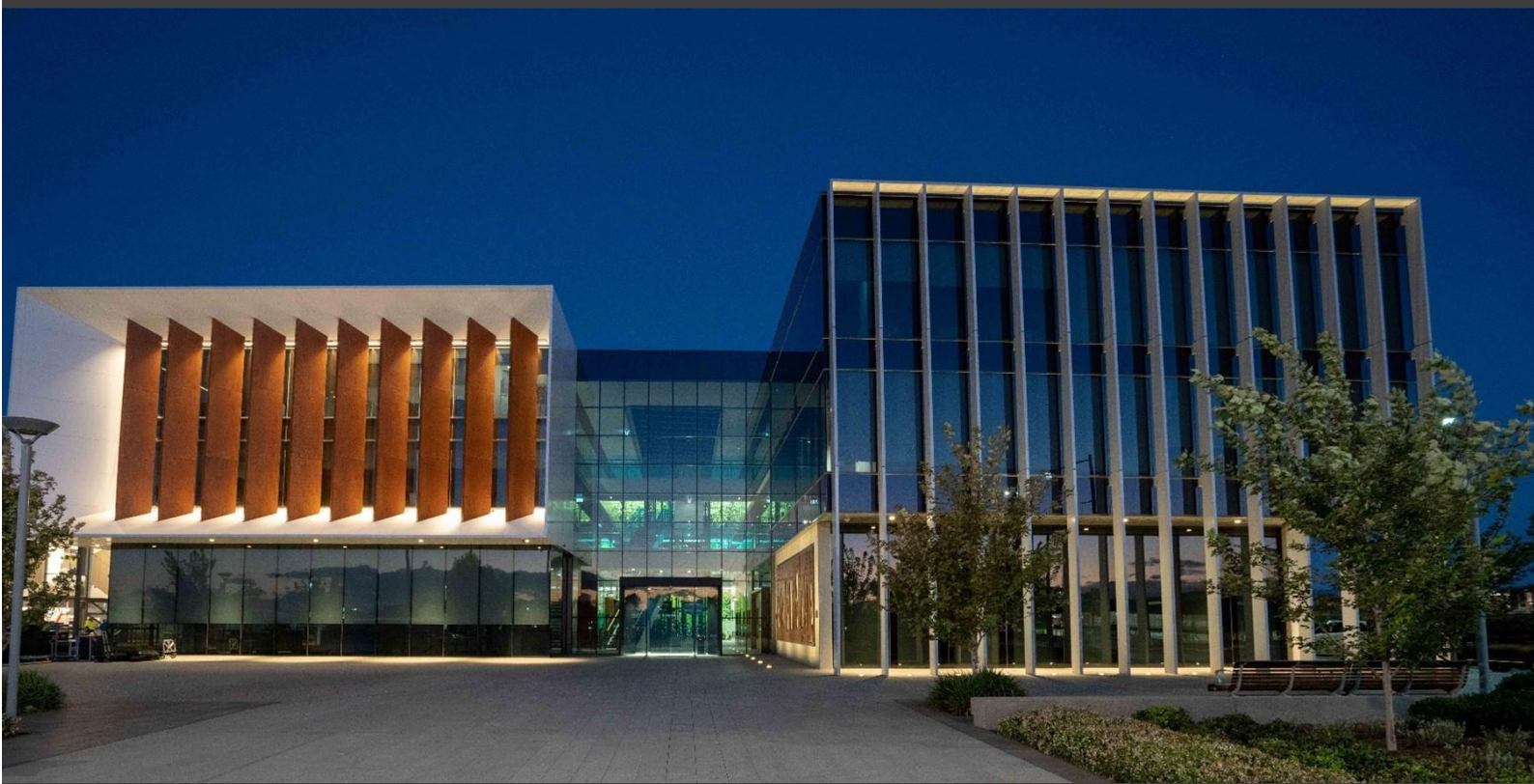


Business Paper

Ordinary Council Meeting

Camden Council
Administration Centre
70 Central Avenue
Oran Park

14 May 2024

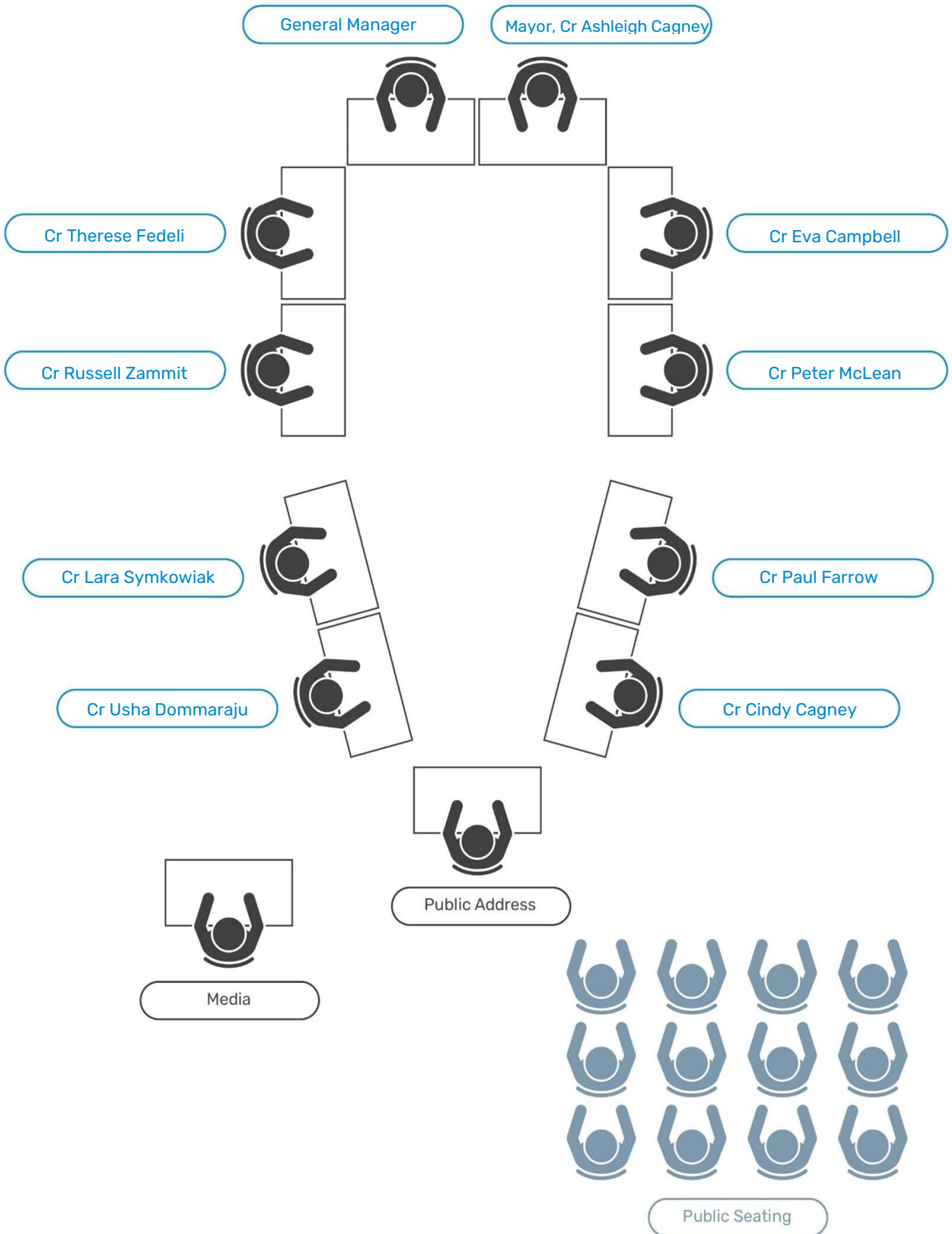


The public can also view the meeting via Council's webcast. A link to this webcast can be found on Council's webpage - <http://webcast.camden.nsw.gov.au/video.php>

camden
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COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AHD	Australian Height Datum
CLEP	Camden Local Environmental Plan
CP	Contributions Plan
DA	Development Application
DCP	Development Control Plan
DPE	Department of Planning & Environment
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning & Assessment Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument
FPL	Flood Planning Level
GCC	Greater Cities Commission
LAP	Local Approvals Policy
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
NCC	National Construction Code
REP	Regional Environmental Plan
PoM	Plan of Management
RL	Reduced Levels
S10.7 CERTIFICATE	Certificate as to zoning and planning restrictions on properties
S603 CERTIFICATE	Certificate as to Rates and Charges outstanding on a property
S73 CERTIFICATE	Certificate from Sydney Water regarding Subdivision
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SREP	Sydney Regional Environmental Plan
STP	Sewerage Treatment Plant
VMP	Vegetation Management Plan
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement



OATH AND AFFIRMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

In accordance with section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all elected Councillors must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the Council.

The oath or affirmation may be taken or made before the General Manager, an Australian legal practitioner or a Justice of the Peace.

A Councillor who fails, without a reasonable excuse, to take the oath of office or make an affirmation of the office in accordance with the Act is not entitled to attend a meeting as a Councillor, until the Councillor has taken the oath or made the affirmation.

OATH

"I [*name of councillor*] swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Camden Local Government Area and the Camden Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment".

AFFIRMATION

"I [*name of councillor*] solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Camden Local Government Area and the Camden Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment".

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SUBJECT: PRAYER

PRAYER

Almighty God, bless all who are engaged in the work of Local Government. Make us of one heart and mind, in thy service, and in the true welfare of the people we serve: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God, give thy blessing to all our undertakings. Enlighten us to know what is right, and help us to do what is good: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God, we pause to seek your help. Guide and direct our thinking. May your will be done in us, and through us, in the Local Government area we seek to serve: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

AFFIRMATION

We affirm our hope and dedication to the good Government of Camden and the well being of all Camden's residents, no matter their race, gender or creed.

We affirm our hope for the sound decision making by Council which can improve the quality of life in Camden.

Either – “So help me God” or “I so affirm” (at the option of councillors)

We pledge ourselves, as elected members of Camden Council, to work for the provision of the best possible services and facilities for the enjoyment and welfare of the people of Camden.

Either – “So help me God” or “I so affirm” (at the option of councillors)

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the Traditional Lands and Waterways of the Dharawal people, and also recognise surrounding Dharug and Gundungurra people and pay our respect to Elders past, present, and those emerging.

SUBJECT: WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

In accordance with Camden Council's Code of Meeting Practice and as permitted under the *Local Government Act 1993*, this meeting is being live streamed and recorded by Council staff for minute taking and webcasting purposes. The recording will also be made publicly available on Council's website.

No other webcasting or recording by a video camera, still camera or any other electronic device capable of webcasting or recording speech, moving images or still images is permitted without the prior approval of Council. Council has not authorised any other webcasting or recording of this meeting.

I remind those that are participating in this meeting that your image and what you say will be broadcast live to the public and will also be recorded so please be mindful of your actions and comments. You should avoid making statements that might defame or offend, or that release any personal information about another individual without their consent. Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from your actions and comments.

Under Council's Code of Meeting Practice, individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting.

SUBJECT: LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Leaves of absence tendered on behalf of Councillors from this meeting.

