ESG' investment opportunities subject to prevailing investment guidelines. A list of current ESG investments held is contained on the investment listing, highlight in green. For the month of April, there have been no new green investments undertaken.

Council currently holds 6.42% or \$29.02 million in ESG investments as at 30 April 2021.

Portfolio Return

Interest rates on investments in the month, ranged from 0.35% to 3.18%, all of which exceeded the monthly Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) benchmark of 0.01%.

The weighted running yield for April of 1.09% for Central Coast Council is favourable compared to benchmark bank bill swap (BBSW) *financial year to date* Calculated Bank Bill Index of 0.90% as shown in Graph 3 - Portfolio Returns in Attachment 3.

Council's Portfolio by Source of Funds

Council is required to restrict funds received for specific purposes. Restricted funds consist of funds in the investment portfolio and in transactional accounts as follows:

Council is required to restrict funds received for specific purposes. Restricted funds consist of funds in the investment portfolio and in transactional accounts as follows:

Source of Funds	Value (\$'000) April 2021
Investment Portfolio	\$451,670
Transactional accounts and cash in hand	\$14,398
Total	\$466,069
Restrictions as at 30 April 2021	\$427,514
Unrestricted Funds as at 30 April 2021	\$38,555
Total consolidated Funds	\$466,069

Council's Investment Portfolio is held in separate funds by purpose as follows:

Fund	General Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Drainage Fund	Waste Fund	Total
External Restricted Funds	\$176,735	\$7,402	\$22,038	\$36,707	\$90,278	\$333,160
Internal Restricted Funds	\$92,396	\$1,026	\$877	\$55	\$0	\$94,354
Total Restricted Funds	\$269,131	\$8,428	\$22,915	\$36,762	\$90,278	\$427,514
Unrestricted Funds	(\$45,713)	(\$2,897)	\$113,701	(\$34,818)	\$8,282	\$38,555
Total funds by Fund	\$223,418	\$5,531	\$136,616	\$1,944	\$98,560	\$466,069

Council is managing the previously reported negative unrestricted funds balance, as part of Council's Business Recovery Plan.

Market values reflected in the Portfolio valuation report in Attachment 5 have been used to record the unrecognised gains in tradeable fixed rate bonds and floating rate notes. Interest accrued has been recorded separately and is not reflected in portfolio valuations.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

2.3 Investment Report for April 2021 (contd)

1108/20 *That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Council's investment portfolio includes rolling maturity dates to ensure that Council has sufficient liquidity to meet its ongoing obligations.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

Attachments

	1 Summary of Investments April 2021	Click here for Attachment	D14629383
	2 Summary of Restrictions April 2021	Click here for Attachment	D14635421
	3 Investment Report for April 2021 - Graph 1, 2 and 3	Click here for Attachment	D14629505
	4 Treasury Direct Trading Limits Report April 2021	Click here for Attachment	D14629580
	5 Treasury Direct Portfolio Valuation Report April 2021	Click here for Attachment	D14629575

Item No: 2.4
Title: Local Government Remuneration Tribunal decision
- Setting of fees for Mayor and Councillors
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/00041-004 - D14615829
Author: Sarah Georgiou, Section Manager, Councillor Support
Manager: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager, Governance and Risk
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

- 1** *That Council note the determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal made 23 April 2021 in respect of Councillor and Mayoral fees.*
- 2** *That Council fix the annual fee to be paid to each Councillor at \$32,040 pursuant to s.248(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.*
- 3** *That Council fix the annual fee to be paid to the Mayor at \$99,800 pursuant to s.249(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.*
- 4** *That Council determine, pursuant to s.249(5) of the Local Government Act 1993, that an annual fee of \$9,980 be paid to the Deputy Mayor, with that fee to be deducted from the annual fee paid to the Mayor in accordance with resolution 3 above.*
- 5** *That Council note these fees are only applicable should the Mayor and Councillors return to civic office at the cessation of the current suspension.*

Report purpose

To recommend fixing of annual fees to be paid to the Mayor and each Councillor, and to recommend the determination of an annual fee to be paid to the Deputy Mayor, noting that Councillors have been suspended from their civic offices in Central Coast Council until after the conduct and reporting of a Public Inquiry.

Executive Summary

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has made its determination for fees payable for 2021/22. The tribunal found the allocation of councils into the current categories appropriate. These categories have not changed further to the extensive review undertaken as part of the 2020 review. Central Coast Council remains in the category of Major Strategic Area.

The tribunal determined a two per cent increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

The current annual fees for Mayor and Councillors as resolved at the Ordinary Meeting 13 July 2020 are within the range of minimum and maximum fees set by the Tribunal. The report recommends the annual fee amount is maintained, that is that the 2% increase will not be applied.

Report

Council is required to fix the annual fee to be paid to each Councillor, and the additional annual fee that is to be paid to the Mayor under section 248(2) and 249(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 ('the Act').

The Tribunal is required to report to the Minister for Local Government by 1 May each year as to its determination of categories of Council and the amounts to be paid. The Tribunal undertook an extensive review of the categories and allocation of councils into each of those categories as part of the 2020 review.

