

Business Paper

Ordinary Council Meeting

Camden Council
Administration Centre
70 Central Avenue
Oran Park

20 June 2023

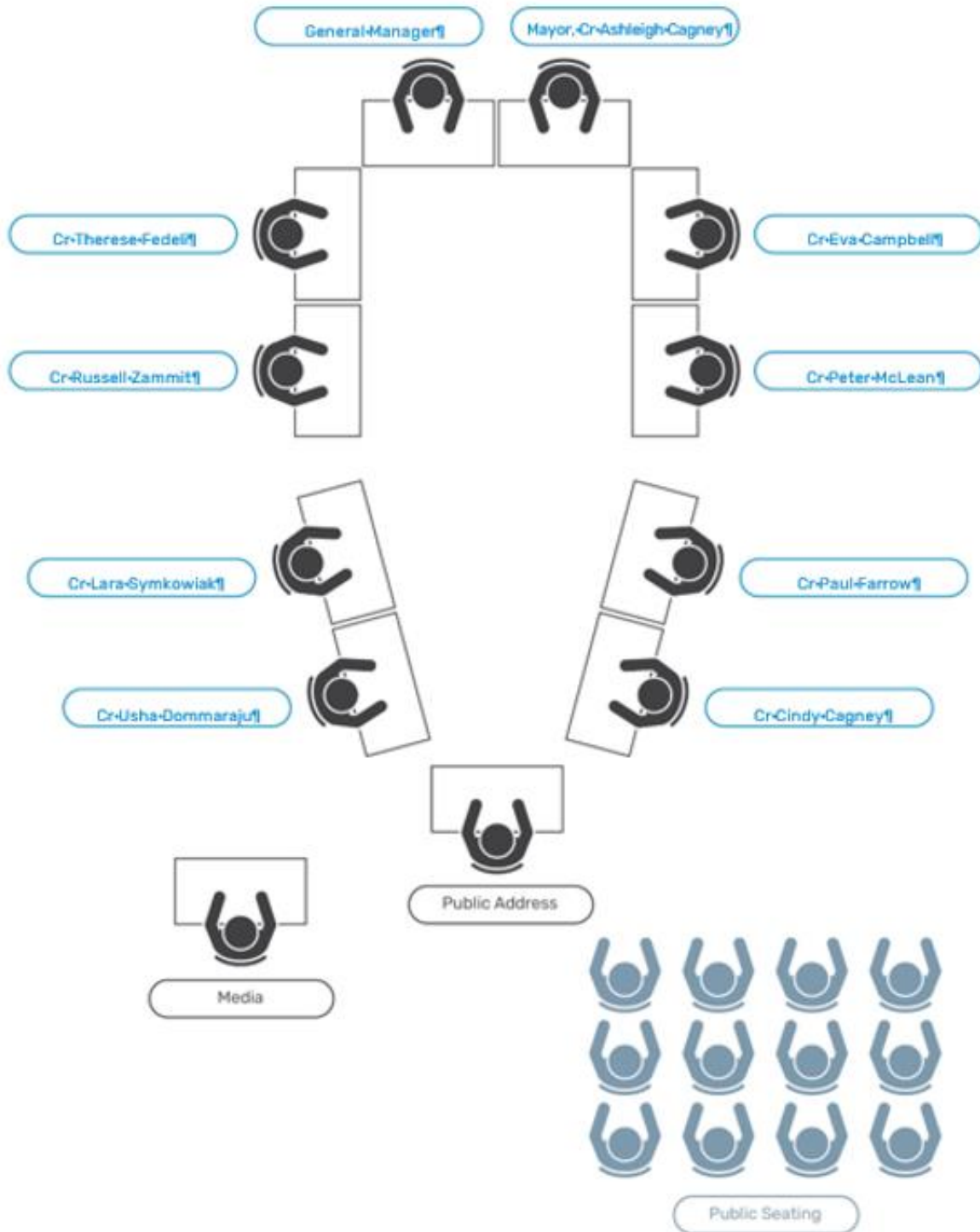


The public can also view the meeting via Council's webcast. A link to this webcast can be found on Council's webpage - <http://webcast.camden.nsw.gov.au/video.php>

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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 May 2023.

RECOMMENDED

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 9 May 2023, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE

Consideration of Mayoral Minute (if any).

ORD01**ORD01**

SUBJECT: POST EXHIBITION - 2023/24 OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET, INCLUDING REVENUE POLICY, CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM, FEES AND CHARGES AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

FROM: Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

EDMS #: 23/264422

PREVIOUS ITEMS: ORD01 - Public Exhibition - Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget, Including Draft Revenue Policy, Draft Capital Works Program, Draft Fees and Charges and Draft Long Term Financial Plan. - Ordinary Council - 11 Apr 2023

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcomes of the public exhibition and recommend adoption of the Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget, Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges, Draft Capital Works Program and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan.

As required under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is also required to resolve the following:

- Making and levying the rates and annual charges for 2023/24; and
- Authorisation of expenditure and voting of money for the 2023/24 Budget.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, all councils are required to undertake community planning and reporting activities using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. The framework provides for the interrelationship between the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy.

At its meeting on 14 June 2022, Council endorsed the revised Connecting Camden: Community Strategic Plan and adopted the Delivery Program 2022-26, Operational Plan 2022-23, Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan is a minimum 10-year plan and represents the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by Council. All other plans must support the achievement of the Community Strategic Plan's objectives. The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies to achieve them.

The Delivery Program is a four-year program and outlines the principal activities Council will deliver, or advocate for, to achieve the objectives outlined in the Community Strategic Plan. All plans, projects, activities, and funding allocations are directly linked to the Delivery Program.

The Operational Plan is an annual plan that supports the Delivery Program and outlines the projects and actions that will be undertaken to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program. The Draft Operational Plan 2023-24 is the second annual plan within the four-year Delivery Program.

Councillor briefings on the Draft Operational Plan 2023-24 were held on 14 March and 21 March 2023, and a further briefing was held on 23 May 2023 to consider any changes and/or submission/s received during the exhibition period.

2023/24 OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Draft Operational Plan for the 2023/24 financial year has been compiled and details 156 actions to be delivered across our five key directions. The IPR framework requires councils to have an Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of the financial year, detailing activities and actions to be undertaken during the year to achieve commitments made within the Delivery Program 2022-2026.

These actions will ensure Council's effective and efficient delivery of the adopted Delivery Program 2022-2026.

A copy of the Draft Operational Plan 2023-24 (including the Revenue Policy) was provided to Councillors as part of considering the suite of documents for public exhibition. There have been no material changes to the documents placed on public exhibition.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The draft documents – Operational Plan and Budget 2023-24, Revenue Policy, Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program and Long-Term Financial Plan – were publicly exhibited from 19 April 2023 to 16 May 2023 (inclusive).

The exhibition activities included the availability of hard copies at all Council libraries and the Oran Park Administration Building Customer Service Hub, and electronic copies from Council's Your Voice community engagement platform.

Council received one submission during the exhibition period and one late submission.

Information on the submissions and Council's response is provided as an **attachment** to this report. Copies of the submissions are provided as **supporting documents**.

2023/24 BUDGET

A detailed review of the draft 2023/24 Budget has been undertaken. A summary of the 2023/24 Budget is provided in the table below:

2023/24 Budget	2023/24
Operating Expenditure	\$158,205,000
Capital Works Program Expenditure – Council Delivered	\$132,253,400
Capital Works Program Expenditure – Developer Delivered	\$83,212,000
Other Capital Expenditure	\$5,914,300
Loan Principal Repayments	\$3,376,000
Transfers to Cash Reserves	\$61,464,000
Gross Expenditure Budget	\$444,424,700

2023/24 Budget	2023/24
Less: Developer Delivered Capital Works	(\$83,212,000)
Less: Depreciation Expense	(\$32,175,000)
Less: Transfers to Cash Reserves	(\$61,464,000)
Net Cash Expenditure Budget	\$267,573,700

Council’s proposed gross expenditure budget for the 2023/24 financial year is \$444.4 million. Upon removing non-cash expenditure and transfers to reserve, Council’s proposed cash budget for the 2023/24 financial year is \$267.6 million.

Capital Works Program Summary

The Capital Works Program for the 2023/24 financial year is \$215.5 million. A breakdown of this program is shown in the following table:

Local Service	2023/24
Roads and Transport Infrastructure	\$94,545,500
Drainage Infrastructure	\$14,335,700
Parks & Playgrounds	\$55,802,100
Community & Recreational Facilities	\$50,782,100
Total	\$215,465,400
Funded By:	
Works in Kind Agreements	\$83,212,000
Section 7.11 Funds (Cash Reserves)	\$63,613,400
External Grants	\$48,832,400
Internal Reserves	\$2,035,000
Loans	\$16,450,000
General Fund	\$1,322,600
Total	\$215,465,400

A copy of the draft Capital Works Program was provided to Councillors as part of the suite of documents for public exhibition.