RECOMMENDED

That leaves of absence be granted.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Requests by Councillors to attend and participate in Council meetings by audio-visual link.

A decision whether to approve a request must be made by a resolution of Council. A resolution must state:

- The meetings the resolution applies to, and
- The reason why the Councillor is being permitted to attend the meetings by audio-visual link (unless the ground is illness, disability, or caring responsibilities).

RECOMMENDED

That the requests to attend and participate by audio-visual link be granted for the meetings as determined by Council and for the reasons noted.

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Council's Code of Conduct also deals with pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflict of interest and Political Donations and how to manage these issues (Clauses 4.28-5.19).

Councillors, and where applicable, all other persons, must be familiar with the conflicts of interest provisions contained in the Code of Conduct.

This item of business provides an opportunity for Councillors to declare and manage any conflicts of interest that they may have in matters being considered at this meeting of Council.

RECOMMENDED

That the declarations be noted.

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ADDRESSES

The Public Address session in the Council Meeting provides an opportunity for people to speak publicly on any item on Council's Business Paper.

The Public Address session will be conducted in accordance with the Public Address Guidelines.

Where a member of the public raises a question during the Public Address session, a response will be provided where Councillors or staff have the necessary information at hand; if not, a reply will be provided at a later time. There is a limit of one question per speaker per meeting.

All speakers are limited to four minutes, with a one minute warning given to speakers prior to the four minute time period elapsing. The commencement and conclusion of time shall be advised by the Mayor/Chairperson.

It should be noted that speakers at Council meetings do not enjoy any protection from parliamentary-style privilege. Therefore they are subject to the risk of defamation action if they make comments about individuals. In the event that a speaker makes potentially offensive or defamatory remarks about any person, the Mayor/Chairperson will ask them to refrain from such comments.

The Mayor/Chairperson has the discretion to withdraw the privilege to speak where a speaker continues to make inappropriate or offensive comments about another person, or make a point of order ruling if a speaker breaches the Guidelines.

Only the audio recording of the public address speakers will be heard on Council's webcast. Visual images of the speaker will not be captured as part of that webcast.

RECOMMENDED

That the public addresses be noted.

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirm and adopt Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 9 April 2024

RECOMMENDED

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 9 April 2024, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE

Consideration of Mayoral Minute (if any).

ORD01**ORD01**

SUBJECT: PRE-PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS - RIDGELINES AND STEEP LAND
FROM: Director Planning and Environment
EDMS #: 24/165540

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to insert controls for development on ridgelines and steep land into the Camden Development Control Plan (DCP) 2019, the Camden Growth Centre Precincts DCP (Growth Centres DCP) and the Oran Park DCP. If endorsed, the draft controls will be placed on public exhibition.

The draft development controls are provided as an **attachment** to this report.

BACKGROUND

Removal of ridgeline open space from the Oran Park Contributions Plan means that ridgelines and steep land in private ownership will likely be identified for other land uses, including residential development. To guide future development on ridgelines and steep land there is a need to insert controls into Council's DCPs.

Councillors were briefed on the draft controls and draft DCP amendments on 26 March 2024.

MAIN REPORT

Ridgelines and steep land are an important part of the natural landscape within the Camden Local Government Area (LGA). They have significant environmental values that should be protected, which include scenic amenity, cultural heritage and biodiversity. Ridgelines and steep land can also be subject to land instability, bushfire hazards, and have long-term maintenance and financial implications for landowners.

Retaining ridgelines and steep land in private ownership means that this land is likely to be subject to future development, particularly residential development. Controls are therefore required to guide development on these lands.

Subject land

It is proposed that the draft controls will apply to ridgelines and steep land across the Camden LGA. The precincts immediately impacted include Oran Park (i.e. Oxley Ridge and Arkendale), South Creek West Precincts 2 and 5 and the broader South West Growth Area.

Figure 1 below shows the location of some of the key ridgelines and steep land within the South West Growth Area.

ORD01

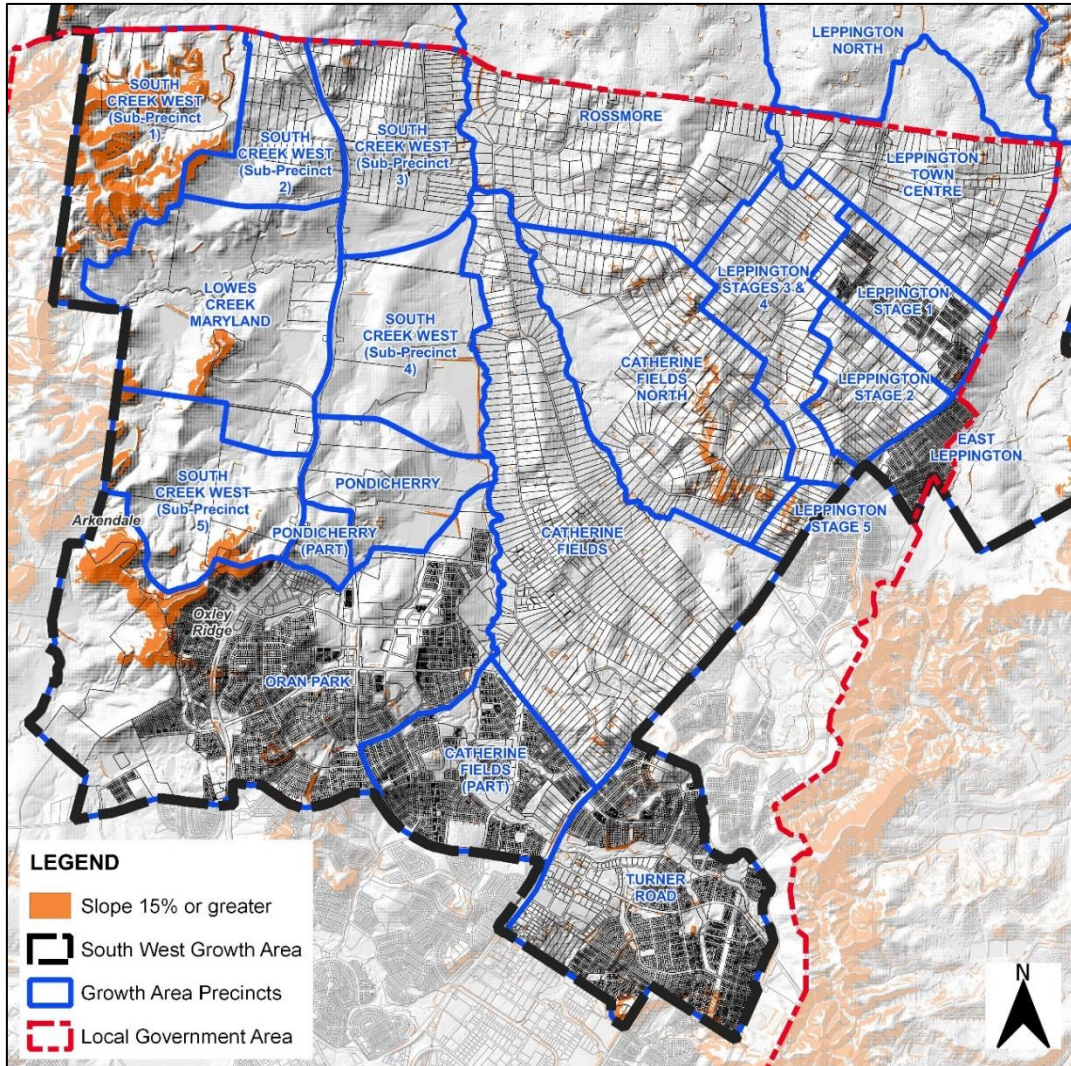


Figure 1: Some key ridgelines and steep land within the South West Growth Area

There are also other areas where development may be proposed on steep land within the Camden LGA where the draft DCP controls would apply.

Draft Development Controls

The draft controls have been prepared to amend the Camden Growth Centre DCP, Camden DCP 2019 and Oran Park DCP. The controls have been designed to work in conjunction with precinct specific controls that may also be prepared. In some instances, the controls may be overridden or replaced by more specific controls, and this is a matter that will be considered at the appropriate stage of each precinct’s development.

The controls will apply to land with a gradient of 15 per cent or more, and to land on or near the top of a ridgeline (regardless of slope).

In summary, the objectives of the controls are to:

- Maintain, protect and enhance the environmental values of ridgeline land;
- Maintain the social and economic values of ridgeline land;
- Manage and reduce the natural/environmental hazards on ridgeline land;
- Ensure development responds to the natural environment and its visual amenity;

- Ensure the scale, location and height of buildings recedes into the landscape; and
- Ensure the design follows the slope of the land to minimise cut and fill.

The controls will require development applications (DAs) to be informed by a range of assessments including visual landscape, geotechnical, biodiversity, bushfire and heritage. This will be particularly important for DAs proposing subdivision, as the above assessments will inform the future protection and management of ridgelines and steep land.

Planning principles embedded in the controls aim to ensure that vegetated areas requiring retention, bushfire Asset Protection Zones, and areas in which buildings and infrastructure can be constructed, are clearly identified, as shown in **Figure 2**.

DAs for subdivision may also include building envelopes, inter-allotment drainage, Section 88B covenants on property titles, measures for bushfire protection and vegetation management, and land stability measures.

There are also proposed controls for buildings that aim to ensure:

- Roof lines are lower than ridgelines or hilltops, and appear to be below the height of any ridgeline when viewed from public vantage areas;
- Buildings are designed to follow the slope of the land to minimise cut and fill, for example, through split-level design;
- Roof designs complement the slope and visual qualities of the land; and
- Materials and colours (including those for driveways) are to be visually recessive and have low reflectivity.