The Determination was made on 10 June 2020 in accordance with the Local Government (General) Amendment (COVID-19) Regulation 2020 which extended the time for making of the determination to no later than 1 July 2020.

Central Coast Councillors are currently suspended and it is unclear when this suspension will cease. It is appropriate to fix the annual fee which would be paid were the suspension to be lifted during 2021/22.

Categories

The Tribunal determined to retain a categorisation model which differentiates councils primarily based on their geographic location and the other factors including population, the sphere of the council's economic influence and the degree of regional servicing.

Central Coast Council remains in the category of Major Strategic Area, as provided in attachment 1 to this report. It is noted that the remuneration span for this category is the same as for a Major Regional City.

The Tribunal noted that an extensive review of the current category model was completed in 2020 and would be next considered in 2023.

Fees

The Tribunal determined a two per cent increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category.

Submissions that addressed fees sought an increase of 2.5 per cent or greater. These submissions raised similar issues to warrant an increase which included the significant workload, responsibilities, capabilities, duties and expanding nature of mayor and councillor roles. Some submissions also suggested that an increase in remuneration may assist in improving the diversity of potential candidates.

The 2021-22 rate peg for NSW Councils was set at 2.0 per cent by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The rate peg is the maximum percentage amount by which a council may increase its general income for the year.

Council must fix those annual fees in accordance with the determination made by the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal, which was that the annual fee to be paid to each Councillor was to be between \$18,800 and \$32,680, and the annual fee to be paid to the Mayor was between \$39,940 and \$101,800 as provided in attachment 2 to this report.

Section 249 of the Act provides that Council may also determine that an annual fee be paid to the Deputy Mayor, with any annual fee to be paid to the Deputy Mayor to be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee. Council is under no obligation to determine that a fee be paid to the Deputy Mayor – it is entirely discretionary.

Annual fees paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors are payable monthly in arrears for each month or part thereof that Councillor holds office, from the date of the declaration of the election poll as per section 250 of the Act.

In accordance with section 438 L (2) of the Act, while suspended from civic office, councillors are not entitled to any fee or other remuneration. The annual fees would only be paid at the cessation of suspension.

Deputy Mayor

Council may elect to have a Deputy Mayor in accordance with section 231 of the Local Government Act.

Central Coast Council has determined to have a Deputy Mayor and as such it is considered appropriate that there be remuneration for the performance of this role. However, it is not a requirement under the Act.

2.4 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal decision - Setting of fees for Mayor and Councillors (contd)

Consultation

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal consults with the sector prior to making its determination. Central Coast Council did not make any submissions to the Tribunal for the 2021 review.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Funding for Mayoral and Councillors' Fees has been included in the Annual Plan (Budget) for the 2021/2022 financial year currently on public exhibition.

Below is a summary of the increase as provided by the Tribunal Determination:

Category		Councillor/Member Annual Fee (\$) effective 1 July 2021		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee*(\$) effective 1 July 2021	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
General Purpose Councils – Non-Metropolitan	Major strategic area	18,800	32,680	39,940	101,800

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

2.4 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal decision - Setting of fees for Mayor and Councillors (contd)

Options

1 No change

Council may resolve not to apply the 2 per cent increase. The fees currently paid are in accordance with the Tribunal determination. **This is the recommended option.**



2 Apply increase in accordance with the determination. Given Council's current financial position an increase in fees is not recommended.

3 Determine a reduction in fees payable in accordance with the determination. Council may resolve to apply the minimum fee payable under the Tribunal's determination.

Timeframes

The fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the Act are effective from 1 July 2021. Fees would not be paid to suspended Councillors.

Attachments

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------|
| 1 | LG Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2021 | Click here for Attachment | D14616665 |
|  | Categories - General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan | | |
| 2 | LG Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2021 Fees | Click here for Attachment | D14616669 |
|  | for Councillors and Mayors | | |

Item No: 2.5
Title: Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00508 - D14606776
Author: Mellissa McKee, Financial Controller
Manager: Peter Correy, Unit Manager, Finance
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Loader, Director Water and Sewer

Recommendation

- 1 That Council approve the Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Fees and Charges set out in Attachment 1.**
- 2 That Council determine, for the purposes of s.315(1)(a) the Water Management Act 2000, that the amount of revenue it proposes to raise by way of service charges including the usage of the service is \$164,056,413. This is calculated based on the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART's) Final Determination dated 24 May 2019 and IPART Clarification Notice No. 1 of 2021 which was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 30 April 2021.**
- 3 That Council determine, for the purpose of s.315(1)(b) of the Water Management Act 2000, that land is to be classified for the purpose of levying services charges according to the following factors:**
 - a the purpose for which the land is actually being used,**
 - b the intensity with which the land is being used for that purpose,**
 - c the purposes for which the land is capable of being used,**
 - d the nature and extent of the water or sewerage services connected to the land.**
- 4 That Council determine, for the purposes of s.315(1)(c) of the Water Management Act 2000 that services charges be levied on the following bases, as applicable to each charge:**
 - a the availability of the service**
 - i the classification of land**
 - ii the size of the water meter registering supply**
 - iii the cost of providing the service (i.e. sewage discharge factor)**

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

- b the usage of the service***
 - i the volume of water supplied (as measured or estimated by Council)***
 - ii the degree of use (i.e. sewage discharge factor)***

- 5 *That Council determine, for the purposes of s.315(1)(d) of the Water Management Act 2000, that the service charges be levied in accordance with attachment 1 to the report.***
- 6 *That Council request that the Chief Executive Officer seek the Minister's approval under s315(3) of the Water Management Act 2000 for the service charges in accordance with the above determinations.***

Report purpose

To report the details of the water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges for the 2021-2022 charging year.