2023/24 BUDGET RESULT

The 2023/24 Budget provides the financial resources for Council to continue to deliver the services, programs and activities outlined within the adopted Delivery Program. In reviewing the 2023/24 Budget, Council has prudently considered both the needs of the community and long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

After taking into consideration the cost of maintaining existing service levels, the 2023/24 Budget has identified available funding of \$2.509 million.

The proposed allocation of available funds will ensure Council is able to maintain contemporary service levels in support of a rapidly growing and diversifying community, including Council’s asset base. The proposed allocation of available funds is shown in the following table:

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Allocation of Available Funds	2023/24
Available Funding	\$2,508,900
Recommended Allocation:	
Camden Precinct - Operational and Maintenance Costs	\$426,000
Camden Precinct - Plant Purchases (Capital Cost)	\$394,000
Civil Infrastructure (Roads & Drainage) Maintenance	\$63,800
Stormwater & Drainage - Design & Investigation Actions	\$128,300
Regulatory Compliance & Companion Animals Activities	\$257,600
Development Certification - Subdivision Infrastructure	\$163,400
Julia Reserve Community Centre Management	\$134,200
Community Engagement Program and Activities	\$168,800
Community Events Program Review	\$45,000
Disability Inclusion Action Plan Implementation	\$100,000
Workforce Management Plan – Year 2 Actions	\$280,000
Customer Experience Strategy - Year 1 Actions	\$130,000
Corporate Support (Organisation Growth)	\$217,800
Camden Animal Shelter and Community Education Hub	\$117,500
Less: Funding from Capital Project budget	(\$117,500)
Domestic Waste Operations – Service Growth	\$269,400
Domestic Waste Mgmt. Reserve – Transfer from Reserve	(\$269,400)
Property Acquisitions Program – Growth Areas	\$101,600
Developer Contributions Reserve – Transfer from Reserve	(\$101,600)
Growth Infrastructure Planning – Growth Areas	\$155,500
Housing Acceleration Fund Grant Funding	(\$155,500)
Oran Park Admin. Building – Sun Awning Repairs (Atrium)	\$75,000
Administration Building Reserve – Transfer from Reserve	(\$75,000)
Total – Recommended Allocation	\$2,508,900
Draft Budget Position	Balanced

Council was informed on 9 May 2023 of a significant increase in Council’s Emergency Services Levy. For the upcoming 2023/24 financial year, Council’s contribution towards the cost of emergency services has increased by more than \$1 million, bringing the total contribution to almost \$2.2 million.

Council is also yet to be advised of the outcome of the final negotiations of the Local Government State Award which will come into effect from 1 July 2023.

The budget implications of both these matters will need to be addressed as part of quarterly budget reviews over the course of the 2023/24 financial year.

2023/24 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WestInvest Program

In 2022, the NSW State Government announced the WestInvest Program, a \$5 billion program to fund infrastructure projects that will improve liveability across Western Sydney. Under the program, \$3 billion was allocated to NSW Government agencies and \$2 billion was allocated to community projects.

Within the community project fund, \$400 million was allocated to 15 Local Government Areas for local projects, with each Council being eligible based on population size. Camden Council was allocated \$24.097 million under the Local Government Allocation.

The remaining \$1.6 billion was allocated through a competitive round of grants, open to non-State Government organisations (including councils). To qualify, projects were assessed across six focus areas including: quality green and open space, community infrastructure, school modernisation, arts and cultural facilities, high street activations and local traffic programs.

Council has been successful in securing funding for 11 projects under the WestInvest Program totalling \$132 million, including two under the Local Government Allocation and nine under the Competitive Round.

These projects are included in the Draft 2023/24 Budget and Capital Works program and will be delivered over the next three financial years. The projects are shown in the following table:

WestInvest Program Funding	Funding
Scalabrini North - Leppington Town Centre Open Space and Riparian Corridor – Leppington	\$24,724,941
Camden Town Centre Enhancements - John Street Public Domain Upgrade and Activation – Camden	\$23,139,708
Scalabrini East - Pat Kontista Active Open Space and Community Facilities – Leppington	\$21,340,562
Liz Kernohan Drive Intersection Upgrade with Camden Valley Way & Kirkham Lane – Elderslie	\$14,930,000
Cut Hill Reserve Sports Field Redevelopment - Cobbitty	\$13,954,000
Camden Animal Shelter and Community Education Hub – Smeaton Grange	\$9,985,000
Narellan Town Centre Improvements – Narellan	\$9,700,745
Camden Civic Centre Renewal and Upgrade – Camden	\$7,747,000
Camden Community Nursery – Smeaton Grange	\$4,024,727
Camden Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan – City Wide	\$1,452,581
Ultimate Nature Challenge – Cobbitty	\$993,430
TOTAL WESTINVEST	\$131,992,694

Since the funding announcement was made by the NSW State Government, Council officers have been working with the WestInvest Program Office to clarify funding arrangements and conditions and are currently providing further project details to progress to funding agreement execution.

Other Significant Additional Grant Funding

Council has also been successful in securing grant funding through the NSW State Government’s Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (Stage 2) and the Western Sydney Infrastructure Fund – Local Roads Package for projects to be delivered over the next three financial years.

Additional Grant Funding	Funding
Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (Round 3)	
Dickson Road – Leppington	\$18,060,000
Woolgen Park Road – Leppington	\$3,710,000
Western Sydney Infrastructure Fund – Local Roads Package	
Camden Valley Way / Hilder Street Upgrade - Elderslie	\$6,409,049
Total – Additional Grant Funding	\$28,179,049

Council has also secured \$8,242,962 in funding through the NSW Government’s Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP) for major repairs to its road network following the 2022 Storm and Flood Events. \$4,000,000 has been allocated in the 2022/23 Budget and \$4,242,962 will be allocated to the 2023/24 Budget to undertake these repairs.

Community Support Package Stage 3

The 2023/24 capital works program includes the continuation of the Community Support Package Stage 3 which focuses on recovery and generating investment into our community following the COVID-19 pandemic. The total support package, valued at \$130.6 million over four years, includes a \$16.5 million Sportsground Improvement Program to be delivered over the next three years.

Across the three stages of the Community Support Package, it is estimated that Camden’s economic output will increase by up to \$221.7 million. 507 additional FTE jobs within the local area will also be generated by the package.

Continuation of Community Infrastructure Renewal Program (CIRP)

As the population of Camden grows, the infrastructure that Council is required to maintain increases. This includes roads, drainage, parks, and community buildings.

To ensure Council maintains its infrastructure in a good condition and the renewal backlog remains within the industry benchmark, over the past ten years Council has adopted renewal programs which have assisted in this initiative. The current Community Infrastructure Renewal Program will be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Draft 2023/24 Budget and Capital Works program includes an extension of the Community Infrastructure Renewal Program from 2023/24 to 2026/27 (Four Year Program). A summary of the works program is included below:

Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	Amount
Community Buildings	\$2,400,000
Playgrounds	\$1,400,000
Open Space	\$680,000
Sportsgrounds	\$520,000
Total Proposed Program:	\$5,000,000

Councillors were briefed on 14 March 2023 with respect to recommendations for the allocation of this funding to specific projects. The following tables outline the recommended infrastructure renewal projects over the different asset categories.