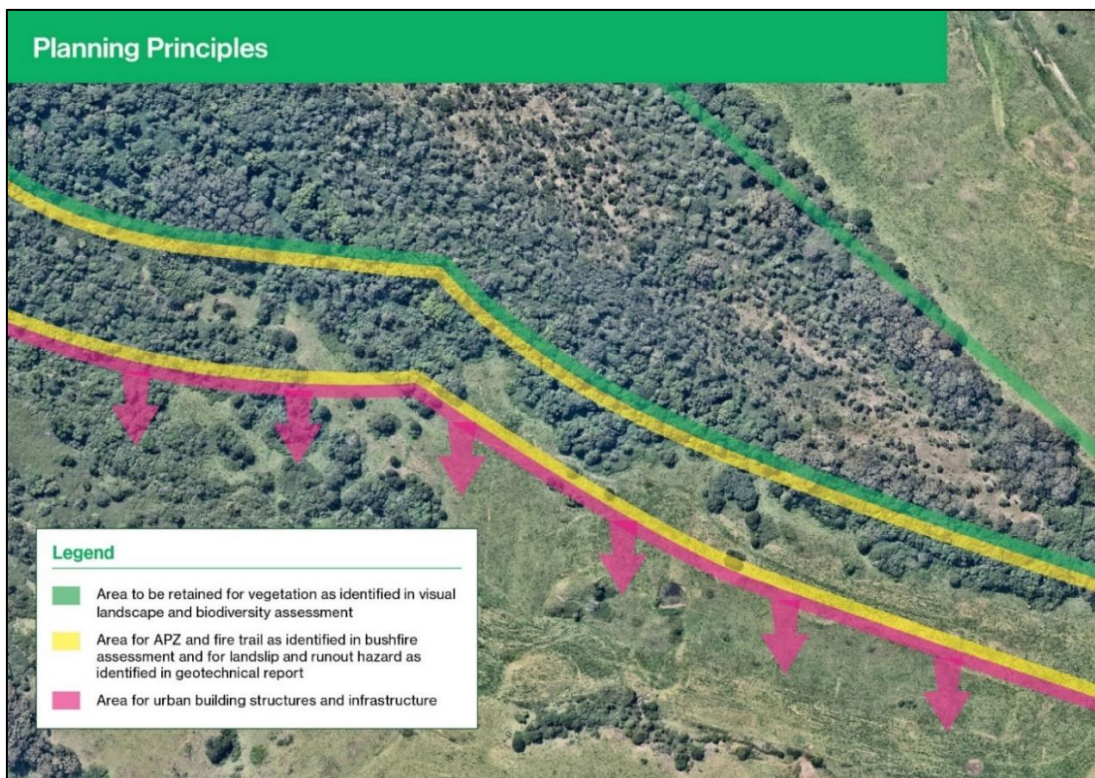


Figure 2: General Planning Principles for Development of Ridgeline Land

Consultation

Preliminary consultation has occurred with some current proponents for land in South Creek West and rezoned land within the Oran Park Precinct (i.e. Arkendale and Oxley Ridge) and comments received have been considered in preparing the controls.

Subject to Council endorsement, the draft controls will be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days on Council's 'Your Voice' Camden webpage and in accordance with the Camden Community Participation Plan 2021. If endorsed and there are no outstanding objections, the draft controls will be inserted into the Camden, Growth Centres and Oran Park DCPs.

Should any unresolved submissions be received from the public exhibition, a further report will be provided to Council outlining the results of the public exhibition.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

The proposed controls for ridgelines and steep land respond to amendments made to the Oran Park Contributions Plan and the resultant changes to future land ownership and land uses.

These controls aim to ensure that the important values of ridgelines are retained, and future development managed appropriately. They have been drafted to work in combination with any precinct specific development controls that may be developed.

It is proposed that amendments be made to the Camden DCP 2019, Growth Centres DCP and Oran Park DCP to include the proposed ridgeline and steep land controls. It is recommended that Council endorse the draft controls for ridgelines and steep land and for the controls to be placed on public exhibition.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. endorse amendment of Camden Development Control Plan 2019, Growth Centres Development Control Plan and Oran Park Development Control Plan to include controls for ridgelines and steep land for the purposes of public exhibition;**
- ii. exhibit the draft amendments to the Camden, Growth Centres and Oran Park Development Control Plans in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the *Regulations*;**
- iii. notify the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure of the exhibition of the draft amendments to the Camden, Growth Centres and Oran Park Development Control Plans in accordance with the amended delegations issued by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 19 January 2015;**
- iv. at the conclusion of the public exhibition period:**

- a. if there are no unresolved submissions, grant delegation to the General Manager to adopt the Development Control Plan amendments;
- b. publicly notify the adoption of the Development Control Plans in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the *Regulations*; or
- c. if unresolved submissions are received, consider a further report that outlines the results of the public exhibition for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft DCP Provisions for Ridgelines and Steep Land

ORD02

ORD02

SUBJECT: PRE-PUBLIC EXHIBITION - SCOPING STUDY FOR VOLUNTARY HOUSE RAISING NEPEAN RIVER CATCHMENT

FROM: Director Growth and Finance

EDMS #: 24/202949

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the draft Scoping Study for Voluntary House Raising within the Nepean River Catchment and to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Scoping Study for Voluntary House Raising on public exhibition.

BACKGROUND

Council published the Nepean River Floodplain Risk Management Plan in 2023. Preparation of the Plan involved the assessment of several potential flood management options using detailed computer modelling of flooding behaviour and the assessment of flood damages at dwellings within the floodplain.

The Plan identified that voluntary house raising may be beneficial in reducing flood damages at selected properties located at the edge of the Nepean River floodplain. Voluntary house raising involves the raising of houses to provide a floor level above the flood planning level. House raising works involve lifting the house using a combination of beams and jacks, after which piers are raised to the new floor level. The scheme is subject to a range of eligibility criteria outlined by the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program used to determine suitability.

The Plan identified properties for further assessment and, if appropriate, inclusion in a voluntary house raising scheme. A scoping study for voluntary house raising is a key pre-requisite for such a scheme, as the aim of the study is to further investigate the suitability of identified houses against the criteria.

During the March and July 2022 storm flood events in Camden, Council received a high number of community requests to consider and initiate voluntary house raising as a mitigation measure against flooding events. In some circumstances, residents were evacuated three times during 2022 flood events at short notice.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 19 September 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Council engaged Worley Consulting to undertake a scoping study for voluntary house raising as per the NSW government's *Floodplain Management Program - Guidelines for Voluntary House Raising Schemes*.

The scoping study initially identified 108 residential houses that were subject to above-floor flooding during a 5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. However, none of these houses were eligible for house raising when assessed against the Scheme's eligibility criteria.

The study then extended the assessment to include 92 additional houses impacted from above floor flooding during a 1% AEP flood event. When assessed against the Scheme’s eligibility criteria, only 19 houses were identified as being eligible for voluntary house raising. These houses are single storey, fibro or weatherboard in construction, outside the floodway, and in a low-to-medium hazard area.

The next stage of the study was to assess the benefit-cost ratio. The benefit is the reduction in flood damage from raising the house to eliminate flood damage up to and including 1% AEP. The average annual damage for each property was then calculated. The house raising cost for each property was calculated using indicative rates from a local builder. The benefit-cost ratio was calculated for each property to prioritise the voluntary house raising scheme.

A drop-in session was held on 10 April 2024 at Camden Library for the 19 property owners. Five interested property owners attended the session. They were generally in support of the scheme, subject to further details once they are selected for the scheme. Some of the issues raised included:

- The potential for asbestos in old houses;
- House relocation away from large sewer lines;
- The cost of finding rental accommodation during the works; and
- Finding a reliable builder.

The community members were highly appreciative of Council’s initiative.

The scoping study outcomes were presented by the consultant and discussed at the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 April 2024. The Advisory Committee recommended that Council endorse the public exhibition of the draft scoping study and seek community comment.

It is proposed that the draft scoping study will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 21 days via Your Voice Camden. An information session will be conducted during the exhibition period.

Following the exhibition period, a further report will be presented to Council addressing any submissions received, and if appropriate, seeking adoption of the scoping study.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report.

All expenditure for the public exhibition has been included in the project budget which was reported to Council on 10 October 2023. The funding is at a 3:1 ratio (Grant/Council) from the NSW Flood Recovery and Resilience Grant Program.

Grant Funding Amount	\$ 138,750 (excl. GST)	Ratio 75%
Council Match Funding	\$ 46,250 (excl. GST)	Ratio 25%
TOTAL	\$ 185,000 (excl. GST)	

Costs associated with any voluntary house raising scheme will be subject to future Council approval.

ORD02

CONCLUSION

Council's endorsement is required to place the draft Scoping Study for Voluntary House Raising on public exhibition.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. endorse the draft Scoping Study for Voluntary House Raising to be placed on public exhibition for 21 days; and**
- ii. receive a further report following the public exhibition.**

ORD03**ORD03****SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - SAVING OUR SPECIES -
ELDERSLIE BANKSIA SCRUB FOREST****FROM:** Director Community Assets**EDMS #:** 24/156401

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the offer of grant funding of \$12,500 (excl. GST) from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) Saving our Species program, and to seek Council's endorsement to accept the funding.

BACKGROUND

Saving our Species (SoS) is a NSW Government conservation program that aims to maximise the number of threatened species that can survive securely in the wild in NSW. The program is designed to develop partnerships with organisations and researchers to align conservation work.

SoS is a targeted conservation program and funds are not provided through a competitive application process. Instead, offers of funding are provided directly to landholders to conserve threatened species and communities in NSW.

The DCCEEW is seeking Council's ongoing support for delivery of the program in the current financial year through delivery of Stage 6 works for the Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest (EBSF) at Spring Farm.

EBSF is listed as critically endangered under both NSW and Commonwealth legislation and a targeted strategy for managing this ecological community at the Spring Farm management site has been developed under the SoS program.

Council has been working with the NSW Government through the SoS program on the conservation of the EBSF located at Spring Farm since 2017, with funding to date totalling \$138,800 (excl. GST).

Works completed to date have included:

- Installation of temporary and permanent fencing around the project site;
- Design and installation of site signage;
- Seed collection and propagation of plants for the site;
- Establishment of a Bushcare group for the site and work to plant and maintain the site;
- Primary and secondary weed control by contractors;
- Rabbit control; and
- Removal of dumped rubbish and litter.

In addition, Council's Natural Areas team has provided in-kind support maintaining the project site.

MAIN REPORT

The DCCEEW has advised Council of the offer of additional grant funding of \$12,500 (excl. GST) under the SoS program to continue conservation of the critically endangered EBSF community at Spring Farm.

The offer of funding from the DPE requires Council to continue conservation efforts on Council land and covers the period until 30 June 2024.

Conservation works to be undertaken with the funding primarily include the continuation of weed control on Council-owned land and the removal of rubbish. This work complements other activities being undertaken by Council, including:

- Educating Council staff and the community on the value and importance of EBSF and the types of activities that can have negative impacts on this threatened ecological community;
- Monitoring and managing plantings including undertaking watering if required;
- Undertaking primary and secondary weed control;
- Developing a Vertebrate Pest Management Plan and undertaking rabbit control as required;
- Removing rubbish and garden waste; and
- Providing a project report.



Figure 1 – Location of funded works under the Saving our Species program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Through the NSW Government's SoS program, Council has been offered \$12,500 (excl. GST) to continue on-ground conservation works for the EBSF.

Council will provide project management and reporting as well as ongoing management of the project sites as an in-kind contribution from existing budgets. The funding is proposed to be allocated in the 2023/24 Budget.

CONCLUSION

Council has been offered \$12,500 (excl. GST) in funding through the NSW Government's SoS program to support the conservation of the EBSF at Spring Farm.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. accept the grant funding of \$12,500 (excl. GST) through the NSW Government's Saving our Species program to undertake conservation works for Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest in Spring Farm, and allocate the funding in the 2023/24 Budget;**
- ii. write to the Hon. Penny Sharpe MP, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, thanking her for the grant; and**
- iii. write to Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Camden, thanking her for her support.**

ORD04

ORD04

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - TRANSPORT FOR NSW – VIBRANT STREETS PACKAGE - OPEN STREETS PROGRAM 2024 - CAMDEN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

FROM: Director Sport, Community and Activation

EDMS #: 24/197825

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful grant funding application of \$140,000 (excl. GST) for the Camden Christmas Festival from the NSW Government through the Transport for NSW Vibrant Streets Package – Open Streets Program.

BACKGROUND

The Open Streets Program is part of the NSW Government's commitment to transform streets into thriving local places that support businesses, creative sectors and the community.