Executive Summary

This report seeks adoption of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges for the 2021-2022 charging year in line with IPART three year price determination for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

Council's water, sewerage and stormwater drainage charges are also subject to approval by the Minister for Primary Industries under s. 315(3) of the Water Management Act 2000, subsequent to adoption by Council.

Background

Under cl. 6(a) of the *Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016*, from 12 May 2016 Central Coast Council is the "water supply authority" for the Central Coast local government area, for the purpose of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Section 315 of the *Water Management Act 2000* requires Council to make various determinations in respect to water, sewerage and stormwater drainage service charges that it will impose no later than one month before the beginning of each "charging year". Council's next "charging year" starts 1 July 2021.

On 24 May 2019, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal ("IPART") made three year determinations concerning Councils water, sewerage and drainage charges, for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

In April 2021 IPART Clarification Notice No. 1 of 2021 was published in the NSW Government Gazette due to the fact a clerical error was identified in the original IPART modelling by Council. Amendments have been made by IPART in the Notice to the 2020-21 sewer service

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

charges to correct the impact of this error. The error set sewer service charges marginally lower than they should have been. This reduced the sewer service charge revenue that Council was able to collect over the three year determination period by \$1.8 million or 1% and resulted in customers paying around \$5 to \$10 less in each of the last two years. So that Council can recover this revenue, sewer service charges will increase from 1 July 2021. While customers will pay slightly higher prices in 2021-2022, they will pay no more in total than was intended over the three year determination period. This is because lower prices were applied for the first two years of the determination period. A copy of the Clarification Notice is included as Attachment 2 to this report.

The service charges which are year 3 of the determination period, included in this report are calculated in accordance with the 24 May 2019 IPART final determination and IPART Clarification Notice No. 1 of 2021 which was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 30 April 2021.

Council's water, sewerage and stormwater drainage charges are also subject to approval by the Minister for Primary Industries under s. 315(3) of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Current Status

The (estimated) revenue to be raised from Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Drainage Service Charges based on the IPART's Final Determination issued on 24 May 2019 and IPART Clarification Notice No. 1 of 2021 which was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 30 April 2021 for the 2021-2022 charging year is \$164,056,413.

All prices for water, sewerage, stormwater drainage and ancillary services for 2021-2022 are in accordance with IPART's final determinations issued on 24 May 2019 and IPART Clarification Notice No. 1 of 2021 which was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 30 April 2021 adjusted by the 2021-2022 CPI multiplier of 3.3% as the final determinations were made in 2019-2020 dollars.

The CPI multiplier as per the IPART determinations is the *consumer price index All Groups index number for the weighted average of eight capital cities*, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The maximum prices in the determinations are to be adjusted for inflation by multiplying the specified price in 2019-2020 dollars by the specified CPI multiplier.

For 2021-2022 that is calculated as the percentage change from the March Quarter 2019 to March Quarter 2021, which equals 3.3%,

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{\text{CPI March 2021}}{\text{CPI March 2019}}$$

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

The multiplier for 2021-2022 is a two year multiplier and is the sum of the March 2019 to March 2020 Consumer Price Index movement of 2.2% and the March 2020 to March 2021 Consumer Price Index movement of 1.1%.

The following table summarises the forecast 2021-2022 Annual Service Charges and budgeted revenue, including indexation and growth.

Service Charge	Basis	2020-2021 Budgeted Revenue	2021-2022 Budgeted Revenue
Water	Per property per annum	\$ 73,492,200	\$ 74,597,486
Sewerage	Per property per annum	\$ 71,193,183	\$ 73,962,807
Drainage	Per property per annum	\$ 15,597,798	\$ 15,496,120
Total service charges including usage component		\$160,283,380	\$164,056,413

The following tables estimate the 2021-2022 annual service charges for a typical residential house customer with a comparison to those levied by law in the 2020-2021 charging year. These estimates are based on water consumption of 150kL per year and sewer usage of 125kL per year. Due to differing sewer service charges the tables below reflect the former Local Government Areas.