Community Buildings	Amount	Expected Delivery
Narellan Library – Narellan Replacement / major repairs to roof covering and internal works.	\$300,000	2023/24
Camden Library – Camden Major maintenance including floor coverings, painting and fit out replacements.	\$50,000	2023/24
Camden Museum – Camden Major maintenance including floor coverings, painting and fit out replacements	\$30,000	2023/24
Narellan Scouts Building – Narellan Flooring repairs	\$120,000	2023/24
Onslow Park Cattle Stalls & Loading Ramp – Camden Structural rectification works	\$100,000	2024/25
Macaria Art Gallery – Camden Replacement of roof covering, structural repairs, and internal works.	\$350,000	2024/25
Camden Sports Club – Camden Major maintenance throughout facility including upgrade to Lighting, toilets, doors, windows, and painting.	\$460,000	2025/26
Mount Annan Leisure Centre – Mount Annan Major maintenance throughout facility including tiling, painting, fit out replacements	\$450,000	2026/27
Minor Projects – City Wide Minor replacements and maintenance at various Council facilities.	\$540,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Total – Community Buildings	\$2,400,000	

Playgrounds	Amount	Expected Delivery
Kirkham Park – Elderslie Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$250,000	2023/24
Onslow Park – Camden Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$250,000	2024/25
Rossmore Reserve – Rossmore Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$125,000	2025/26
Banks Reserve – Camden South Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$125,000	2025/26

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Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve – Camden South Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$125,000	2026/27
Don Moon Memorial Reserve – Camden Complete replacement of play equipment & embellishment of surrounds	\$125,000	2026/27
Minor Projects – City Wide Includes major rubber soft-fall repairs & component replacements.	\$400,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Total - Playgrounds	\$1,400,000	

Open Space	Amount	Expected Delivery
Macarthur Park – Camden Reconstruction of retaining wall and footpath repairs.	\$100,000	2024/25
French & Outram Reserves – Currans Hill Reconstruction of a retaining wall and surrounding garden beds.	\$100,000	2025/26
Nott Oval - Narellan Reconstruction of section of retaining wall and steps. Repairs of park furniture, footpaths, and pathway lighting	\$120,000	2026/27
Minor Projects – City Wide Renewal of park furniture, fencing and other minor works.	\$360,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Total – Open Space	\$680,000	

Sportsgrounds	Amount	Expected Delivery
Cricket Wicket Surfacing – City Wide Replacement of synthetic wicket covering by priority of condition.	\$120,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Tennis and Multi-Use Court Surfacing – City Wide Replacement and maintenance of poor condition surfacing by priority of condition.	\$200,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Sportsfield Lighting – City Wide Replacement and maintenance of poor condition lighting by priority of condition.	\$200,000	2023/24 to 2026/27
Total - Sportsgrounds	\$520,000	

DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Rate Income

Rating income for the 2023/24 financial year will increase by 6.8% as recommended by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

This is an increase in total rating income and not the increase which will be applied against each rateable assessment. The impact on the average residential assessment is an increase of approximately \$35 per year (\$0.67 per week).

Rates for the 2023/24 financial year will be based on land valuations as provided by the NSW Valuer General’s Office. The most recent review was conducted in 2022 with the impact of that valuation included in the rates which will be levied for the 2023/24 financial year.

Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*, Council must use the 2022 valuations for the issuing of 2023/24 rate notices. Council has no input or control over the valuation process.

The additional rate income generated in the 2023/24 financial year will be used to continue to deliver key services and infrastructure and facilities for our current and growing community. It will also assist Council in strategically planning and delivering for our future growth.

Voluntary Pension Rebate

In accordance with section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council provides a rebate to eligible pensioners for annual rates and domestic waste charges of \$250.

As part of the 2022/23 Budget, Council resolved to provide an additional voluntary pension rebate of \$50 to eligible pensioners, bringing the total pension rebate amount to \$300. This increase is now in place on a permanent basis.

The provision of an additional voluntary pension rebate is permissible under section 582 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which states that a council may waive or reduce rates, charges, and interest due by any person prescribed by the regulations who is in receipt of a pension, benefit, or allowance under the *Social Security Act 1991*.

Stormwater Management Levy

In accordance with section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council will continue to levy properties that receive a stormwater service through the Stormwater Management Levy, which is \$25 per year for land categorised as residential. This amount has remained unchanged since 2006.

Residents who currently receive a pension rebate will continue to receive an exemption from paying the Stormwater Management Levy.

The proposed charges for the Stormwater Management Levy and the proposed program of works for the 2023/24 financial year can be found in Council's Operational Plan (Revenue Policy).

Domestic Waste Charges

It is proposed to increase Domestic Waste Management charges by 5% for the 2023/24 financial year. The impact on the average 120 litre service is approximately \$19.00 per year (\$0.37c per week). This increase is required primarily due to an increase in waste disposal fees. Council continues to provide a weekly three-bin service at a very reasonable cost per property.

The proposed charges for Domestic Waste Management can be found in Council's draft Fees and Charges schedule for the 2023/24 financial year.

Fees and Charges

It is proposed to increase discretionary fees and charges by 3.3% in the 2023/24 financial year. While this is significantly below the current level of CPI increases, Council recognises that it plays an important role in providing services and facilities to all residents within the LGA.

Council's Fees and Charges for the 2023/24 financial year were part of the documentation placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Fees set by legislation have been reviewed and updated as required since the document was placed on exhibition, and these are identified below:

- Maximum interest charged on overdue rates.

These rates are prescribed by *Local Government Act 1993* Orders section 516(1A) and section 566(3) and Council has been notified that the rate to apply from 1 July 2023 is 9%. The rate included in the original exhibition document was 6%, which is the current rate in the 2022/23 financial year.

- Long service levy applied to Development Applications

This statutory fee has changed as follows: the Levy threshold has increased from \$25,000 to \$250,000 and the levy rate reduced from 0.35% to 0.25%.

- Section 603 certificates fee

A Section 603 Certificate outlines any outstanding rates, charges, and debts payable to Council in relation to a property. This certificate is often needed before a property settlement.

This statutory fee is set by the Office of Local Government and Council has been notified that the fee will increase to \$95. The proposed fee included in the original exhibition document was \$90, which is the current fee for the 2022/23 financial year.

- Development Application (DA) Fees

The maximum fee councils can charge for DAs and related applications is prescribed by Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*. The fee is indexed on an annual basis and councils are informed by the Planning Secretary of the indexation to apply following the publication of the CPI for the March Quarter by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For the upcoming financial year, councils were notified of the increase on 26 May 2023. These specific DA fees have been removed from the fees and charges document and replaced with a link to the website which details the maximum fees and the following sentence:

"The fees charged for development and related applications are to be applied up to the maximum fees prescribed under Schedule 4 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021".

A copy of the 2023/24 Fees and Charges Schedule was provided to Councillors as part of the public exhibition documents. The only changes are detailed above.

Investment Income

Council has an adopted Investment Policy which outlines the way Council may invest funds, risk profile considerations and the types of institutions and products which it may invest in.

Interest projections for the 2023/24 financial year have been prepared based on generating a return on investment of 4.9% (this includes a performance factor of 2.0%).

Council officers will continue to closely monitor its investment performance any improvement on original forecasts will be reported to Council as part of the quarterly budget review process.

Loan Borrowings - External

The proposed loan borrowings for the upcoming four-year period are shown below. Loan borrowings are indicative only and revisited at each review of the Budget. Council’s capacity to borrow is strong and within the industry benchmarks for a growing Council.

Purpose	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Renewal Program	\$3.50M	\$1.50M	-	-
CSP Stage Three	\$12.95M	\$15.40M	-	-
Community/Civic Catalyst Site	-	-	\$27.30M	\$27.30M
Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	-	\$1.50M	\$1.25M	\$1.25M
Total Borrowings	\$16.45M	\$18.40M	\$28.55M	\$28.55M

The loan borrowings for the 2023/24 financial year includes \$3.3 million which was deferred from the 2022/23 financial year, as reported to Council on 9 May 2023 as part of the March Quarterly Review of the 2022/23 Budget.

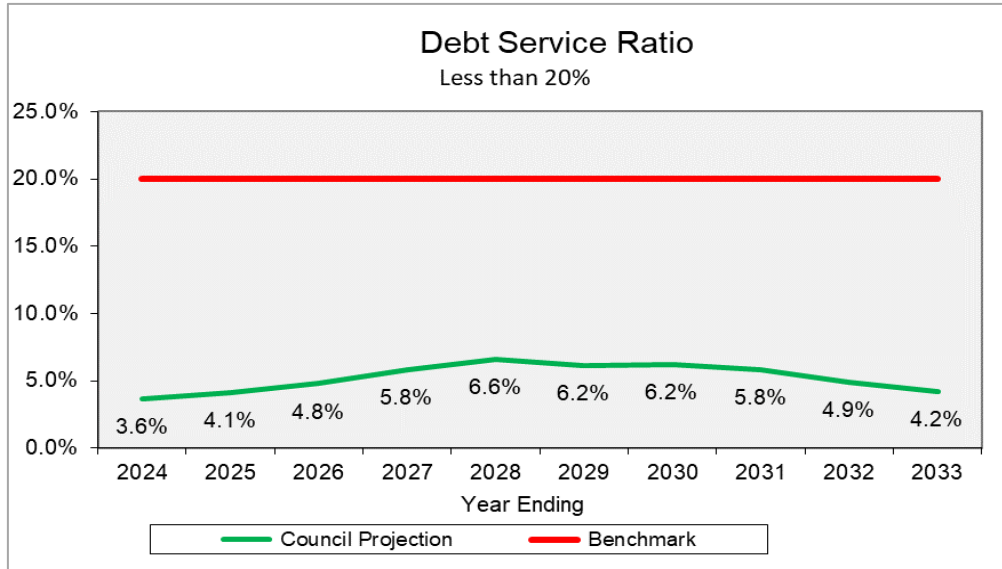
Where possible, Council will look to take advantage of low-cost interest schemes offered by the NSW State Government that assist councils with the cost of growth.