The Camden Christmas Festival event is held annually in the Camden Town Centre and provides a free community event for residents and visitors to celebrate the festive season while showcasing local business and talent, as well as lighting the community Christmas tree and Christmas displays. The funds provided under this program will enable Council to expand the 2024 Camden Christmas Festival.

MAIN REPORT

The NSW Government has advised Council that it was successful in its application for \$140,000 for the Camden Festival through the Transport for NSW Vibrant Streets Package – Open Streets Program.

The current Camden Christmas Festival program includes a variety of free entertainment and activities including:

- Live music and dance performances by local musicians, bands, and dance schools;
- Amusement rides;
- Childrens activities including face painting, sand art workshops and bauble decorating;
- Visit and photos with Santa;
- Quiet inclusive space; and
- Gingerbread painting classes.

With the funding obtained through the Open Streets Program, Council will be able to enhance and expand the existing program by:

- Increasing the event duration (previously 4pm – 9pm) to 3pm – 9pm;
- Increase the number of free activities for attendees to participate in;
- Create arts and cultural spaces along John Street connecting the event to the Alan Baker Art Gallery and Camden Library;

- Provide additional seating areas for attendees to watch live performances and cultural activities; and
- Activate Larkin Place (area located behind businesses).

The additional funding will also allow Council to increase security and traffic control measures to enhance the safety of the event.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has been successful in its application for \$140,000 (excl. GST) to expand the Camden Christmas Festival. In addition, Council also has allocated funding for the event from within existing budgets.

CONCLUSION

The 2024 Camden Christmas Festival event will benefit from increased security measures, entertainment and activities and better connection with the arts and cultural community through the additional funding of \$140,000 (excl. GST) through the Transport for NSW Open Streets Program.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- accept the grant funding of \$140,000 (excl. GST) from the Transport for NSW Open Streets Program for inclusion in the 2024/25 budget to deliver the 2024 Camden Christmas Festival;**
- write to The Hon. Jo Haylen MP, Minister for Transport, thanking the NSW Government for the grant; and**
- write to Mrs Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Camden, Mr Nathan Hagarty MP, Member for Leppington, and Mrs Tanya Davies MP, Member for Badgerys Creek, thanking them for their support.**

SUBJECT: MARCH REVIEW OF THE 2023/24 BUDGET
FROM: Director Growth and Finance
EDMS #: 24/155226

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the March Quarterly Budget Review for the 2023/24 financial year in accordance with Part 9, Division 3, Section 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Its purpose is to inform Council of the necessary changes to the 2023/24 Budget for the reporting period ending 31 March 2024 and to consider other changes put forward for determination.

BACKGROUND

In adopting the 2023/24 Budget, Council approved a balanced budget position. Budget adjustments identified at the March 2024 Quarterly Review represent a projected budget surplus of \$88,224 for the 2023/24 financial year.

A Councillor briefing was held on 30 April 2024 to discuss this report.

MAIN REPORT

PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF THE 2023/24 PROJECTED BUDGET SURPLUS

It is recommended that the projected budget surplus of \$88,224 be allocated as follows:

Proposed Budget Surplus Allocation		
Budget Surplus Available for Allocation		\$88,224
Less: Transfer to Capital Works Reserve	\$88,224	
Total - Allocation of Budget Surplus		\$88,224
Proposed Budget Position		Balanced

This proposed transfer will increase the uncommitted balance of the Capital Works Reserve to \$722,775.

CURRENT RESERVE BALANCES

Capital Works Reserve

The Capital Works Reserve is predominantly used to fund capital works or to match grant funding as part of a capital grant funding agreement. The balance of the Capital Works Reserve is as follows:

Capital Works Reserve	
Reserve Balance – 30 June 2023	\$2,357,849
Add: December 2023 Budget Review Transfer	\$24,500
Add: Proposed March 2024 Budget Review Transfer	\$88,224
Proposed Balance of Reserve	\$2,470,573
Committed Funds Held in Reserve	
Less: 2022/23 Revoted projects	(\$696,548)
Less: 2023/24 Camden Memorial Pool Funding	(\$330,000)
Less: 2023/24 Nepean River Corridor Study	(\$175,000)
Less: 2023/24 Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	(\$500,000)
Less: 2023/24 Flood Recovery & Resilience Program	(\$46,250)
Total Committed Funds	(\$1,747,798)
Uncommitted Balance – Capital Works Reserve	\$722,775

Asset Renewal Reserve

The Asset Renewal Reserve is primarily used for the replacement and/or maintenance of existing assets. It assists in maintaining Council’s asset base in a good condition. The balance of the Asset Renewal Reserve is as follows:

Asset Renewal Reserve	
Reserve Balance – 30 June 2023	\$564,848
Add: Transfers to Reserve (Loan Interest Savings) 2023/24	\$74,900
Available Balance of Reserve	\$639,748
Committed Funds Held in Reserve	
Less: 2022/23 Revoted projects	(\$89,973)
Less: 2023/24 Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	(\$500,000)
Total Committed Funds	(\$589,973)
Uncommitted Balance – Asset Renewal Reserve	\$49,775

Working Funds Reserve

The Working Funds Reserve is primarily used as a holding reserve for unallocated funds or for transferring committed funding from one budget year to the next. The balance of the Working Funds Reserve is as follows:

ORD05

Working Funds Reserve	
Reserve Balance – 30 June 2023	\$1,232,978
Add: June 2023 Budget Review Transfer	\$801,028
Available Balance of Reserve	\$2,034,006
Committed Funds Held in Reserve	
Less: 2022/23 Revoted projects (June 2023)	(\$60,152)
Less: 2022/23 Revoted projects (March 2023)	(\$300,000)
Less: 2023/24 Transfer from Reserve	(\$838,000)
Less: 2023/24 September 2023 Budget Review Transfer	(\$801,000)
Total Committed Funds	(\$1,999,152)
Uncommitted Balance – Working Funds Reserve	\$34,854

MARCH 2024 BUDGET REVIEW

Further information and explanation of the proposed budget variations for the 2023/24 financial year is detailed below.

Proposed Budget Variations

Proposed variations and Council approved variations, which have been identified as part of the March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review, have led to a projected budget surplus of \$88,224. A list of the variations (greater than \$20,000) is provided in the following table. Brief explanations follow the table.

March Review of the 2023/24 Budget Proposed Variations	Budget Impact Increase/ (Decrease)
Income Adjustments	
<i>Note: Increase in income is an increase to the budget Shortfall in income is a decrease to the budget</i>	
1. Corporate Revenue – Investment Income (General Fund)	\$690,000
2. Public Libraries – NSW State Government Subsidy	\$37,366
Sub Total - Income Adjustments	\$727,366
Expenditure adjustments	
<i>Note: Increase in expenditure is a decrease to the budget Saving in expenditure is an increase to the budget</i>	
3. Building Improvements - Camden Museum	(\$150,000)
4. Companion Animals – Animal Care Facility	(\$90,000)
5. Traffic Safety - Argyle Street Pedestrian Refuge	(\$72,000)
6. Tree Operations – Storms and Emergencies	(\$65,000)
7. Asset Management - Valuation Expenses	(\$64,000)
8. Building Maintenance - Additional Cleaning	(\$50,000)
9. Bicentennial Equestrian Park – Wash Bay	(\$50,000)
10. Tourism Services - Tourism Action Plan	\$50,000
11. Parks & Playgrounds – Ron Dine Reserve	(\$45,000)

March Review of the 2023/24 Budget Proposed Variations	Budget Impact Increase/ (Decrease)
12. Sporting Facilities - Narellan Sports Hub	(\$30,000)
13. Parks & Playgrounds - Playspace Strategy	(\$30,000)
Minor Budget Variations < \$20,000	(\$43,142)
Sub Total - Expenditure Adjustments	(\$639,142)
Total - Proposed Variations to Budget	\$88,224
Council Approved Variations	
Approved Council Variations – Jan 2024 – March 2024	\$0
Sub Total – Council Approved Variations	
Proposed Reserve Transfer	
Transfer to Capital Works Reserve	(\$88,224)
Sub Total – Proposed Reserve Transfer	(\$88,224)
Revised Budget Position – 2023/24 Budget	Balanced

Income Adjustments Commentary

- 1. Corporate Revenue – Investment Income – Increase in Income of \$690,000**
 Investment returns have continued to improve during the second and third quarters of the 2023/24 financial year, with an increase in the anticipated weighted return on investment to 5.23%. The level of funds available for investment continues to be at a higher level than expected when compared to budget projections. These factors have resulted in an increase in forecast investment income for general fund operations of \$690,000.
- 2. Public Libraries - NSW State Government Subsidy – Increase in Income of \$37,366**
 Council's Original Budget included an estimate for the NSW State Government Library Subsidy of \$326,400. Council's subsidy for the 2023/24 financial year is \$363,766, resulting in additional revenue when compared to budget of \$37,366.

Expenditure Adjustments Commentary

- 3. Building Improvements - Camden Museum – Increase in Expense of \$150,000**
 The existing lift at the Camden Museum has stopped working and is at the end of its serviceable life, with parts no longer available. Funding is required to purchase a new lift and associated installation works.
- 4. Companion Animals - Animal Care Facility – Increase in Expense of \$90,000**
 Expenditure in relation to the animal care facility is anticipated to be \$90,000 over the current budget of \$124,000. This is primarily due to an increase in the number of animals being surrendered to the animal care facility and an increase in the number of days the impounded animals are being cared for.

ORD05

- 5. Traffic Safety - Argyle Street Pedestrian refuge - Increase in Expense of \$72,000**

Design estimates for the Argyle Street Pedestrian Refuge have increased by \$72,000. This is in part due to additional kerb extensions that are required for pedestrian safety.
- 6. Tree Operations - Storm and Emergency– Increase in Expense of \$65,000**

A number of intense weather events to date have resulted in tree and branch failure across the Camden Local Government Area (LGA) resulting in additional works costing \$65,000. These works were required to be completed as a priority and are in addition to planned tree maintenance.
- 7. Asset Management - Valuation Expenses – Increase in Expense of \$64,000**

Funding is required to undertake valuations of Council's play equipment, exercise equipment and special assets, which is in line with Council's comprehensive revaluation schedule. The valuations are undertaken to ensure Council is compliant with Australian Accounting Standards to report assets at fair value as at 30 June 2024. Council values a different class or classes of assets annually.
- 8. Building Maintenance Program – Additional Cleaning – Increase in Expense of \$50,000**

The increase in cleaning costs is primarily due to rising contractor costs and additional facilities that require cleaning as a result of growth.
- 9. Bicentennial Equestrian Park - Wash Bay – Increase in Expense of \$50,000**

The establishment of wash bays at the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park (BEP) are required. These works will enhance the capacity for equestrian events at the facility.
- 10. Tourism Services - Tourism Action Plan – Decrease in Expense of \$50,000**

There are identified savings from the Tourism Action Plan due to allocations for anticipated joint projects not being delivered in this financial year.
- 11. Parks and Playgrounds – Ron Dine Reserve – Increase in Expense of \$45,000**

The Camden South Tennis Club has received grant funding for the acquisition of playground equipment. Additional funding of \$45,000 is required to fund the installation of this equipment at Ron Dine Reserve.
- 12. Sporting Facilities - Narellan Sports Hub – Increase in Expense of \$30,000**

Funding is required to provide additional disabled parking spaces at the Narellan Sports Hub to comply with a recently completed accessibility audit.
- 13. Parks and Playgrounds - Playspace Strategy – Increase in Expense of \$30,000**

Additional funding of \$30,000 is required to develop a future play-space strategy across the Camden LGA. The total budget required is \$80,000. Funding of \$50,000 is proposed to be allocated from the developer contributions reserve.