Former Gosford Local Government Area

Charge	Charge Basis	2020-2021 Charges	2021-2022 Charges Per IPART's Determination (+3.3% CPI)	Movement in 2021-2022 Charges
Water Service Charge	Per property per annum	\$86.36	\$87.29	+\$0.93
Sewerage Service	Per property per annum	\$398.64	\$416.27	+\$17.63
Drainage Service	Per property per annum	\$106.85	\$108.00	+\$1.15
Water Usage (150KL)	Per property per annum	\$310.50	\$315.00	+\$4.50

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

Charge	Charge Basis	2020-2021 Charges	2021-2022 Charges Per IPART's Determination (+3.3% CPI)	Movement in 2021-2022 Charges
Sewerage Usage	Per property per annum	\$107.50	\$108.75	\$1.25
Total estimated charges	Per property per annum	\$1,009.85	\$1,035.31	+\$25.46

Former Wyong Local Government Area

Charge	Charge Basis	2020-2021 Charges	2021-2022 Charges Per IPART's Determination (+3.3% CPI)	Movement in 2021-2022 Charges
Water Service Charge	Per property per annum	\$86.36	\$87.29	+\$0.93
Sewerage Service	Per property per annum	\$366.18	\$379.98	+\$13.70
Drainage Service	Per property per annum	\$106.85	\$ 108.00	+\$1.15
Water Usage (150KL)	Per property per annum	\$310.50	\$ 315.00	+\$4.50
Sewerage Usage	Per property per annum	\$107.50	\$108.75	\$1.25
Total estimated charges	Per property per annum	\$977.39	\$998.92	+\$21.53

Consultation

Council's proposed Fees and Charges (including the water, sewerage and stormwater drainage charges) for the 2021-2022 charging year, based on the IPART's Final Determination issued on 24 May 2019 was included in the draft 2021-2022 Operational Plan which was placed on public exhibition from Thursday 29 April 2021 to Wednesday 26 May 2021.

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

The Fees and Charges on public exhibition were calculated based on an estimated CPI multiplier of 3.7% as the CPI for the March 2021 quarter had not been released at the time the draft Operational Plan was developed and this was noted in the documents on public exhibition. The actual CPI multiplier of 3.3% has been used in the calculation of the proposed water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges for the 2021-2022 charging year as outlined in attachment 1 and has been calculated in accordance with IPART's Pricing Determination based on published CPI for the March 2019 and March 2021 quarters by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The draft Fees and Charges in the 2021-2022 Operational Plan will be updated to reflect the CPI multiplier of 3.3% for final adoption in June 2021. As this is a regulated change, there is no requirement for re-exhibition of the updated prices.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The estimated revenue to be raised from Water, Sewer and Stormwater Drainage Service Charges based on the IPART Determinations for 2021-2022 is \$164,056,413.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships



R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

Under s.315 of the *Water Management Act 2000* Council is required to adopt the pricing at least one month prior to imposing the charges. Accordingly, in order for the charges within this report to be implemented, Council needs to make the relevant determinations by 31 May 2021. If these determinations are made, Council must then seek the approval of the Minister under s.315(3)(a) of the *Water Management Act 2000* and publish in the NSW Government Gazette prior to 30 June 2021.

2.5 Determination of water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage fees and charges 2021-2022 (contd)

Attachments

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2021-2022 Water, Sewerage and Stormwater | Click here for | D14624107 |
|  | Drainage Charges | Attachment | |
| 2 | IPART Clarification Notice Sewer Service Charges - | Click here for | D14624106 |
|  | 30 April 2021. | Attachment | |

Item No: 2.6
Title: IT Telecommunications
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00035 - D14618151
Author: Jamie Beal, Unit Manager Information and Technology
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

- 1 That Council approve the 24-month contract with Telstra to provide primary telecommunication services across Council from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2023.**
- 2 That Council resolve, pursuant to section 11(3) of the Local Government Act 1993, that the Attachments to this report remain confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act as they contain commercial information of a confidential nature that if disclosed information would confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. Consideration of the matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would affect Councils ability to obtain value for money services for the Central Coast community.**

Report purpose

To approve the 24-month contract with Telstra for Council's primary telecommunication services from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2023.

Executive Summary

Council's Telecommunications contract expired in January 2020. Council is currently on month by month casual contract with Telstra through the Local Government Procurement (LGP) arrangement.

A strategic review of Council's existing telecommunications contracts has identified opportunities for significant savings.

Upon investigation, it has been identified that Council is eligible to engage NSW Buy on C2210 Telecommunications Purchasing Arrangement (TPA) (State Contract) and leverage pre-existing benefits and pricing from major telecommunications providers

A strategic, phased approach towards the contract implementation is recommended in order to reduce the impact on existing council operations and provide ongoing savings and efficiencies.

Background

Councils Telecommunications contract expired in January 2020. Council is currently on month by month casual contract with Telstra through the Local Government Procurement (LGP) arrangement. Council has identified an opportunity to revise expenditure and decrease operating costs with minimal service impacts.

Current Status

Impact Analysis for Council Fixed-mobile voice and data services is complete. The next step is to gain Council approval in order to engage Telstra to execute the C2210 TPA contract.

Telstra has confirmed there will be zero cost to Council, and no downtime for the business to transition to the C2210 TPA contract. The transition will include service mapping and will be managed through our Telstra Business Services Lead and Telstra Account Manager.

Report

A strategic review of Council's existing telecommunications contracts has identified opportunities for significant savings. Council is eligible to engage NSW Buy on C2210 TPA (State Contract) and leverage pre-existing benefits and pricing from major telecommunications providers

A phased approach is recommended in order to implement telecommunications contracts and services:

Phase 1 - Transition of existing Council Telstra services to Contract C2210. Purely contractual, no impact to council (2020/21);

Phase 2 - Migrate NBN remote site services from Firenet to Telstra (2021/22); and

Phase 3 - Consolidate Mobile Device Management (MDM) (2021/22). Renew Telephony Expense Management System (TEMS) agreement.