Council’s proposed level of debt and debt servicing costs are shown in the table below:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Principal Outstanding	\$59,600,000	\$74,300,000	\$98,600,000	\$122,300,000
Debt Servicing Costs (principal & interest)	\$5,215,000	\$6,456,000	\$7,984,000	\$10,359,000

Council has considered the impact of its proposed loan borrowings program on the Long-Term Financial Plan and is satisfied that this level of debt is well within the recommended levels for a growth Council. This is demonstrated through the forecasted debt service ratio which is shown in the chart below:

ORD01



Council continues to use debt prudently, balancing the level of debt, capacity to borrow and the opportunity cost of borrowing to ensure inter-generational equity in a rapidly growing environment. As Council grows, there will be greater pressure to borrow in order to construct the infrastructure required to support our community. Council has deliberately maintained a strong borrowing capacity for this purpose.

Council’s borrowing capacity remains well within the benchmark of no greater than 20%.

PROPOSED RESERVE MOVEMENTS

In addition to the reserve transfers already approved as part of the 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program, the following reserve transfers are proposed to be made as part of the 2023/24 Budget.

Proposed Reserve Transfers (Net)	2023/24
Transfer from Working Funds Reserve	(\$838,000)
Transfer from Capital Works Reserve	(\$500,000)
Transfer from Asset Renewal Reserve	(\$500,000)
Transfer from Admin Building Reserve	(\$75,000)

Transfer from Working Funds Reserve – \$838,000

As part of the 2022/23 Budget, funds were transferred to this reserve to provide for unforeseen impacts arising from global events such as the conflict in Europe on the broader economy and recent natural disasters. Due to a range of cost increases anticipated in the 2023/24 financial year, it is proposed to transfer \$838,000 from this reserve to assist with meeting these additional cost pressures.

Transfer from Capital Works Reserve – \$500,000

It is proposed to utilise \$500,000 from the Capital Works Reserve to part-fund the proposed continuation of the Community Infrastructure Renewal Scheme in the 2023/24 financial year.

Transfer from Asset Renewal Reserve – \$500,000

It is proposed to utilise \$500,000 from the Asset Renewal Reserve to part-fund the proposed continuation of the Community Infrastructure Renewal Scheme in the 2023/24 financial year.

Transfer from Administration Building Reserve – \$75,000

It is proposed to utilise \$75,000 from the Administration Building Reserve to fund the Oran Park Administration Building Sun Awning Repairs in the 2023/24 financial year.

Other minor or recurrent reserve transfers are contained within the 2023/24 Budget. This report will recommend that Council approve all internal reserve transfers.

RATES AND CHARGES FOR 2023/24 AND AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE

Rates and charges must be made by a formal resolution of Council. In moving the adoption of the appropriate resolution, it is necessary to note that under the *Local Government Act 1993*:

- All councils are required to levy a separate Domestic Waste Management Charge. This charge must reflect the reasonable cost of providing the service as general rate revenue cannot be used to finance domestic waste management services.
- Revenue derived from domestic waste management services must be accounted for as a distinct activity from any trade waste or other waste service activity.
- A rebate is to be provided to eligible pensioners for annual rates and domestic waste charges, which in accordance with section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993* must not exceed \$250.
- A Council can however utilise section 582 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide an additional rebate to eligible pensioners.
- Ratepayers who become eligible for pensioner concessions during the course of the year will become entitled to claim a proportionate rebate of their rates.
- Pension ratepayers who sell their land or lose eligibility for this concession will lose entitlement to a proportion of any previously granted rebate.
- Quarterly rate billing of each instalment must be given unless a ratepayer has, paid their rates in full.
- Rate instalments become payable on prescribed dates.
- Ratepayers who fail, for any reason, to pay an instalment on time will not be required to pay the balance of annual rates assessed immediately and will not be prevented from paying by quarterly instalments.
- The rate of interest on overdue rates and charges is fixed by the Minister for Local Government pursuant to section 566 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Minister for Local Government has determined that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 is 9.00%.

Voluntary Pensioner Rebate

Council utilises section 582 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide an additional voluntary pension rebate of \$50 to eligible pensioners, increasing the total pension rebate amount to \$300 for the 2023/24 financial year.

Authorisation of Expenditure

In relation to the authorisation of expenditure, section 211 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* provides:

- A Council, or a person purporting to act on behalf of a Council, must not incur a liability for the expenditure of money unless the Council at the annual meeting held in accordance with subclause (2) or at a later ordinary meeting:
 - a) has approved the expenditure; and
 - b) has voted the money necessary to meet the expenditure.
- A Council must each year hold a meeting for the purpose of approving expenditure and voting money.

2023/24 RATING POLICY

Rating Income

Council has agreed to maintain its current rating structure and as such:

1. Council has the following categories/sub-categories for rateable land in the Camden Local Government Area:
 - Residential
 - Business
 - Farmland Ordinary
 - Farmland Intensive
2. Up to 50% of total rates will be raised by a base amount on all rateable assessments and such charge be the same for each category/sub-category.
3. The ad-valorem rate for each category/sub-category is based on the following rating mix:

Residential	1.0	
Business	3.3	(i.e., 3.3 times the residential ad-valorem rate)
Farmland Ordinary	0.5	(i.e., half the residential ad-valorem rate)
Farmland Intensive	0.9	(i.e., 0.90 times the residential ad-valorem rate)

Based on the above rating categories, the ad-valorem rates and base charges would be charged as follows:

Rate Category	Base Charge	Ad-Valorem Rate
Residential	\$710.00	0.092633
Business	\$710.00	0.305689
Farmland Ordinary	\$710.00	0.046317
Farmland Intensive	\$710.00	0.083370

The above base charge and ad-valorem rates include the allowable increase in rate income approved by IPART of 6.80%. It should be noted that the ad-valorem and base charge may have changed since the exhibition of the draft Revenue Policy due to new subdivisions and valuations provided by the Valuer General.

4. Based on the above rating categories, the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2023/24 financial year for each class of rate is:

Rate Category	% Base Amount
Residential	49.87%
Business	10.38%
Farmland Ordinary	9.06%
Farmland Intensive	16.22%

(This table is not meant to add to 100%)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget, Draft Revenue Policy and Draft Fees and Charges, Draft Capital Works Program and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan were placed on public exhibition from 19 April 2023 to 16 May 2023 inclusive. Two submissions were received for Council to consider before adopting the documents; the key feedback areas raised have been addressed in the **attachment** to this report.

This is a responsible budget package that addresses infrastructure upgrades and renewal, maintains Council services and service standards, continues to support its community through the recovery stage of COVID while maintaining a strong budget position.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **adopt the 2023/24 Draft Operational Plan, Draft Budget and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan;**
- ii. **adopt the 2023/24 Budget as set out below:**
 - **expenditure totalling \$444,424,700 as summarised in the 2023/24 Draft Budget and that the funds to cover such expenditure be voted;**
 - **the 2023/24 Fees and Charges (includes Domestic Waste Management Fees, Stormwater Management Levy and the fee changes outlined within this report), and the 2023/24 Revenue Policy;**
 - **the Minister’s Allowable limit of a 6.80% rate increase be applied to the 2023/24 rating year;**
 - **adopt the following ad-valorem rates to be levied on the land value of all rateable assessments for 2023/24 financial year:**

ORD01

Rate Category	Ad-Valorem Rates
Residential	0.092633
Business	0.305689
Farmland Ordinary	0.046317
Farmland Intensive	0.083370

- in accordance with section 537(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, note the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2023/24 financial year for each class of rate is:

Rate Category	
Residential	49.87%
Business	10.38%
Farmland Ordinary	9.06%
Farmland Intensive	16.22%

- adopt a base amount of \$710.00 to be levied for each rateable assessment for the 2023/24 financial year;
- adopt the rate permitted by the Minister for Local Government for the allowable interest rate on overdue rates of 9% for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024; and
- approve the reserve transfers and loan borrowings for 2023/24 as detailed in the report.

iii. notes the submissions and notifies the submitters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget - Public Exhibition Report
2. Online submission - *Supporting Document*
3. Late submission - *Supporting Document*

ORD02**ORD02**

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2023
FROM: Acting Director Sport, Community and Activation
EDMS #: 23/242798

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the recommended allocations for the Community Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

On 9 March 2021, Council endorsed the Community Support Package - Stage 3 to provide ongoing support to both businesses and residents.