COUNCIL AUTHORISED VARIATIONS

There were 7 (seven) Council authorised budget variations during the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024. A list of these approved variations is provided in the following table:

Council Approved Variations	Expenditure (Increase)/ Decrease	Income Increase/ (Decrease)	Budget Impact Increase/ (Decrease)
Grant Funding - NSW Floodplain Management Program - Addendum to Nepean River Floodplain Risk Management Plan to Support Emergency Management Planning ORD 6/24	(\$128,668)	\$128,668	Nil
Grant Funding - NSW Government Seniors Festival Grants Program - Seniors Talent Time 2024 ORD7/24	(\$3,500)	\$3,500	Nil
Grant Funding - NSW Government Youth Week Grants Program 2024 ORD8/24	(\$4,924)	\$4,924	Nil
Grant Funding - Female Friendly Community Sport Facilities and lighting upgrades Grant Program ORD9/24	(\$625,000)	\$625,000	Nil
Grant Funding - School Crossings at Spring Farm Public School and Camden South Public School ORD10/24	(\$1,500,000)	\$1,500,000	Nil
Grant Funding - Little Sandy Bridge Repair and Resilience Provision ORD10/24	(\$2,496,311)	\$2,496,311	Nil
Grant Funding - Rickard and Ingleburn Road Detailed Design Funds - Special Infrastructure Contributions ORD22/24	(\$4,500,000)	\$4,500,000	Nil
TOTAL	(\$9,258,403)	\$9,258,403	Nil

CONTRA ADJUSTMENTS

These adjustments relate to movements of income and expenditure within Council’s adopted budget. The adjustments have no impact on Council’s projected budget result as both movements of income and expenditure are of equal value.

During this quarter (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024), there have been 10 contra adjustments which are proposed amounting to \$1,357,481. Further information on the proposed Contra adjustments can be found in **Attachment 1** of this report.

ORD05

COUNCILLOR CONSOLIDATED WARD FUNDS

As part of the annual budget process, an allocation of \$30,000 is included within the budget, which is available for Councillor endorsed funding requests, fee waivers and/or support for specific community requests.

The current available balance of the Consolidated Ward Funds is \$66,844.

Consolidated Ward Funds	
2023/24 Budget Allocation	\$30,000
2022/23 Ward Funds Revote	\$136,844
Total Funds Available	\$166,844
Funding Allocated:	
Camden Community Gardens (ORD 157/23)	(\$40,000)
Doohan Reserve Safety Infrastructure (ORD 37/24)	(\$60,000)
Total Funding Allocated in 2022/23	(\$100,000)
Balance of Consolidated Ward Funds	\$66,844

MASTER OPERATING LEASE FACILITY

On 8 August 2023, Council approved Vestone Capital Pty Ltd. as the recommended provider for a master operating lease facility under Local Government Procurement (LGP) Contract LGP115, and the contract included a facility threshold of \$500,000 (excl. GST).

Under section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council cannot delegate the General Manager or any other member of staff the borrowing of money. A credit facility, such as a master operating lease facility, in financial terms is considered equivalent to borrowings.

Council officers have recently completed a review of IT assets as part of the Digital Innovation Strategy which recommends converting the fleet of IT end user equipment into a leasing model to keep pace with technology and to accommodate future growth.

As a result, it is recommended that the existing lease facility threshold be increased from \$500,000 (excl. GST) to \$2.5 million (excl. GST). The use of this facility still requires a separate budget approval by Council for leasing costs to be increased, and it also does not remove the requirement for officers to assess a lease vs. buy option for the procurement of equipment. The advantage for Council is that the lease facility saves administration costs by not having to run a procurement process each time the preferred option is to lease equipment.

There are no direct financial implications for the 2024/25 budget as leasing costs have already been included in the budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The level of leasing and ongoing leasing repayments will be reviewed annually as part of the annual budget review process.

Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction

A tender report is presented to this Council Meeting, ORD07 Tender T011-2023 - Principal Contractor for Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction.

As outlined in the tender report, Council has an adopted budget of \$1.815 million for the construction of the Springs Road / Macarthur Road Roundabout. This funding is sourced through Section 7.11 developer contributions, which is the amount being collected by the plan.

There is a current shortfall of funding for this project of \$850,000, primarily due to a change in scope for the project. The project funding required considers the final tendered price, expenditure incurred to date on design and investigation and an appropriate project contingency.

Upon review of possible funding sources, the sale of vacant land following the part road closure of Macarthur Road, Spring Farm was considered the most appropriate option.

Council at its meeting of 12 March 2024, considered works and the closure of part of Macarthur Road, Spring Farm, with a view to selling the land once the road was formally closed and the works to move services was completed. This report recommends that Council commit part of the expected proceeds from the sale of the land to the Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout project.

Further, Division 6, Section 43 of the *Roads Act 1993* states that the proceeds from the sale of a former road can only be used by Council for acquiring land for public roads or carrying out road work on public roads. This reduces Council's options for the use of these proceeds.

Subject to the timing of the sale of the land, Council may be required to forward fund the budget shortfall until the land is sold. If this is required, this will be reported to Council as part of a future quarterly budget review which will identify the appropriate reserve/s or budget/s to provide the forward funding. Upon receipt of the proceeds, reserve/s or budgets would be repaid the amount/s forward funded.

As per the Council resolution 12 March 2024, a report will still be presented to Council to approve the sale method of the land. Once the land is sold, Council will need to consider the allocation of any proceeds above the \$850,000 at a future Quarterly Budget Review.

HILDER RESERVE DEVELOPMENT STAGE 1

A tender report is presented to this Council Meeting, ORD08 Tender T005-2024 - Principal Contractor for Construction of Hilder Reserve Development Stage 1.

Council has an adopted budget of \$3.065 million for Stage 1 improvements works at Hilder Reserve Elderslie. This is part funded through Section 7.11 developer contributions (\$2.615 million) and \$450,000 through the Community Support Package Stage 3.

There is a current shortfall in funding for this project of \$596,000, primarily due to a change in scope and increasing material costs. The project funding required considers the final tendered price, expenditure incurred to date on design and investigation and an appropriate project contingency.

It is recommended that this shortfall be addressed through a funding reallocation from the Nugget Beams Reserve project which has savings available to fund the shortfall. A review of the scope of works for this project has confirmed that the current level of funding is not required to undertake the remaining works.

SUMMARY OF MARCH 2024 REVIEW ADJUSTMENTS

The following table is a summary of budget adjustments up to 31 March 2024.

Budget Adjustment Summary	Expenditure (Increase) / Decrease	Income Increase / (Decrease)	Budget Impact Increase / (Decrease)
2022/23 Carry-Forward Working Funds			\$1,000,000
2023/24 Adopted Budget Position			Balanced
Less: Minimum Level of Working Funds			(\$1,000,000)
Available Working Funds 1 July 2023			\$0
September Review 2023	(\$14,847,002)	14,847,002	\$0
December Review 2023	\$53,336,398	(\$53,336,398)	\$0
March Review 2024			
Note 1: Proposed Variations	(\$693,650)	\$781,874	\$88,224
Note 2: Authorised Variations	(\$9,258,403)	\$9,258,403	\$0
Note 3: Contra Adjustments	(\$1,357,481)	\$1,357,481	\$0
Sub Total – Review Adjustments	(\$11,309,534)	\$11,397,758	\$88,224
Proposed Transfer to Capital Works Reserve	(\$88,224)	\$0	(\$88,224)
Available Working Funds (Uncommitted cash)			Balanced

ON-TIME PAYMENT POLICY REPORTING

At the end of each quarter, Council is required to report on compliance with its adopted On-Time Payment Policy. This Policy requires Council to pay interest where an invoice received from small business (turnover less than \$2 million p.a.) has been held by Council for more than 20 days and the interest payable is more than \$20.

For the reporting period 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, Council processed 58 invoices from registered small businesses. No invoices became overdue during the reporting period.

STATEMENT BY RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

The following statement is made in accordance with section 203(2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*:

‘It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Result for Camden Council for the period ending 31 March 2024 indicates that Council’s projected financial position is satisfactory. No remedial actions are required based on the financial position presented within this report.’

A copy of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for the period ending 31 March 2024 is provided as **Attachment 2** of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

CONCLUSION

The March Quarterly Review of the 2023/24 Budget has been completed and is recommended for adoption by Council.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **adopt the budget variations contained within this report and confirm the allocation of the March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review surplus of \$88,224 be transferred to the Capital Works Reserve;**
- ii. **authorise an increase in the IT Master Operating Lease Facility to \$2,500,000 (excl. GST);**
- iii. **approve the allocation of \$850,000 for the Springs Road Roundabout Construction Project in the 2024/25 Budget and Capital Works Program be funded through the proceeds from sale of the part road closure (under the *Roads Act 1993*) at Macarthur Road Spring Farm; and**
- iv. **approve the reallocation of \$596,000 from the Nugget Beames Reserve Project to the Hilder Reserve Development Stage 1 Project in the 2024/25 Budget and Capital Works Program.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. March Review 2023-24
2. March Review 2023-24 QBRS

ORD06

ORD06

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION - PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

FROM: Director Growth and Finance

EDMS #: 24/219216

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the recent public exhibition and Terms of Reference for a parliamentary inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services. A copy of Council's draft submission is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

BACKGROUND

On 14 March 2024, the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development announced an inquiry into the ability of local government to fund infrastructure and services.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government, on 8 March 2024 and adopted by the committee on 14 March 2024.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry include:

- (a) The level of income councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities;
- (b) Examine if past rate pegs have matched increases in costs borne by local governments;
- (c) Current levels of service delivery and financial sustainability in local government, including the impact of cost shifting on service delivery and financial sustainability, and whether this has changed over time;
- (d) Assess the social and economic impacts of the rate peg in New South Wales for ratepayers, councils, and council staff over the last 20 years and compare with other jurisdictions;
- (e) Compare the rate peg as it currently exists to alternative approaches with regards to the outcomes for ratepayers, councils, and council staff;
- (f) Review the operation of the special rate variation process and its effectiveness in providing the level of income Councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities;
- (g) Any other related matters.

The Committee membership is as follows:

Chair: Suvaal, Emily (ALP, LC Member)
Deputy Chair: Faraway, Sam (NAT, LC Member)
Members: Buttigieg, Mark (ALP, LC Member)
Cohn, Amanda (GRNS, LC Member)
Hurst, Emma (AJP, LC Member)
Lawrence, Stephen (ALP, LC Member)

Martin, Taylor (IND, LC Member)
Primrose, Peter (ALP, LC Member)

Councillors were briefed on the submission on 30 April 2024.