A phased approach towards the contract implementation is recommended in order to reduce the impact on existing council operations and provide ongoing savings and efficiencies.

The Telecommunication Purchasing Arrangement (TPA) contract is available on the NSW Buy panel C2210 contract. The 24-month contract is for the supply of the Council's primary telecommunications, including fixed and mobile voice and data services. The previous contract, via Local Government Procurement (LGP115), expired in 2020, and Council are currently on a month to month contract.

2.6 IT Telecommunications (contd)

The Department of Customer Service (DCS) was engaged to perform an independent analysis of telecommunication providers on the TPA contract. This is a free service DCS provides, which as part of this service evaluates alternative carriers such as Optus to find the best value/solution for Council.

Financial analysis has identified that Telstra provides the lowest costs, based on Council's utilisation, compared to other providers. An estimated annual saving of \$272,190 (15% of current spend) is achieved by signing the new contract. This is due to the lower call rates and additional discounts for maintaining exclusivity with Telstra. These savings would be achieved monthly (\$22,682.50) from the date of contract execution.

As stated in clause 55(3)(g) of the Local Government Act 1993, a tender process is not required as Council will procure via the NSW Buy panel C2210 - Telecommunication Purchasing Arrangement (TPA). In addition, the Public Works and Procurement Regulation 2019 (clause 6) states that a local Council or authority is eligible to buy under the NSW Government contracts, panels and schemes.

The establishment of multi-year contracts delivers better outcomes for Council and reduces administrative overheads in comparison to annual or ad hoc purchasing arrangements. Council's budget has not yet been adopted for the required two-year period. The voting of money for expenditure of works, services or operations beyond that adopted in the Operational Plan is a non-delegable function under section 377 of the Local Government Act. For this reason, this report is provided to Council for its determination. The required contract and estimated two-year costs are outlined below.

Financial Year	Budget Item	Funding Source	Budget Amount	Saving
2020/21	Fixed and mobile voice and data services	IT operating budget*	\$148,228.00	\$22,682.50
2021/22	Fixed and mobile voice and data services	IT operating budget*	\$1,778,734.00	\$272,190.00
2022/23	Fixed and mobile voice and data services	IT operating budget*	\$1,630,506.00	\$249,507.50
	Total Contract		\$3,557,468.00	\$544,380

Note:

- Costs were estimated based on Council's previous 6-month of usage.
- Current spend has been forecast in the current and future years budget.
- C2210 pricing is reviewed annually by the DCS. Additional savings may be available in future reviews.
- Mobile voice and data costs are recharged internally to respective cost centres. Budget for fixed voice and data services are held within IT.

Phase 2 will commence after phase 1 has completed. Separate business cases will be developed to identify further savings. A separate Impact Analysis will be completed by DCS for these services.

Consultation

Council consulted with the Department of Customer Service, whom assign Telecommunications analysts (at no cost) to work with councils to source the best value for money across multiple suppliers on contract. They provide detailed analysis and make recommendations based on needs/services.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

For Council to obtain Multi Tower Discount (MTD) Council must commit 75% of spend within the relevant service towers with Telstra. If Council commits to the Multi Tower Discount through Contract C2210 (transition all five service towers; Fixed Data, Internet, Fixed voice, Mobiles and Network Applications.), the forecasted annual TPA savings would be 15% of Councils current annual spend equalling a saving of more than \$272,000 per annum.

Note- Telstra has advised that Council can initially sign with four Service Towers (all Telstra services, contractual changes only) with an agreement to ramp up over a 12-month period.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G4: Serve the community by providing great customer experience, value for money and quality services.

Risk Management

To minimise the risk, Council will be splitting the changes into three phases. Telstra has advised they will honour the Whole of Business Multi Tower Discount (WoB MTD) with an agreement that Council ramp up to 75% over a 12-month period. This will allow time for

2.6 IT Telecommunications (contd)

current contracts to expire and time for the Council to audit current services and plan transition as this activity would involve the transition of services across from alternative service providers. This discount is usually only applied when an agency commits 75% of spend within the service tower.

There is a risk of staying on the month to month LGP contract as Telstra could increase rates.

Migrating to an alternative telecommunications carrier will introduce significant risk to service continuity and will cost approximately \$327,318. See Migration Cost Estimate below.

Service	# Services	Cost Estimate	Cost Formula	Effort Estimate
Mobile Voice	1,903	\$12,000 \$23,788	IT costs 3 x weeks full time for two staff. Business costs: 15 mins per customer. (est. \$50 per hour)	All staff with mobile phones will be required to visit IT to swap their SIM cards out.
Mobile Data	2,887	\$72,175 \$36,088	W&S + IT costs 30 mins per customer. (est. \$50 per hour) Business costs: 15 mins per customer. (est. \$50 per hour)	Customers will be required to bring all SIM cards in for swapping. W&S SCADA impacts will be significant.
Fixed Services (voice, data, Internet)	400	\$40,000	IT costs: 3 x weeks full time for four technicians to port all services and to minimise disruption.	All fixed services will require logical migration to an alternative supplier.
Early Termination costs	45 mobiles 46 fixed data	\$8,328 \$134,939		
Total		\$327,318		

Options

- 1 Council approves a 24-month contract with Telstra for Council's primary telecommunications from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2023. **This is the recommended option.**
- 2 Council remain on the current month to month contract on LGA. This is not recommended as prices are not as competitive as provided by option 1.