The package included financial grants available to incorporated associations, not-for-profit groups, sporting groups, businesses and individuals located in or servicing the Camden Local Government Area (LGA).

Categories for the 2023 round included Community Small Grants, Community Sponsorship, Sport and Recreation Grants, Cultural Activation Seed Grants and Cultural Performance Subsidies.

Applications were assessed using set guidelines and criteria to ensure equity, probity and consistency in evaluating requests.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 16 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Council's Community Grants Program has been developed to assist community groups to deliver projects and events that address gaps in service delivery, create innovation and activation, and demonstrate broad community benefits.

The grants program was widely promoted through direct mail, social media, Council's website and community service providers. Eligibility criteria was published on Council's website and grants platform, and information sessions were also held via Zoom.

A table outlining all applications received and officer recommendations is provided as an attachment to this report.

Community Small Grants Program 2023

The Community Small Grants Program consisted of three categories including Health and Wellbeing, Culture and Inclusion and Minor Works.

Incorporated associations, charities and not-for-profit organisations could apply for a total of up to \$2,500 (excl. GST). A total of 35 applications were received requesting monetary support to a total value of \$82,762 (excl. GST).

Each application was assessed against the program guidelines and criteria with consideration given to:

- Community benefit;
- The timeline of project delivery;
- The contribution of the organisation towards the project or program; and
- Consideration of community needs and service gaps.

The assessment panel has recommended 23 applications for funding under the Community Small Grants Program as outlined below:

No.	Name of applicant	Project Name	Amount recommended
1.	The Shepherd Centre	Acoustic Skills: A life-changing music therapy program for children with hearing loss and their families in Camden	\$2,500
2.	Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)	Motor skill support for students on the autism spectrum at Aspect Macarthur School	\$2,500
3.	Turning Point Camden Incorporated	Women's Support Network	\$2,500
4.	Camden Wombats Landcare	Caring for Camden's Wombats and Community	\$2,500
5.	Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Oran Park	Mary Mackillop Community Shared Garden	\$2,500
6.	Big Yellow Umbrella	Youth Programs Support Camden	\$2,500
7.	Cancer Patients Foundation	Look Good Feel Better	\$2,500
8.	Anglican Parish of Cobbitty	Upgrade and refresh of soft fall material at Children's playground at Cobbitty Church Hall	\$2,157
9.	The Rotary Club of Camden	Provision of Shelter Bags for homeless people in the LGA	\$1,600
10.	Macarthur Art Group Inc.	MAG Members Winter Show & Open Workshops	\$2,500
11.	Camden & District Netball Association	Wellness and Mindset Sessions	\$2,500
12.	Local Community Ventures Ltd	LCV Food and Toy Hampers	\$2,500
13.	BCD Community Care	Men's Social Circle - Shed Group	\$2,500
14.	Camden Men's Bowling Club	Temporary Veranda Shades	\$2,500
15.	Big Fat Smile Manooka Valley Community Preschool	Connect with the Seniors through excursions	\$2,500

No.	Name of applicant	Project Name	Amount recommended
16.	St Paul's Catholic Primary School Parents and Friends Association	Caring for others	\$2,500
17.	Camden Men's Shed Incorporated	CMS Toolbox Expansion	\$2,005
18.	BaptistCare NSW & ACT	Breakfast Information Sessions	\$1,000
19.	Australian Native Orchid Society Macarthur Inc	Macarthur ANOS Technology Upgrade	\$647
20.	Multilingual Community and Culture	Unite! Stronger Together!	\$1,000
21.	Australian Indian Christian Fellowship	Equipment Upgrade	\$500
22.	Camden Digital Arts and Culture Centre	Maker Markets	\$1,760
23.	Camden Sports Club/Meals on Wheels	Seniors Luncheon and Entertainment	\$1,250
Total value of projects recommended for funding (excl. GST)			\$46,919

Sport and Recreation Grant 2023

The Sport and Recreation Program received a total of seven applications requesting monetary support to a total value of \$17,500 (excl. GST).

Local sporting groups, clubs and organisations could apply for a total of up to \$2,500 (excl. GST).

Each application was assessed against the program guidelines and criteria with consideration given to:

- Benefit to the local community;
- Consideration of sustainable programs including coach development or administration development;
- Projects for target groups including female participation, inclusion and diversity; and
- Projects that enhanced pathway development for athletes and participation opportunities.

The assessment panel has recommended five applications for funding under the Sport and Recreation Program as outlined below:

ORD02

No.	Name of applicant	Project Name	Amount recommended
1.	Camden Cats Junior AFC	Inclusion	\$2,500
2.	Leppington Lions Soccer Club	New and Upgraded Equipment	\$2,500
3.	South West Rugby League Football Club	South West RLFC Public Address system and Line Marking Equipment	\$2,500
4.	Camden & District Netball Association	Traffic Management for Junior State Netball Titles three-day event	\$2,500
5.	Catherine Park Physie and Dance Inc	Physical Culture and Dance Club Outfitting	\$2,500
Total value of projects recommended for funding (excl. GST)			\$12,500

Community Sponsorship 2023

The Community Sponsorship Program received a total of 18 applications requesting monetary support to a total value of \$124,329.50 (excl. GST).

Each application was assessed against the program guidelines and criteria with consideration given to:

- Not-for-profit groups, organisations or individuals seeking to organise an event/activity/service, within the Camden LGA, that has benefit to the wider community;
- Festivals, special events and activities that will enhance and promote community wellbeing, the lifestyle of residents and provide a service to residents or businesses within the Camden LGA; and
- Organisations that encourage economic and/or tourism opportunities within the Camden LGA.

The assessment panel has recommended 16 applications for funding under the Community Sponsorship Program as outlined below:

No.	Name of applicant	Event Name	Amount recommended
1.	Camden/Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee	Reclaim the Night 2023	\$6,000 <i>cash</i>
2.	Camden Country Quilters Guild Inc	Camden Country Quilters Guild 31st Exhibition	\$6,000 <i>in-kind</i>
3.	Camden Anglican Parish Council - St John's Church	Community Carols in the Park	\$1,000 <i>cash</i> \$500 <i>in-kind</i>

No.	Name of applicant	Event Name	Amount recommended
	Camden		
4.	Macarthur Art Group Inc.	"My Camden" Art Week 2023	\$2,000 <i>in-kind</i>
5.	Grace Anglican Churches, Camden Valley	Harrington Park Community Carols and Fireworks	\$1,000 <i>cash</i> \$500 <i>in-kind</i>
6.	Camden Equitation Incorporated	Welcome Back to Camden Bicentennial Park	\$1,000 <i>cash</i> \$1,000 <i>in-kind</i>
7.	Camden Tigers Football Club	International Festival of Indigenous Football	\$10,000 <i>cash</i> \$2,500 <i>in-kind</i>
8.	Camden Markets 2570	Camden Christmas Markets	\$3,500 <i>in-kind</i>
9.	Camden Wellness Expo	Camden Wellness Expo	\$3,500 <i>in-kind</i>
10.	Southwest Telugu Association Incorporated	Ganesh Cultural Event	\$4,500 <i>cash</i> \$1,500 <i>in-kind</i>
11.	The Disability Trust	International Day for People With Disability Event	\$2,000 <i>cash</i>
12.	Rotary Club of Gregory Hills, Next-Gen	2023 International Day of Friendship Event	\$2,500 <i>cash</i>
13.	Small Ford Car Club of NSW (INC)	Concours & Display Day	\$1,000 <i>cash</i> \$500 <i>in-kind</i>
14.	Southwest Nepalese Community Sydney	Nepalese Cultural Program	\$2,500 <i>cash</i> \$500 <i>in-kind</i>
15.	Local Community Ventures Ltd	Elevate Showcase	\$4,000 <i>cash</i>
16.	Doggie Dates NSW	Pet Memorial Walk	\$500 <i>cash</i>
Total cash and in-kind value of projects recommended for funding (excl. GST)			\$58,000

Cultural Activation Seed Grant

The Cultural Activation Seed Grant made funding available to individual artists or creatives, small to medium arts organisations or creative businesses, to create or produce any art form or art media located within the Camden LGA.

Creative programming or new artworks could request up to \$3,000 (excl. GST).