MAIN REPORT

Camden is different to most local governments. Camden is facilitating the highest population growth in the State, delivering significant greenfield developments for which the funding requirements and support from other levels of government is unique, and its understanding is central to Camden's financial sustainability.

The submission considers the current rating system, contributions planning system, social impacts and how Council remains financially sustainable, and delivers the highest population and housing growth in the State.

The Calculation of the Rate Peg

While the calculation of the Rate Peg by IPART has improved with each review it remains inadequate in two fundamental areas:

1. The base level of income generated by Local Government is incorrect due to historical Rate Peg methodologies that were not representative of increasing costs, coupled with State Government cost shifting where options for councils to recover costs are limited. This could be corrected by including a catch-up factor in the annual Rate Peg.
2. The Rate Peg makes no allowance for the consumption of public assets (depreciation expense). This is central to local government sustainability. Over time, the only options for local government are to borrow for the renewal of assets, reduce services or service levels, or apply for a Special Rate Variation. The funding model should not place local government in this position. This could be corrected by making an allowance in the Rate Peg that is restricted for purposes of asset renewal.

The number of requests for Special Rate Variations over the past 10 years demonstrates the inadequacy of the current calculation methods.

Greenfield Development and the funding of Infrastructure

Greenfield development should not place an unreasonable tax burden on existing residents. Where there is fragmented land ownership, councils use section 7.11 development contributions and grants to fund new local infrastructure. In these situations, Council effectively takes on the role of the lead developer. The fundamental issue with greenfield development is that councils are placed in the position of having to forward fund the cost of infrastructure (including land acquisition) as the income from development has not yet been realised.

A \$2 billion land acquisition and infrastructure program cannot be forward funded by any council. Yet this is the proposition for Camden Council to facilitate the strategically important Leppington growth area.

ORD06

Further, delays in the funding and delivery of State infrastructure including water and sewer, electricity, road networks, schools and public transport place significant additional financial risk and costs on councils which, by taking on the unenviable role of 'lead developer', are required to forward fund local infrastructure to support growth outcomes.

Contributions Planning and Infrastructure delivery in Greenfield Developments

Income derived from development contribution plans is highly regulated and, in the case of greenfield development, land and infrastructure costs are approved by IPART on the basis of what they estimate the cost will be. Historically, this approach has not aligned with actual costs. There is a significant funding gap, between what is collected and the actual costs, in most contribution plans in NSW.

The gap in funding is partly due to the indexation periods always being in the past, relative to when money is expended, but more importantly the base cost for land and infrastructure works is often incorrect (as approved by IPART). The base cost is a benchmark calculated without seeing the land on which infrastructure is to be built, understanding the condition of the land, including possible site contamination and the site-specific engineering requirements impacting the cost of construction. This is not considered when IPART determines benchmark costs.

In addition, between the base cost being set and the plan coming into force, the determined cost is only subject to CPI, which is often significantly lower than construction costs escalation. This results in the base cost for works being lower than actual costs before the plan even comes into force.

The base embellishment for open space and sporting facilities allowed for by IPART grossly underestimates the social value of open space to new communities or how they are utilised. For example, sports grounds with base embellishment do not include drainage, irrigation or imported topsoil, which results in the grassed surface not lasting a full season. This results in councils having to use rating income to cover the cost of these elements to meet the community's expectations. Base level embellishment also places a significant maintenance and renewal burden on councils because the assets are not fit for purpose given the level of use they are subjected to.

Relying on development contributions to be paid before funds can be spent on land acquisition or works means that councils end up paying a premium for land, already escalated by the rezoning process and construction costs that have continued to escalate beyond what the indexation method used is capable of contributing. **If State funds were available at the time of rezoning, significant savings could be realised, which would reduce the funding gap exacerbated by time and also make housing more affordable by reducing the per lot contribution required to fund land and works.**

Land to support infrastructure should be valued, for the purposes of development contribution plans and acquisition, as constrained. If the development cannot occur without the provision of the infrastructure, then the land for infrastructure cannot be conceived as developable land, it is constrained and should be valued as such. This will lessen councils' risk as the land will not be subject to the astronomical rises experienced by developable land.

Community facilities (Leisure Centres, Libraries and Community Centres) should be included in the Essential Works List that determines what a development contributions plan, reviewed by IPART, can collect for. It should not be the responsibility of general rate income to provide infrastructure needed by new communities.

The Social Impacts of the Rate Peg

For a growth Council such as Camden, the long-term impacts of the rate peg are significant. This negatively impacts Council's ability to deliver the important services our community expects and deserves.

While the long-term planning within the growth areas is required to be prudent and future focused, planning for services also has to be dynamic and responsive to the needs of the community. Hence, it is important to consider some level of agility to provide flexible options for councils for rate increases to meet these needs.

In saying the above, the cost-of-living pressures in our communities are real and have to be factored into how and when the community is burdened with the rate increases. This is something that the sector should be able to determine in their own context, based on a set of transparent criteria.

The rate peg also limits councils' ability to provide local services and one of the adverse outcomes could be higher user charges for services resulting in inequities in the communities' abilities to pay.

A specific consideration in the rate peg context is the diversity of local government operations. This means councils can face significant and often different challenges in managing their revenues and costs to meet their communities' needs and ensure their financial sustainability. The recent COVID-19 pandemic, economic volatility, bushfires, droughts and floods, and growing climate and cyber security threats, have increased these challenges. They also reinforce how important it is for councils to be financially sustainable so they can deliver reliable, safe services that their communities can afford.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION

The draft submission to the parliamentary inquiry was made 26 April 2024, due to the short timeframe provided. It is recommended that Council endorse the submission.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. endorse the attached submission in response to the Parliamentary *Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services*; and**
- ii. provide a copy of the final endorsed submission to the Standing Committee on State Development.**

ORD06

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Submission - Inquiry into the Ability of Local Governments to Fund Infrastructure and Services

ORD07

ORD07

SUBJECT: T011/2023 - PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR FOR SPRINGS ROAD/MACARTHUR ROAD ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION

FROM: Director Community Assets

EDMS #: 24/147691

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the tenders received for T011/2023 – Principal Contractor for Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction and recommend that Council accept the tender submitted by Statewide Civil Pty Ltd.

BACKGROUND

Council has previously reconstructed Springs Road to an urban standard and to align with the adjacent new residential developments east of Macarthur Road. The intersection of Springs Road and Macarthur Road remains in a rural configuration and standard. The proposed roundabout and urban upgrade of the intersection approaches are required to cater for increased traffic due to residential development growth. Works will include demolition and disposal of existing concrete kerbs and stormwater pipes, relocation of existing Sydney Water services, stormwater upgrade in Macarthur Road, concrete medians, new road pavement, footpaths and landscaping.

MAIN REPORT

Legislation

This tender process was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines.

Contract Term

The contract term is for the duration of the construction works which, based on the tender program submitted and assessment of likely permissible extensions of time such as inclement weather and site conditions, is anticipated to be approximately six months.

Works are scheduled to commence on site in June 2024 and be completed in December 2024.

Financial Implications

Council has an adopted budget of \$1.815 million for the construction of the Springs Road / Macarthur Road Roundabout. This funding is sourced through section 7.11 developer contributions.

Since July 2023, when the budget was adopted, additional works have been required to relocate Sydney Water assets and additional drainage works in Macarthur Road have been included in the scope of this project. These required additional works have largely caused a shortfall in funding for this project of \$850,000. This considers expenditure incurred to date on design and investigation and an appropriate project contingency.

ORD07

The additional funding has been addressed as part of the March Quarterly Budget Review report, which has been reported to Council at tonight’s Ordinary Council meeting.

Work, Health & Safety Requirements

The selected tender meets all WHS requirements as required for this contract.

Certificates of Currency

The selected tender provides all current insurances as required for this contract.

Advertising of Tenders

A tender for T011/2023 – Principal Contractor for Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction was publicly advertised on Council’s website and made available through the e-tendering website: www.tenders.nsw.gov.au. Tenders opened on 21 November 2023 and closed on 17 January 2024.

Tenders Received

Council received 10 *on time* tender responses from the following organisations.

Tender	Suburb
Ally Property Services Pty Ltd (Trading As Ally Civil)	Smithfield NSW 2164
AMP Engineering Pty Ltd	Bella Vista NSW 2153
Axial Construction Pty Ltd	Chatswood NSW 2067
Devcon Civil Pty Ltd	Blacktown NSW 2148
Excel Plant Hire Pty Ltd T/As Excel Contracting NSW	Arndell Park NSW 2148
Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Minto NSW 2566
KK Civil Engineering	Chipping Norton NSW 2170
Menai Civil Contractors Pty Ltd	Smeaton Grange NSW 2567
State Civil Pty Ltd	Bardwell Valley NSW 2207
Statewide Civil Pty Ltd	Glenorie NSW 2157

Tender Evaluation Process

Tenders were assessed by the Tender Evaluation Panel, in accordance with Council’s Procurement Procedures and Guidelines. The evaluation criteria were prepared and weighted on 15 December 2023. Following the close of the tender period, each tender was evaluated by the members of the Tender Evaluation Panel using a Tender Evaluation and Pricing Matrix on the following criteria:

- Price;
- Methodology and understanding of project;
- Project team including subcontractors;
- Program; and
- Local Supplier Preference.

A summary of the tender assessment is provided as a **supporting document**. Please note this information is commercial-in-confidence.

Tender Compliance Panel

Tender submissions and evaluations were reviewed by the Tender Compliance Panel and all recommendations have been addressed.

CONCLUSION

Recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel

It is recommended that Council accept the tender from Statewide Civil Pty Ltd. This tenderer overall provided a submission that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the project, provided evidence of relevant experience in similar sized projects, and demonstrated best value for money.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the tender provided by Statewide Civil Pty Ltd as per the terms and conditions of T011/2023 - Principal Contractor for Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction for the lump sum of \$2,415,655.40 (excl. GST).

ATTACHMENTS

1. T011-2023 - Principal Contractor for Springs Road/Macarthur Road Roundabout Construction - *Supporting Document*

SUBJECT: T005/2024 - PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HILDER RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 1

FROM: Director Community Assets

EDMS #: 24/151301

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the tenders received for T005/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1, and recommend that Council accept the tender from Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd.

BACKGROUND

Council has allocated funds in the 2023/2024 Capital Works Program for the construction of Stage 1 of the Hilder Reserve Masterplan.

In August 2023 Councillors were briefed on the scope of Stage 1, to be focused on the delivery of the main field which includes three baseball diamonds, with future stages to be delivered as funding becomes available.

The proposed works for the Stage 1 delivery of the main field include:

- Earthworks and re-grading of site;
- One senior and two junior baseball diamonds;
- Fencing;
- LED Floodlighting;
- Irrigation;
- Drainage; and
- Pathways and Landscaping.

The Camden Red Socks baseball club have been consulted on the proposed scope of these Stage 1 works.

A copy of the proposed Stage 1 works is provided in **Attachment 1** of the report.

MAIN REPORT

Legislation

This tender process was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines.

Contract Term

The term of this contract will be for the duration of the works, with an expected completion date of 13 December 2024.