Critical Dates or Timeframes

As Council is currently on a month by month contract, it is recommended to transition to the new contract as soon as possible.

Attachments

- 1** Confidential - TPA Impact Analysis Provided Under Separate Cover D14634968



Item No: 2.7
Title: Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of the Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy
Department: Community and Recreation Services

25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2018/01733 - D14397481
Author: Brett Sherar, Unit Manager, Sports Fields, Parks and Playgrounds
Executive: Julie Vaughan, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

- 1** *That Council note that the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy was publicly exhibited from 15 July 2020 to 14 August 2020.*
- 2** *That Council consider the submissions received (Attachment 3) during the exhibition period.*
- 3** *That Council note and endorse the amendments recommended in this report and Attachment 2.*
- 4** *That Council adopt the Central Coast Playspace Strategy (Attachment 1) and make it available on Council's website.*

Report purpose

To adopt the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy with amendments incorporated from the public exhibition process.

Executive Summary

The Central Coast Playspace Strategy (the Strategy) provides strategic direction for the development and sustainable management of playspaces across the Central Coast. The Strategy was endorsed by Council for the purpose of community consultation at its Ordinary Meeting on 9 June 2020.

At this meeting, it was also resolved that a further report be provided to Council on the outcome of the consultation. Feedback from community consultation was considered in the final review of the Strategy with a number of amendments made that are included in the final draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy (Attachment 1). The majority of amendments related to administrative corrections. There were many submissions seeking specific upgrades to specific playgrounds, and these will be considered as part of the 20-year renewal program.

Background

Council has over 260 public playspaces with both former Council's having playspace strategies that needed to be consolidated and updated into a single strategy. This draft document sets the strategic direction for playspace development and sustainable management across the Central Coast.

A playspace is a terminology used to capture the 'whole of park' experience and can offer multiple activities for all abilities, not just the playground equipment that is included in the playspace. They provide meeting places and activities where communities gather, socialise, exercise and get respite from daily duties.

Carefully planned, designed and sustainably managed playspaces allow children to learn, discover, socialise and test their physical abilities through play. Children learn to manage risks in a controlled environment which aids the development of life skills.

The vision for the Central Coast is to have a network of high quality, inclusive playspaces which support social engagement, are creative, enjoyable, appropriately sited, equitably distributed and sustainably managed.

The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- 1 Set the strategic direction for future planning of playspaces for the region;
- 2 Establish the principles for the provision of quality facilities; and
- 3 Outline the process for the sustainable management of playspaces.

The Strategy outlines a hierarchy of playspace categories and their distribution principles to ensure there is a diverse range of facilities as well as fair distribution across the Central Coast.

The hierarchy reflects State Guidelines for local, district and regional open space networks and is as follows:

- Local playspace – accessible to communities within walking distance and provide play equipment for the local community and visitors who tend to stay for 1-2 hours.
- District playspace –These are medium size playspaces that provide play equipment catering to multiple age groups and are generally co-located with other facilities such as toilets, picnic facilities and shared pathways.
- Regional playspace – typically have the greatest capacity and variety of equipment, may include specialist or iconic facilities and aim to improve inclusion, activation and social engagement across all ages, abilities and cultural groups.

Key components of the Strategy include Council's commitment to providing inclusive playspaces, planning for accessibility improvements, and developing intergenerational

2.7 Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of the Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy (contd)

playspaces. The intention of the Strategy is to provide lifelong physical activity and social cohesion.

The Strategy draws on demographic data and key trends, as well as State and National planning policies and guidelines to propose a set of short and long-term actions.

The short and long term actions will be put into an Action Plan for implementation and those actions will be incorporated into future budget development and operational plans.

Council manages risk by ensuring that the design, construction and maintenance of playspaces complies with National and State legislation and guidelines. Council undertakes an independent audit of these assets to ensure compliance with standards. This audit also supports decision making for the annual renewal program.

Consultation

The Strategy was presented to the Playspace Advisory Committee meeting on 19 December 2019 and copies were circulated to the Committee members for detailed review and comment. The Strategy was amended to address the Committee's comments prior to placing on public exhibition.

The draft Strategy was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from 15 July to 14 August 2020.

A communication plan was implemented during exhibition to ensure the community and stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to become involved in the consultation process and provide feedback.

A table with a summary of submissions and Council's response is included in Attachment 3 and a list of all amendments made to the Strategy, post consultation, are included in Attachment 2.

Most submissions were for specific parks to be renewed which form part of the 20-year renewal program or for inclusion elements to be added that were already covered in the Strategy. Some submissions referred to detailed design or specific operational issues which will be addressed during the development of the Playspace Design for Sustainability Guidelines or at the playspace design stage. Other requests were to have new playgrounds at a specific site, with some being included due to identified needs and other not being included but these will be considered in future strategy reviews. All other requests have been included in the amended Strategy, where practical. All submissions have been acknowledged and responded to.