Council received 11 Cultural Activation Grant applications in total, requesting \$31,410 (excl. GST) in monetary support. Each application was assessed against the program guidelines and criteria, with consideration given to:

- Clear artistic/creative rationale and objectives for the project;
- Proposed key activities within the project timeframe;
- Clear outcomes relating to engaging identified community target groups;
- Evidence of a well-structured implementation plan;
- Evaluation of the project/plan; and
- Relevant supporting material.

The assessment panel has recommended all 11 applications for funding under the Cultural Activation Seed Grant as outlined below:

No.	Name of applicant	Project Name	Amount recommended
1.	Angela Konstantinopoulou	Ode to Freedom	\$3,000
2.	Fishers Ghost Youth Orchestra	Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion Mission!	\$3,000
3.	Kim Vidler	Development of 3D resin and mixed media artworks	\$3,000
4.	HandyBelles Care Pty Ltd	The HandyBelles Connects Art Exhibition	\$1,500
5.	Mirii Art	Jewellery Making Workshop with Traditional & Natural Resources	\$2,910
6.	Ho Yee Wong	Reconnecting East Asian Arts/Life	\$3,000
7.	Tiana Dovecer	INCLUSION - The Musical	\$3,000
8.	Soraya Nematollahi	Hand building Ceramic Workshops	\$3,000
9.	Elizabeth Ellen	Awakening The Power Within	\$3,000
10.	Ms Verena Heirich	Camden Blankets	\$3,000

11.	Melissa Musgrave	Women of Camden Podcast Series	\$2,548
Total value of projects recommended for funding (excl. GST)			\$30,958

Cultural Performance Subsidy

The Cultural Performance Subsidy provides funding for individuals, not-for-profit organisations and groups based in the Camden LGA, who are delivering performances with direct community benefits.

Applicants could apply for up to \$1,200 (excl. GST) for subsidised room hire of the Camden Civic Centre auditorium.

Council received two Cultural Performance Subsidy applications in total for Camden Civic Centre, requesting \$2,380 (excl. GST) for in-kind support. Both applications are recommended for funding through the Cultural Performance Subsidy.

No.	Name of Applicant	Performance Name	Amount Recommended (excl. GST)
1.	Macarthur Art Group Inc	More Artists in more Action!	\$1,180 <i>in-kind</i>
2.	Mater Dei	Mater Dei's Performing Arts Night	\$1,200 <i>in-kind</i>
Total value of projects recommended for funding (excl. GST)			\$2,380

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is sufficient budget allocated to fund the total of \$150,757 (excl. GST) as outlined in this report.

CONCLUSION

A total of 73 applications have been received across the five grant categories. The recommendations as outlined in this report are proposing a total of 57 applications, valued at \$150,757 (excl. GST), to be supported.

The applications include a variety of programs and projects that will benefit the wider Camden community, and provide assistance to a range of community organisations, sporting and cultural groups.

ORD02

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. approve the recommended allocation of funding for the Community Small Grants of \$46,919 (excl. GST);
- ii. approve the recommended allocation of funding for the Sport and Recreation Grants of \$12,500 (excl. GST);
- iii. approve the recommended allocation of funding for the Community Sponsorship Grants of \$58,000 (excl. GST);
- iv. approve the recommended allocation of funding for the Cultural Activation Seed Grants of \$30,958 (excl. GST);
- v. approve the recommended allocation of funding for the Cultural Performance Subsidy of \$2,380 (excl. GST); and
- vi. write to each applicant advising them of the outcome of this report and thanking them for their participation in the program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Grants Program 2023

ORD03

ORD03

SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - CAMDEN: TOWARDS NET ZERO 2023
FROM: Director Community Assets
EDMS #: 23/289449

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in late June 2023.

BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across the globe, with impacts on human and natural systems increasing in scale and severity. In Camden we have experienced increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that have led to costly disruptions and recovery, reduced liveability for our local communities and impacts on natural systems including flora and fauna.

These climate changes are attributed to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions driven by human activities and the use of fossil fuels.

Action on climate change and achieving net zero emissions is being driven from all levels of governments, with 196 countries, including Australia, signing the Paris Agreement to work towards limiting temperature increases to well below 2°C and to strive for 1.5°C. Achieving this target will require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes on a global scale to reach net zero as quickly as possible.

The Australian Government has adopted a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 with a 43% reduction by 2030 based on 2005 levels, while the NSW Government has recently updated its targets to achieve net zero by 2050 with a 70% reduction by 2035 based on 2005 levels.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on 23 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 (**Attachment 1**) has been developed to outline the pathway to achieve net zero emissions from Council operations by 2050 with an interim target to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, based on 2018-19 levels.

The development of this plan and the implementation of actions identified within it supports the delivery of the Delivery Program 2022-26 and the Sustainability Strategy 2020-24.

To build an understanding of Council's operational emissions, a profile based on the 2018-19 financial year was prepared. This profile separates emissions into Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

In 2018-19, Camden Council's emissions profile was 20,745 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO²-e) including all Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and limited Scope 3 emissions. The majority of Council's emissions are Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services, with electricity use and streetlighting also significant contributors.

Long term emissions projections were also prepared to understand our future emissions based on a business-as-usual approach. It is projected that Council's emissions will be 25,618 tonnes of CO²-e by 2049-50 if no carbon reduction actions are implemented.

While Council has already implemented several significant projects and initiatives to reduce its emissions, more targeted and coordinated action is required to achieve the reductions necessary to meet our targets.

The plan sets out the framework to assist with planning and help achieve the biggest carbon emissions reductions through delivery of 46 actions. These actions have been arranged under six focus areas:

1. *Energy* – Our buildings, facilities and assets are energy efficient and powered by renewable energy.
2. *Waste* – Our waste diversion rates will be increased through continual improvement.
3. *Goods and Services* – Commitment to progressively lower emissions through our purchased products and services.
4. *Built Environment* – Our buildings and facilities will have low or zero emissions.
5. *Transport and Plant* – Our staff fleet vehicles, operational vehicles and plant fleet will include low greenhouse emission options.
6. *Emissions Management* – We have the skills, knowledge and systems to allow us to understand and track our emissions.

The actions have been identified for delivery as either short, medium or long-term actions. Short-term actions are those that we will aim to complete by 2028 and medium-term actions are those that we will aim to complete by 2030 to achieve our interim target while long-term actions are those that will be completed beyond 2030. It is noted that carbon offsets have not been included as a focus area as these will only be considered as a last resort to meet targets when all other opportunities have been exhausted.

It is proposed to place the draft Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 plan on public exhibition commencing in late June 2023 for a period of 28 days. During the exhibition period, hard copies of the draft plan will be available for viewing at our Libraries, and the Oran Park Administration Centre. The document will also be available for comment through Council's online engagement platform Your Voice Camden.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for the implementation of the actions within the draft plan will be sourced from current and future budgets as well as from suitable grant funding and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

Council has prepared Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 to provide a pathway for Council operations to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, based on 2018-19 levels. This plan demonstrates Council's commitment to our growing community to help slow the long-term effects of climate change.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **endorse Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023 to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days commencing in June 2023;**
- ii. **if no unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition period, adopt Camden: Towards Net Zero effective from the day after the close of the exhibition period; and**
- iii. **if any unresolved submissions are received during the public exhibition, receive a further report to consider the submissions.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Camden: Towards Net Zero 2023

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - TRANSPORT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES - GET NSW ACTIVE PROGRAM 2023/24
FROM: Director Community Assets
EDMS #: 23/284069

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s acceptance of grant funding in the sum of \$1,633,000 (excl. GST) from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW), under the Get NSW Active Program, for pedestrian and bicycle facilities across three projects within the Camden Local Government Area.

BACKGROUND

TfNSW seeks applications from councils each year for projects under the Get NSW Active Program for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. This year 14 applications were made for eligible projects under the funding guidelines. Three projects have been successful in securing grant funding under this program.

MAIN REPORT

The NSW Government offers funding under the Get NSW Active Program for pedestrian and bicycle planning and facilities.

Council has been advised by TfNSW that the following applications have been successful in the 2023/24 financial year:

Location	Details	Budget (excl. GST)	Attachment
Laneway connectivity from Menangle Road to Nepean River, Camden	Footpath	\$742,000	1
Waterworth Drive, Mount Annan	Shared Paths	\$690,000	2
Coghill Street to Elyard Street, Narellan	Footpath and footbridge	\$201,000	3
TOTAL		\$1,633,000	

The projects are programmed for completion in the 2023/24 financial year. The funding will allow for the installation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the vicinity of public reserves, community facilities and schools.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council will receive a total of \$1,633,000 (excl. GST), including identified contingency funding, through the Get NSW Active Program to be allocated in the 2023/24 financial year.