Financial Implications

Council has an adopted budget of \$3.065 million for Stage 1 improvements works at Hilder Reserve Elderslie. This is part funded through Section 7.11 developer contributions (\$2.615 million) and loan borrowings of \$450,000 through the Community Support Package Stage 3.

There is a current shortfall in funding for this project of \$596,000. This takes into consideration expenditure incurred to date on design and investigation and an appropriate project contingency.

The additional funding has been addressed as part of the March Quarterly Budget Review report, which is being considered as part of tonight’s Ordinary Council Meeting.

Work, Health & Safety Requirements

The selected tender meets all WHS requirements as required for this contract.

Certificates of Currency

The selected tender provides all current insurances as required for this contract.

Advertising of Tenders

In September 2022, Council publicly advertised for expression of interest E003/2022 - Construction of Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1. An evaluation panel selected the following seven companies to tender for the construction works:

- TRN Group
- Statewide Civil Pty Ltd
- Landscape Solutions Pty Ltd
- Western Earthmoving Pty Ltd
- Renworx Pty Ltd
- Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd
- Coordinated Landscapes Pty Ltd

A selective tender T005/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 was called on 16 January 2024. The tender was open until the closing date of 14 February 2024 and was available through the e-tendering website: www.tenders.nsw.gov.au.

Tenders Received

Council received 4 *on time* tender responses from the following organisations.

Tender	Suburb
Co-Ordinated Landscapes Pty Ltd	Sutherland NSW 2232
Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	Wilton NSW 2571
Statewide Civil Pty Ltd	Glenorie NSW 2157
Western Earthmoving Pty Limited (Trading as WEM Civil)	Bella Vista NSW 2153

Tender Evaluation Process

Tenders were assessed by the Tender Evaluation Panel, in accordance with Council's Procurement Procedures and Guidelines. The evaluation criteria were prepared and weighted on 7 February 2024. Following the close of the tender period, each tender was evaluated by the members of the Tender Evaluation Panel using a Tender Evaluation and Pricing Matrix on the following criteria:

- Local Supplier within LGA (mandatory);
- Methodology and understanding of the project;
- Project Team including subcontractors and specialists;
- Project Program; and
- Relevant Experience.

A summary of the tender assessment is provided as a **supporting document**. Please note this information is commercial-in-confidence.

Tender Compliance Panel

Tender submissions and evaluations were reviewed by the Tender Compliance Panel and all recommendations have been addressed.

CONCLUSION

Recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel

It is recommended that Council accept the tender from Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd. This tenderer overall provided a submission that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the project, provided evidence of relevant experience in delivery of sports field projects, and demonstrated value for money.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the tender from Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd as per the terms and conditions of T005/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 for the lump sum of \$3,203,129.00 (excl. GST).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 - Mark-Up
2. T005/2024 - Principal Contractor for Construction of Hilder Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 - *Supporting Document*

ORD09

ORD09

SUBJECT: T006/2024 - PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HARRINGTON PARK RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 1

FROM: Director Community Assets

EDMS #: 24/166020

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the tenders received for T006/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Harrington Park Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 and recommend that Council accept the tender from Gauci Civil Contracting Pty Ltd.

BACKGROUND

The Harrington Park Masterplan was adopted by Council in 2021.

The proposed works for Stage 1 include:

- Demolition of the existing basketball courts;
- Bulk earthworks to re-grade the site;
- A reconfiguration of the field layout, which includes relocation of the senior field and rejuvenation of the sports turf for the junior fields;
- LED floodlighting;
- Irrigation;
- Drainage;
- Pathways and landscaping; and
- 30 additional car parking spaces.

The Harrington Park Hornets soccer club has been consulted on the proposed scope of these Stage 1 works.

The site plan has been provided as **Attachment 1** of the report.

MAIN REPORT

Legislation

This tender process was conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines.

Contract Term

The term of this contract will be for the duration of the works with an expected completion date of 20 December 2024.

Financial Implications

Council has allocated funds in the Capital Works Program for the construction of a Stage 1 of the Harrington Park Reserve Masterplan and has sufficient budget allocated from the CSP3 Program to award this contract.

Work, Health & Safety Requirements

The selected tender meets all WHS requirements as required for this contract.

Certificates of Currency

The selected tender provides all current insurances as required for this contract.

Advertising of Tenders

An open tender T006/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Harrington Park Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 was called on 13 February 2024 and closed on 13 March 2024. The tender was available through the e-tendering website: www.tenders.nsw.gov.au.

Tenders Received

Council received 9 *on time* tender responses from the following organisations.

Tender	Suburb
Better View Landscapes Pty Ltd	Alexandria NSW 2015
Ecodynamics Landscaping Pty Ltd	Keilor East VIC 3033
Elite Turf Projects Pty Ltd	Jamisontown NSW 2750
Gauci Civil Contracting Pty Limited	Cobbitty NSW 2570
Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	Wilton NSW 2571
Regal Innovations Pty Ltd	Mulgrave NSW 2756
Romba Pty Ltd	Emu Heights NSW 2750
Serious Excavations Pty Ltd	Yarramundi NSW 2753
Western Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Bella Vista NSW 2153

Tender Evaluation Process

Tenders were assessed by the Tender Evaluation Panel, in accordance with Council’s Procurement Procedures and Guidelines. The evaluation criteria were prepared and weighted on 7 February 2024. Following the close of the tender period, each tender was evaluated by the members of the Tender Evaluation Panel using a Tender Evaluation and Pricing Matrix on the following criteria:

- Price;
- Local Supplier within LGA (mandatory);
- Non-Price – Methodology and understanding of the project;
- Project Team including subcontractors and specialists;
- Project Program; and
- Relevant Experience.

A summary of the tender assessment is provided as a **supporting document**. Please note this information is commercial-in-confidence.

Tender Compliance Panel

Tender submissions and evaluations were reviewed by the Tender Compliance Panel and all recommendations have been addressed.

CONCLUSION

Recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel

It is recommended that Council accept the tender from Gauci Civil Contracting Pty Limited. This tenderer overall provided a submission that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the project, provided evidence of relevant experience in delivery of sports field projects, is a local contractor to the LGA and demonstrated value for money.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the tender from Gauci Civil Contracting Pty Ltd as per the terms and conditions of T006/2024 Principal Contractor for Construction of Harrington Park Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 for the lump sum of \$2,157,954.55 (excl. GST).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Harrington Park Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 - Site Plan
2. T006/2024 - Principal Contractor for Construction of Harrington Park Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 - *Supporting Document*

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF LAND - 150, 162 (LOT 504), 166A AND 176 DICKSON ROAD, LEPPINGTON NSW 2179
FROM: Director Growth and Finance
EDMS #: 23/345232

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval to proceed with the compulsory acquisition of Lots 502 and 504 in DP 1172207 (162 and 176 Dickson Road, Leppington), Lot 3 in DP 1200957 (166A Dickson Road, Leppington), and Lot 22 in DP 1267999 (150 Dickson Road, Leppington), to facilitate the development of drainage infrastructure, open space, and an access road to service the Leppington Town Centre and Leppington North Precinct.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) are the registered proprietors of Lots 502 and 504 in DP 1172207 (162 and 176 Dickson Road, Leppington), Lot 3 in DP 1200957 (166A Dickson Road, Leppington), and Lot 22 in DP 1267999 (150 Dickson Road, Leppington).

The subject land is identified under the Camden Growth Areas – Leppington North Contributions Plan (Section 7.11) as land to be acquired by Council to facilitate the development of drainage infrastructure and open space facilities and will form part of both the Leppington Town Centre Precinct and Leppington North Precinct.

A site plan is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Councillors were briefed on the matter on 27 June 2023 and 12 March 2024.

MAIN REPORT

Land to be acquired for this purpose is carried out under the guidelines of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (NSW) (the Act), which encourages acquisition by agreement and provides a six-month period for Council and the landowner to agree on the terms of the acquisition. In situations where agreement is reached with the landowner, Council may proceed to acquire the land by private treaty.

The DPE advised Council that they waive their right to obtain a valuation and request that the acquisition takes place via a section 29 or 30 agreement. Council obtained valuation reports from Herron Todd White and Civicland Property Consultants and Valuers. Council submitted the following offers of compensation to the DPE on 17 March 2023:

Property	Compensation Amount
150 Dickson Road, Leppington	\$252,000
162 (Lot 504) Dickson Road, Leppington	\$1,150,000
166A Dickson, Leppington	\$61,000
176 Dickson Road, Leppington	\$366,300

The agreed compensation is consistent with the independent valuation received from Herron Todd White. The DPE formally accepted Council's offer of compensation on 14 May 2023.

After accepting Council's offer of compensation, the DPE advised Council that the new Planning Minister has placed a pause on all sales of public land and that they would not be able to proceed with the acquisition via agreement. The DPE was unable to provide a timeframe for the 'pause' on sales of public land.

Council met with the DPE on 12 December 2023, requesting an update on the Planning Minister's pause on the sale of Public Land. The DPE advised that there have been no changes to the status of this pause and suggested that Council proceed to compulsorily acquire the four properties.

On 30 January 2024, Council advised the DPE that the matter will be reported to Council seeking a resolution to compulsorily acquire the four properties. The DPE confirmed that there were no changes to the Planning Minister's pause, advising that the pause will be in place for most of this year, due to the wider review of Government Assets.

Council's solicitor has advised that section 10(1)(a) of the Act exempts acquiring authorities from having to engage in the six months negotiation period when compulsorily acquiring 'Crown Land'.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The compulsory acquisition will be funded from the Camden Growth Areas – Leppington North Contributions Plan (Section 7.11).

Compensation payable to DPE will now be determined by the Valuer-General, in accordance with the Act.

CONCLUSION

The Planning Minister's pause on sales of public land has restricted DPE's ability to allow Council to acquire the land via agreement. As the acquisition cannot be negotiated, it is recommended that Council proceed with the compulsory acquisition of the properties.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. compulsorily acquires the property described in this report (Property), pursuant to section 377(1)(h) of the *Local Government Act 1993*;**
- ii. compulsorily acquires the property for the purpose of exercising its service functions under the *Local Government Act 1993* of providing drainage infrastructure to support the Leppington Town Centre and Leppington North Precinct;**
- iii. makes an application to the Minister for Local Government through the Office of Local Government, pursuant to section 187(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, for approval to acquire the land by compulsory process by the issue of a proposed acquisition notice to the owner of the property;**

ORD10

- iv. makes an application to the Governor through the Office of Local Government, under section 19 of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*, for approval to acquire the property by compulsory process by the publication of an acquisition notice in the NSW Government Gazette;
- v. classifies the property on acquisition as community land under section 31 of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
- vi. authorises the General Manager or their delegate to finalise and execute all relevant documents relating to the acquisition of the property.

ATTACHMENTS

1. ACQ/2022/20/1 - Proposed Compulsory Acquisition - 150, 162, 166A and 176 Dickson Road, Leppington

ORD11

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY BUS - SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW OUTCOME
FROM: Director Sport, Community and Activation
EDMS #: 24/143732

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the outcome and recommendations of the community bus service review.

BACKGROUND

Council’s community bus (the bus) has traditionally been used by the community, including local sector agencies, and Council staff for transportation, recreation and social purposes.