A change was made post consultation to remove the action "Investigate the development of a destination playspace for the region as a tourist destination and to meet community

2.7 Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of the Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy (contd)

demand” due to the NSW State Government developing a destination playspace at the waterfront Gosford, which is now open for community use.

Internal consultation on the draft Strategy has occurred throughout its development.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1036/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The Strategy will support submissions for funding to the draft long-term capital works program and assist with securing additional funding through State and Federal Government grant programs. New playspaces identified in the Strategy will be funded through a combination of local infrastructure contributions for new development and grants.

A 20-year playspace renewal program and maintenance programs, funded from both operational and capital budgets, have been developed to meet safety and legislative requirements and to sustainably manage the lifecycle of these assets. This program provides a priority-based process for renewal of playspaces based on operational inspections and independent condition and compliance audits.

The following table outlines the proposed funding for operational maintenance and capital budgets for playspaces over the next four years.

Table 1: Proposed funding

Budget Year	Operational Maintenance Budget *	Capital Renewal Budget #	Total Playspace Budget
2020/21	\$1,491,292	\$3,262,602	\$4,753,894
2021/22	\$1,499,267	\$1,040,000	\$2,539,267
2022/23	\$1,507,429	\$1,170,000	\$2,677,429
2023/24	\$1,515,784	\$1,225,000	\$2,740,784
2024/25	\$1,524,335	\$2,045,000	\$3,569,335

** The operational maintenance budget is based on the 20/21 full year approved budget and includes depreciation and overheads. The Capital budgets are based on 20/21 approved budget and the draft four-year Capital budget.*

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 5: Liveable

Goal K: Out and about in fresh air

L-K3: provide signage, public facilities, amenities and playgrounds to encourage usage and enjoyment of public areas.

Risk Management

There is reputational risk to not adopting this Strategy if it leads to the supply and installation of playspaces not meeting regulations, the provision of playspaces not equitably distributed and if they are not maintained to a safe and usable standard.

Operational risks will be reduced with the implementation of this Strategy by ensuring inspections and audits are completed as required and that a strategy exists for the future development of playspaces across the region.

Options




- 1 Adopt the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy – **This is the recommended option.**

The draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy provides a vision and instrument for sustainable management of playspaces across the Central Coast.

- 2 Do not adopt the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy - Not recommended

The option to not adopt the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy will mean that the former Wyong Shire Council and former Gosford City Council strategies will remain as the source of direction for future planning and management of playspaces and will provide inconsistent classification and provision of playspaces across the Central Coast. This may also be a further risk to Council's reputation as extensive stakeholder and community engagement has occurred on the draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy.

Attachments

1	Draft Central Coast Playspace Strategy	Click here for Attachment	D14602706
			
2	List of Amendments to Playspace Strategy	Click here for Attachment	D14622612
			
3	Playspace Community Consultation Submissions Summarised	Click here for Attachment	D14624245
			

Item No: 2.8
Title: 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference - Response to Motion Submitted by Central Coast Council
Department: Corporate Affairs



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2021/00035 - D14608237
Author: Nicole Schull, PA to Unit Manager
Manager: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager, Governance and Risk
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

That Council notes the letter from The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP in response to a Motion from Central Coast Council carried at the 2020 LGNSW Conference.

Report purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide, for the information of Council, the response received in relation to a Motion submitted by Central Coast Council to the 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference.

Executive Summary

Attached is a letter from Parliamentary Secretary The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP to the president of LGNSW.

Council resolved to submit a motion to the 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference regarding NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption funding and the establishment of a national Independent anti-corruption body. The Motion passed at the conference. This report is for the information of Council regarding the response received.

Background

At its meeting on 24 August 2020, Council resolved in part:

That Council resolve to submit the additional motions to the LGNSW Annual Conference regarding the following issues, noting that they will be finalised and circulated to all Councillors prior to submission:

- *Call on LGNSW to actively campaign for the NSW Government to restore funding and ensure independence of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC)*
- *Call on LGNSW to lobby through the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for the Federal government to establish an Independent anti-corruption body with powers similar to those of the NSW ICAC model*

The Motion was submitted to the 2020 LGNSW Conference and carried. The Motion as it appeared in the Local Government NSW Annual Conference papers was:

113 Central Coast Council NSW ICAC and Federal anti-corruption body

That Local Government NSW:

- 1 Campaigns for the NSW Government to restore funding and ensure the independence of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The campaign would include, but not be limited to:*
 - a) building alliances with key stakeholders and peak bodies to develop a position statement and build a public campaign*
 - b) providing resources to local councils to build grassroots support for the campaign.*
- 2 Advocates through the Australian Local Government Association for the Federal Government to establish an independent anti corruption body with powers similar to those of the NSW ICAC.*

LGNSW made representations regarding this issue to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, and a response to these letters has been received (see Attachment 1).

LGNSW also wrote to the Australian Local Government Association regarding the second part of the Motion.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

- 1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

There are no financial implications of this report.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on transparency, understanding, trust and respect.