No matching funding is required for these projects.

CONCLUSION

Council has been successful in securing grant funding under the 2023/24 Get NSW Active Program for three projects.

The projects will enable improved pedestrian and bicycle access and road safety, and it is recommended that the grant funding be accepted.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. accept the grant funding from Transport for New South Wales, under the Get NSW Active Program 2023/24, of \$1,633,000 (excl. GST) to undertake installation of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, allocating funding to the 2023/24 financial year budget;**
- ii. write to The Hon. Jo Haylen MP, Minister for Transport, thanking her for the grant; and**
- iii. write to Mrs Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Camden, thanking her for her support.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Menangle Road to Nepean River Footpath - Overview
2. Coghill Street to Elyard Street Footpath - Overview
3. Waterworth Drive Shared Paths - Overview

SUBJECT: COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

FROM: Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

EDMS #: 23/273923

PREVIOUS ITEMS: ORD07 - Councillor Representation on Committees - Ordinary Council - 08 Mar 2022 6.30pm

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to determine Councillor representatives on the Camden Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group ('Camden Airport Consultation Group') and General Manager (GM) Performance Review Panel, following the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 May 2023. The report also recommends that Council's delegation of authority to the GM Performance Review Panel be amended.

BACKGROUND

Camden Airport Consultation Group

The Camden Airport Consultation Group operates in accordance with the Community Aviation Consultation Groups Guidelines issued by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

The membership of the Camden Airport Consultation Group includes two Councillor representatives as voting members, one of whom is the Mayor.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 8 March 2022, Council resolved (ORD26/22) to appoint Councillors Fedeli (as Mayor) and Farrow as members of the Camden Airport Consultation Group.

GM Performance Review Panel

The GM Performance Review Panel is established in accordance with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers 2022 ('the OLG Guidelines'), issued under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. It operates with delegated authority from Council to conduct the process of reviewing the General Manager's performance.

Per the OLG Guidelines, Council's GM Performance Review Panel should comprise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, another Councillor nominated by Council, and a Councillor nominated by the GM.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 8 March 2022, Council resolved (ORD26/22) to appoint Councillors Fedeli (as Mayor/Chair), Farrow and Ashleigh Cagney as members of the GM Performance Review Panel.

A Councillor Briefing on both of these matters was held on 23 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

Camden Airport Consultation Group

Following the election of Councillor Ashleigh Cagney as Mayor at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 May 2023, it is necessary to review the Councillor appointments to the Camden Airport Consultation Group.

It is recommended that Council appoint the position of Mayor as a Councillor representative on the Camden Airport Consultation Group, in place of Councillor Fedeli. Appointing the position of Mayor rather than the individual holding the office would authorise the Mayoral representative to be automatically updated following Mayoral elections, if required, without requiring a further resolution of Council.

Unless Council determines otherwise, Councillor Farrow would also continue to represent Council on the Camden Airport Consultation Group.

GM Performance Review Panel

Following the elections of Councillor Ashleigh Cagney as Mayor and Councillor Fedeli as Deputy Mayor at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 May 2023, it is necessary to review the Councillor appointments to the GM Performance Review Panel.

It is recommended that Council appoint the positions of Mayor (as Chair) and Deputy Mayor as representatives on the GM Performance Review Panel, in place of Councillors Fedeli (as Mayor/Chair) and Farrow. Appointing the positions of Mayor (as Chair) and Deputy Mayor rather than the individuals holding the office would authorise the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral representatives to be automatically updated following Mayoral elections, if required, without requiring a further resolution of Council.

It is also recommended that Council appoint a new Councillor-nominated representative on the GM Performance Review Panel in place of Councillor Ashleigh Cagney, who will take on the role of the current Mayoral representative.

Finally, it is recommended that Council update its delegation of authority to the GM Performance Review Panel, to ensure consistency with the OLG Guidelines which were revised in 2022. Relevantly, the OLG Guidelines state that:

It is recommended that full responsibility for performance management be delegated to the performance review panel, including discussions about performance, any actions that should be taken and the determination of the new performance agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council appoint the position of Mayor as a Councillor representative on the Camden Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group; appoint the positions of Mayor (Chair) and Deputy Mayor as representatives, and a new Councillor-nominated representative, on the GM Performance Review Panel; and update Council's delegation of authority to the GM Performance Review Panel.

ORD05

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. appoint the position of Mayor as a Councillor representative on the Camden Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group, in place of Councillor Fedeli;
- ii. appoint the positions of Mayor (as Chair) and Deputy Mayor as representatives on the General Manager Performance Review Panel, in place of Councillors Fedeli (as Chair) and Farrow;
- iii. nominate and appoint a new Councillor as a representative on the GM Performance Review Panel, in place of Councillor Ashleigh Cagney;
- iv. revoke all prior delegations granted to the General Manager Performance Review Panel; and
- v. delegate to the General Manager Performance Review Panel authority to hold full responsibility for performance management of the General Manager, including discussions about performance, any actions that should be taken and the determination of the new performance agreement.

ORD06**ORD06**

SUBJECT: NOTICE TO THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND PROPERTY OF COUNCIL'S NATIVE TITLE MANAGERS

FROM: Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

EDMS #: 23/241250

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to obtain a resolution of Council to give notice to the Minister for Lands and Property of the name and contact details of Council's Native Title Managers.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 8.8 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (the Act), Council is required to give notice to the Minister for Lands and Property of the name and contact details of Council's Native Title Managers by 31 October each year. Notification to the Minister must be via a Council resolution; it cannot be delegated by Council to the General Manager under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

MAIN REPORT

A Native Title Manager is a person who has undertaken the approved training, facilitated jointly by the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands, and holds the necessary qualification issued by the Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands.

The role of a Native Title Manager is to ensure that Native Title legislation is applied correctly when dealing with Crown Land management issues, predominantly the issuing of leases, licences and permits and the approval of plans of management.

The following officers have attained the Native Title Manager qualification:

1. Chantel Fenech, Property Services Coordinator;
2. Monique Spek, Property Officer; and
3. Joshua Hanns, Recreation Planner.

The Property Services Coordinator and Property Officer were appointed as Council's Native Title Managers in July 2022 and the Recreation Planner attained qualification to provide sufficient resourcing during any periods of staff leave.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications relating to this responsibility.

CONCLUSION

Council must employ or engage at least one Native Title Manager to ensure dealings with Crown Land comply with any applicable provisions of the Act.

ORD06

It is recommended that Council appoint Property Services Coordinator, Chantel Fenech, and Property Officer, Monique Spek and Recreation Planner, Joshua Hanns as Council's Native Title Managers, as required under Section 8.8 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and advise the Minister accordingly.

RECOMMENDED

That Council give notice to The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Lands and Property, of the contact details of Council's Property Services Coordinator, Chantel Fenech, Property Officer, Monique Spek, and Recreation Planner, Joshua Hanns, as its Native Title Managers, as required under section 8.8 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

ORD07

ORD07

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT MONIES - APRIL 2023
FROM: Director Customer & Corporate Strategy
EDMS #: 23/258887

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 30 April 2023 is provided.

MAIN REPORT

The weighted average return on all investments was 3.96% p.a. for the month of April 2023. The industry benchmark for this period was 3.77% (Ausbond Bank Bill Index).

The official cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) as at 30 April 2023 was 3.60%. On 3 May 2023, the Board of the RBA increased the official cash rate to 3.85%. The official cash rate was subsequently increased by a further 0.25% to 4.10% on the 7 June 2023.

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 April 2023; and**
- iii. **note the weighted average interest rate return of 3.96% p.a. for the month of April 2023.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Monthly Investment Summary Report - April 2023

SUBJECT: BONDS PERTAINING TO COUNCIL COMMUNITY AND SPORTS FACILITIES POLICY - REVISED

FROM: Acting Director Sport, Community and Activation

EDMS #: 23/284165

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the revised draft Bonds Pertaining to Council Community and Sports Facilities Policy.

BACKGROUND

The Bonds Pertaining to Council Community and Sports Facilities Policy was first adopted on 27 January 2009 and was formerly called the Bonds Pertaining to Damage to Council Facilities Policy.

A review and rewrite of the policy was recently undertaken, with a revised copy of the policy provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Councillors were briefed on the revised policy on 16 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

The revised policy intends to provide all hirers of Council's community and sport facilities with clarity about responsibility and actions, specifically, in circumstances where bonds will be retained in accordance with the terms and conditions under the hire agreement.

In addition, this policy intends to provide support and guidance to Council officers when processing bond refunds.