Over the last few years, the utilisation of the bus has diminished significantly. There has also been an emergence and growth of several other local profit and not for profit community transport organisations established within the Camden Local Government Area (LGA).

The bus is at the end of its expected lifespan and is due for replacement. As such, a comprehensive review of the community bus service was recently undertaken.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 30 April 2024.

MAIN REPORT

The review of the community bus service considered usage patterns and data from the past five years, as well as user group feedback received in relation to the bus and overall service.

Analysis showed not only that the demand for Council’s community bus was limited, but that the uptake and usage of other community-based organisations providing community transport services within Camden, and South-West Sydney more broadly, were significantly higher when compared with Council.

1. Community Bus Bookings Data – Camden Council

Below is a breakdown of the bookings of Council’s community bus over the last five years:

Financial Year	Annual community use
19/20	9
20/21	0
21/22	10
22/23	5
23/24	3

2. Community Transport Services in Camden

Council officers have conducted an analysis of the transport services available in the local community, with a range of not-for profit and profit transport services available within the Camden LGA. Some of these providers are listed in the table below:

Service agency	Types of Transport available	Service users	Availability
South-West Community Transport	Updated and increased their fleet to accommodate community needs, including wheelchair accessible fleet options.	People with Disability, older people and any vulnerable or transport disadvantaged person needing community transport for medical, practical or social purposes.	24/7 including weekends.
Focus Connect (Macarthur Diversity Services Inc)	Accessible and aged friendly vehicles including 7, 12 and 22 seaters.	People with Disability, older people.	Normal hours 8am-4pm. Also available after hours after 4pm and on weekends.

Some private local companies also provide low-cost community transport options for the vulnerable groups with a variety of accessible vehicles.

3. Existing Community Transport Financial Assistance and Support

At its meeting of 3 October 2023, Council endorsed a revised Community Financial Assistance Policy which included a new category of financial assistance to help provide transport subsidies to our community groups and organisations. The new grant category is designed to offer our community flexibility, better value for Council funding, greater availability and access to the broader cross section of the community.

A new Community Transport Support Grant aims to provide up to \$500 (inc. GST) to eligible groups to subsidise costs for meeting the community’s transportation, recreational and social needs.

In addition, Council also provides a taxi voucher for People with Disability and frail aged residents to attend Council activities and meetings. This provision is funded from the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) implementation budget and is one of the strategic actions outlined within the DIAP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of a new community bus is \$126,000 (approx.). The re-sale value of the existing community bus is \$30,000 (approx.). Therefore, the net cost to Council for a new community bus is \$96,000 (approx.). Funding for the replacement of the community bus could be funded from the Plant Replacement Reserve.

There is a recurrent budget of \$24,800 to support the operation of the community bus. If Council was to support the recommendations as outlined in this report, it is proposed to transfer the \$24,800 operational budget to Council's community grants program budget to fund the Community Transport Support Grant and additional grants as part of Council's annual Grants Program.

CONCLUSION

Camden's community bus is at the end of its useful life and needs replacement. It is proposed not to replace the bus and instead promote alternate models of community transport, which includes financial assistance of up to \$500 as a transport subsidy for our community groups and organisations, through the new Community Transport Support Grant.

It is recommended that Council endorse the Community Transport Support Grant as the model of support for community transport needs, given the:

- Decline in the usage of Council's community bus;
- Increase of other community transport services in the Camden LGA which provide a variety of transport and vehicle options for the community;
- Significant costs associated with replacing the bus; and
- The introduction of the new Community Transport Support Grant which provides transport subsidies to our community groups and organisations.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- endorse the Community Transport Support Grant as Council's model of support for community transport needs;**
- approve the transfer of the annual operational budget for the Community Bus of \$24,800 to Council's community grants program budget; and**
- approve the disposal of the existing Community Bus through a government vehicle auction with the proceeds from sale to be transferred to Council's plant replacement reserve.**

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PARKS NAMING - ORAN PARK
FROM: Director Customer and Corporate Strategy
EDMS #: 24/109985

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks Council’s endorsement of the proposed naming of six parks within the suburb of Oran Park and referral of the proposal to the NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

Council received a request from Greenfields Development Company (GDC) to consider the naming of six parks within the suburb of Oran Park.

Information supplied by GDC in support of the request is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

A Councillor briefing on this matter was held on 30 April 2024.

MAIN REPORT

The parks to be named are:

- Allworth Park
- Billie Park
- Curtis Park
- Deer Park
- Neville Beyer Park
- Volunteers Park.

Detail on the historical background of the proposed parks names, as provided by GDC, is outlined in the table below. A copy of the location of the parks is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Proposed Park Names	Historical Background
Allworth Park	The proposed named Allworth Park in recognition of Joseph Witter Allworth, Surveyor General of NSW from 1901-1904. Mr. Allworth’s time as Surveyor General was cut short when in 1904 at the age of 57, he died from appendicitis. He had served the Surveyor General’s department from a very early age when entered as a cadet at the age of 14.
Billie Park	The proposed named Billie Park in recognition of explosives detection dog “Billie” who worked at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Billie’s paw prints were also used in an Australian War Memorial which was unveiled in February 2020 dedicated to the military working dogs, honouring them for their service, unconditional loyalty and in many cases for giving their lives.

Curtis Park	The proposed named Curtis Park, as the subject land was part of the land grant made to E L Moore in 1871 which was known as “Curtis Park”.
Deer Park	The proposed named Deer Park, as this park is located near the former Pondicherry Farm which was established in the 1950’s. Pondicherry Farm was home to many farming activities including deer grazing and as such it is proposed to recognise the history of the subject land.
Neville Beyer Park	The proposed named Neville Beyer Park, in recognition of the former Oran Park Circuit chief official who passed away in early 2020. Neville Beyer was a member of the Singer Car Club which built the Oran Park Circuit in 1962 and author of a book on the history of the Oran Park Circuit which was published in 2019.
Volunteers Park	The proposed named Volunteers Park, as motor racing, even at Formula 1 and Supercars level, is officiated by a team of dedicated volunteer officials. Flag marshals, scrutineers, fire and rescue teams, recovery and race control teams all volunteer their time and services to see motor racing take place.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

GDC has submitted a list of parks and reserve names for endorsement by Council. The proposed names outlined this report are in accordance with GNB guidelines.

It is recommended that Council endorse the proposed park names and refer the application to the GNB to continue the place naming process.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. endorse the park names Allworth Park, Billie Park, Curtis Park, Deer Park, Neville Beyer Park, and Volunteers Park within the Oran Park Precinct;**
- ii. refer the application to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) in accordance with the GNB place naming process; and**
- iii. write to Greenfields Development Company advising of Council’s decision.**

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. GNB Park Name Submission

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT MONIES - MARCH 2024
FROM: Director Growth and Finance
EDMS #: 24/185396

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In accordance with Part 9, Division 5, Section 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, a list of investments held by Council as at 31 March 2024 is provided.

MAIN REPORT

The weighted average return on all investments was 5.25% p.a. for the month of March 2024. The industry benchmark for this period was 4.41% (Ausbond Bank Bill Index) and the current official cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is 4.35%.

The Responsible Accounting Officer (the Chief Financial Officer) has certified that all investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the relevant regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

Council's Investment Report is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **note that the Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Regulations, and Council's Investment Policy;**
- ii. **note the list of investments for March 2024; and**
- iii. **note the weighted average interest rate return of 5.25% p.a. for the month of March 2024.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Investment Summary Report - March 2024

ORD14

ORD14

NOTICE OF MOTION**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - REPURPOSING OF COURTS AT CUNNINGHAM RESERVE, GREGORY HILLS****FROM: Cr McLean****EDMS #: 24/224504**

"I, Councillor Peter McLean, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 14 May 2024:

For Council to investigate and report back to Councillors on options to repurpose some of the netball and/or basketball courts (between two and four courts) at Cunningham Reserve in Gregory Hills into an all-weather playing surface to benefit all of the community, especially during periods of high rainfall.

Options should include but are not limited to:

- The configuration of one or two mini football fields or one full size field using a rubber, synthetic or other all-weather surface.
- A new redesign to incorporate a larger footprint given that Gregory Hills Public School and soon to be High School will likely also use these facilities because they won't have any playing fields.
- Further investigations to research and request Schools Infrastructure NSW to fund this project in full.
- A combination of the above points or other alternatives to achieve the objectives.

BACKGROUND

The existing netball and basketball courts in Cunningham Reserve are uneven and will require further maintenance to ensure they are safe and operational. The courts are not regularly used by the community and a basketball facility is available at Howard Park. Repurposing the courts at Cunningham Reserve would benefit the local football club, local schools (Primary and High), local informal social sports and reduce impacts on grass fields during extended wet weather periods.

For example, the La Niña weather patterns experienced in 2021 and 2022 not only caused multiple flood events but also very extended sporting field closures which not only impacted training and games but also entire playing seasons. Wear and tear on fields was also much greater.

This type of concept may be a valuable model to use in future sporting field developments going forward given the growing demand in sport, lack of school sports fields as well as the ongoing likelihood of future La Niña weather patterns."

ORD14**RECOMMENDED**

That Council investigate and report back to Councillors on options to repurpose some of the netball and/or basketball courts (between two and four courts) at Cunningham Reserve in Gregory Hills into an all-weather playing surface to benefit all of the community, especially during periods of high rainfall, which should include, but are not limited to:

- a. the configuration of one or two mini football fields or one full size field using a rubber, synthetic or other all-weather surface;
- b. a new redesign to incorporate a larger footprint to accommodate potential use by Gregory Hills Public School and High School;
- c. further investigations to research and request Schools Infrastructure NSW to fund this project in full; and
- d. a combination of the above points or other alternatives to achieve the objectives.

ORD15

ORD15

NOTICE OF MOTION**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS AND/OR RATEPAYERS****FROM: Cr McLean****EDMS #: 24/224608**

"I, Councillor Peter McLean, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 14 May 2024:

For the council to immediately investigate and report back to a Councillor briefing on options to provide some modest financial support to residents in Camden Council facing overwhelming cost of living pressures. These options could include but are not limited to:

- A small cost of living rebate to residents and/or ratepayers which is opt in or community wide. An example includes the pensioner subsidy as well as the COVID19 rebate.
- Provision of targeted support to local residents who need it the most.
- Other support which helps to provide a small but meaningful difference to our community.

BACKGROUND

Cost of living pressures are severely impacting families, individuals and all residents of Camden Council. Although this is largely a State and Federal Government issue to address, Camden Council can and should help in a small way to support our community.

The COVID19 Pandemic saw many Councils including Camden Council provide rate rebates (\$100 in most cases). The current cost of living pressures are equally significant or worse for many people in our community and we need to support them through these tough times."


RECOMMENDED

That Council immediately investigate and report back to a Councillor briefing on options to provide some modest financial support to residents and/or ratepayers in the Camden local government area facing overwhelming cost of living pressures, which options could include, but are not limited to:

- a. a small cost of living rebate to residents and/or ratepayers which is opt in or community wide. An example includes the pensioner subsidy as well as the COVID19 rebate;
- b. provision of targeted support to local residents who need it the most; and
- c. other support which helps to provide a small but meaningful difference to our community.

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camden
council