Attachments

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Response from the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP on behalf | Click here for | D14608472 |
|  | of the Premier - recommendations re funding for ICAC | Attachment | |



Item No: 2.9
Title: Meeting Records of Advisory Group and Committee meetings held in March and April 2021
Department: Corporate Affairs

25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2018/00220 - D14545205
Author: Kelly Drover, Meeting Support Officer
Manager: Sarah Georgiou, Section Manager, Civic Support
Manager: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager Governance and Risk
Executive: Natalia Cowley, Director Corporate Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

Recommendation

That Council receive the report on Meeting Records of Advisory Group and Committee meetings held in March and April 2021.

Report purpose

To note Meeting Records of the Advisory Group and Committee meetings held in March and April 2021, which include no recommendations for Council and are reported for information only.

Executive Summary

The below seven Advisory Groups and Committees met in March and April 2021. The associated Meeting Records were approved by the respective Convenors and Chairs and were circulated to members via email. It is noted that Meeting Records are confirmed by Advisory Groups and Committees at their next meeting.

Meeting Records from Advisory Group meetings that contain no recommendations to Council are reported to Council as a combined report for information only.

Links to each Meeting Record on Council's website are included below for the information of Council.

- [Companion Animals Advisory Committee meeting held 10 March 2021](#)
- [Employment and Economic Development Committee meeting held 10 March 2021](#)
- [Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons meeting held 16 March 2021](#)
- [Pedestrian Access and Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held 16 March 2021](#)
- [Tourism Advisory Committee meeting held 17 March 2021](#)
- [Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes meeting held 18 March 2021](#)
- [Extraordinary Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 13 April 2021](#)

2.9 Meeting Records of Advisory Group and Committee meetings held in March and April 2021 (contd)

There were an additional three Advisory Group and Committee meetings held during March and April 2021, which resulted in recommendations to Council. The Meeting Records of these meetings are reported to Council separately as follows.

- [Gosford CBD and Waterfront Advisory Committee meeting held 4 March 2021](#) – report to Council on 11 May 2021.
- [Status of Women Advisory Group meeting held 30 March 2021](#) – report to Council on 24 May 2021.
- [Protection of the Environment Trust Management Committee meeting held 20 April 2021](#) – report to Council on 11 May 2021.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

G3: Engage with the community in meaningful dialogue and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Attachments

Nil

Item No: 2.10
Title: Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group meeting held 30 March 2021
Department: Community and Recreation Services



25 May 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2017/00176 - D14583542
Manager: Glenn Cannard, Unit Manager Community and Culture
Executive: Julie Vaughan, Director Community and Recreation Services

Recommendation

- 1** ***That Council note the Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group meeting held 30 March 2021.***
- 2** ***That Council explores options for hosting or conducting candidate awareness sessions to promote the candidacy of women at the next Central Coast Council Local Government election.***

Report purpose

To note the Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group meeting held 30 March 2021, and consider the recommendations made by the Advisory Group and staff comments on these recommendations.

Executive Summary

The [Status of Women Advisory Group met on 30 March 2021](#). The Meeting Record from this meeting is published on Council's website and has been hyperlinked above for the information of Council.

At the meeting there was one recommendation made to Council regarding Council hosting a pre-election forum with the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA). Given the [Minister for Local Government's announcement on 26 April 2021](#) that Local Government elections for Central Coast will be postponed until late 2022, this recommendation will be considered as part of preparations for the conduct of the election.

Report

The Status of Women Advisory Group held a meeting on 30 March 2021. The Meeting Record of that meeting was approved by the Convenor and Chair, and placed on Council's website as hyperlinked above.

At the meeting the group discussed how they'd like to spend the remainder of the Council term and what opportunities they could champion for women. It was noted that [ALGWA NSW are running forums](#) to encourage women to nominate for the Local Government

2.10 Meeting Record of the Status of Women Advisory Group meeting held 30 March 2021 (contd)

elections in September 2021. The group were supportive of Council partnering with ALGWA NSW to host a forum for women and requested this be prioritised for action.

The group consequently made the following recommendation to Council:

That Council hosts a forum with ALGWA NSW to promote gender equity in Local Government in preparation for the September 2021 elections, noting this matter is time sensitive and should be prioritised for action. Should this not be possible, it is requested that Council support the Status of Women Advisory Group in hosting supplementary forums for women following any pre-election info sessions held.

At the meeting it was noted that staff accountable for the management of the election were already exploring options for pre-election information sessions, including the forums offered by ALGWA NSW.

Staff contacted ALGWA NSW inviting them to facilitate a face-to-face forum on the Central Coast.

On 26 April 2021 the [Minister for Local Government announced](#) the delay of the Central Coast Council Local Government election to late 2022. At this stage there is no confirmed date for the elections in late 2022. Staff will recommence exploring options for pre-election forums in preparation for the Local Government elections once a date is confirmed.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

Once a date is determined for the conduct of the next Central Coast Local Government election it will be necessary to ensure sufficient funding for the conduct of the election and candidate awareness sessions.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G3: Engage with the community in meaningful dialogue and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions.

Attachments

Nil.