The key proposed amendments to the draft Bonds Pertaining to Council Community & Sports Facilities Policy include:

- Clarity about how Council deals with retaining a bond wholly or partially;
- A more in-depth policy statement to provide clarity as to what is expected from our hirers;
- Details of the different types of bonds that are applicable;
- Clarity about the processes each hire group must adhere to; and
- A number of formatting and policy structure changes.

In reviewing the policy, previous hirer feedback was considered, as well as research and benchmarking undertaken, to ensure the revised Policy is in line with industry best practice and other surrounding councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

The revised Bonds Pertaining to Council Community and Sports Facilities Policy will provide better clarity for hirers of Council's community and sport facilities, and guide Council staff in processing bond refunds.

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Bonds Pertaining to Council Community and Sports Facilities Policy as attached to this report.

RECOMMENDED

That Council adopt the revised Bonds Pertaining to Council Community and Council Facilities Policy as attached to this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bonds Pertaining to Council Community & Sport Facilities Policy

ORD08

SUBJECT: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONES
FROM: Director Community Assets
EDMS #: 23/287453

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to assess and determine the re-establishment of all the current Alcohol-Free Zones (AFZs) in the Camden Local Government Area (LGA).

BACKGROUND

AFZs prohibit the consumption of alcohol on roads and roadways and can be established for a maximum period of four years in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Ministerial Guidelines and Council's adopted procedure. Council must re-assess the situation prior to expiration to determine whether it is appropriate to re-establish the area as an Alcohol-Free Zone.

MAIN REPORT

Council, at its meeting of 28 May 2019, resolved to re-establish existing AFZs on selected roads and roadways throughout the Camden LGA. It should be noted that the prohibition of alcohol consumption in parks and reserves falls under a separate process.

These AFZs will expire on 30 June 2023. Street listings and plans are provided as an **attachment** to this report:

- Camden (including the Council carpark between John and Murray Streets);
- Currans Hill;
- Harrington Park;
- Mount Annan;
- Narellan;
- Gregory Hills; and
- Narellan Vale.

The appropriate consultation and evaluation of the existing AFZs has been undertaken to assess the re-establishment of these zones for another four-year period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2027.

Ministerial Guidelines state that the principal objective of an AFZ is to:

“prevent disorderly behaviour caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas in order to improve public safety” and they are to be used as “an early intervention measure to prevent the escalation of irresponsible street drinking to incidents involving serious crime”.

AFZs are enforced by Police and provide them with the powers to confiscate and tip out, or otherwise dispose of alcohol without the need to issue a warning.

AFZs are required to be re-established for them to continue beyond their original approved four-year term. In the first instance the sites must be reassessed prior to re-establishment to determine whether the areas are needed to continue as AFZs. This reassessment process takes into consideration Ministerial Guidelines, the Act and Camden Police recommendations.

Evaluation criteria for the re-establishment of AFZs include:

- The factors which originally supported a zoning in that area;
- How successful the previous AFZ was in achieving a reduction in unacceptable street drinking; and
- An indication from Police about the value of re-establishing an Alcohol-Free Zone in that area

Police recommendations regarding alcohol related incidents are an essential tool used in the assessment. The recommendations determine whether Police believe an AFZ will achieve a reduction in unacceptable street drinking and whether they can effectively enforce the zone.

Camden Police Area Command recommendations for re-establishment were sought for all the AFZs under consideration. Police recommended that all existing AFZs be re-established for a further four years.

Copies of the Police recommendations for re-establishment of all the AFZs are provided in the **supporting documents**.

Ministerial Guidelines and the Act require Council to undertake community notification prior to the re-establishment of AFZs. To this end, a notice appeared on the Public Notices section of Council's website for a period of 28 days in May and June 2023 to notify the community of the intention to re-establish the AFZs.

Additionally, licenced premises whose premises border, adjoin or are adjacent to the proposed zones have been notified of the intention to re-establish the AFZs.

Feedback was received from one licensed premises because of this notification. The feedback from the licensed premises requested that the AFZ in Gregory Hills be extended to consider the growth in the area since the establishment of the current AFZ, the increase in licensed premises and patron migration. This extension would increase the AFZ to encompass Gregory Hills Drive from Camden Valley Way to Donovan Boulevard, and Lasso Road from Steer Road to Rodeo Road. Police were consulted and support the proposed extended AFZ. The extended AFZ is now reflected in the Police recommendation and revised map for Gregory Hills.

After complying with internal procedures, Ministerial Guidelines, the Act, and considering Police recommendations, Council may, by resolution, adopt the proposal to re-establish the subject AFZs.

Following resolution, Council must advise by publication of a notice of the re-establishment of the AFZ. An AFZ will not operate until seven days after the publication of the notice and until the roads, footpaths and public car park affected are adequately and appropriately signposted.

Signs at all existing and additional AFZs were replaced in 2019 using the latest style guide and will only need to have the date amended to reflect the revised period of operation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for new and amended signage will be covered under an existing Community Safety budget. The total cost is estimated to be \$2,500 (excluding GST), which includes advertising, manufacture, and installation/labour costs. It is proposed to utilise existing signs and galvanised posts where possible.

CONCLUSION

The re-establishment of the AFZs at all locations is supported by Camden Police Area Command. The re-establishment will assist Police in addressing alcohol related anti-social behaviour and prevent the escalation into serious crime.

The re-establishment of all AFZs has followed internal Council procedures, Ministerial Guidelines and the Act, and it is appropriate that Council re-establish all subject AFZs in Camden, Currans Hill, Gregory Hills, Harrington Park, Mount Annan, Narellan and Narellan Vale, with an extension to the AFZ at Gregory Hills.

RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **re-establish the Alcohol-Free Zones in Camden (including the Council Car Park between Murray and John Streets), Currans Hill, Gregory Hills, Harrington Park, Mount Annan, Narellan and Narellan Vale, in accordance with the provisions of section 644B of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the attached map for a period of four years, effective from July 2023 to June 2027;**
- ii. **extend the Alcohol-Free Zone at Gregory Hills to encompass Gregory Hills Drive from Camden Valley Way to Donovan Boulevard, and Lasso Road from Steer Road to Rodeo Road;**
- ii. **advise the Camden Police Area Command and all parties as required as per Ministerial Guidelines and the *Local Government Act 1993* of the re-establishment of Alcohol-Free Zones; and**
- iii. **ensure that all Alcohol-Free Zone signage is current and reflects the current term, being July 2023 to June 2027.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. Camden - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
2. Currans Hill - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
3. Harrington Park - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
4. Mount Annan - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
5. Narellan Town Centre - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
6. Gregory Hills - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
7. Narellan Vale - Alcohol Free Zone Maps - 2023
8. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Camden - 2023 -
Supporting Document
9. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Currans Hill - 2023 -
Supporting Document
10. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Harrington Park - 2023 -
Supporting Document
11. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Mount Annan - 2023 -
Supporting Document
12. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Narellan Town Centre -
2023 - *Supporting Document*
13. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Revised Gregory Hills -
2023 - Completed - *Supporting Document*
14. AFZ re-establishment - Police recommendation form - Narellan Vale - 2023 -
Supporting Document

ORD09

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL FEES 2023/24 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

FROM: Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

EDMS #: 23/265093

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Councillors of the determination by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) for the range of councillors' and mayors' fees payable for the 2023/24 financial year, and to recommend that Council fix the fees for Camden Council to the maximum amount permitted for its category as determined by the Tribunal.

BACKGROUND

The Tribunal determines the category in which each council is classified and sets the range of annual fees under each category that are payable to mayors and councillors each year.

Under section 248 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Council may fix the annual fees paid to the Mayor and Councillors. The annual fees must be within the range determined by the Tribunal. Under section 249 of the Act, the Mayor must be paid an annual fee in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor as a Councillor.

Should Council decide not to fix the annual fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors, it must pay the appropriate minimum fee determined by the Tribunal.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 23 May 2023.

MAIN REPORT

The Tribunal's Decision

The Tribunal has concluded its annual review and determined that an increase of 3% will be applicable to each category for the 2023/24 financial year. The increases are effective on and from 1 July 2023, subject to Council's adoption.

A copy of the full decision is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Camden Council's Classification

Camden Council is categorised as a Metropolitan Medium council, which is described as typically having features including a minimum residential population of 100,000 and total operating revenue exceeding \$100 million per annum.

Section 239 of the Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of councils and to place each council in a category at least every three years. For its 2023 review, the Tribunal undertook an extensive examination of the categories, criteria, and allocation of councils into each of the categories.

Council made a submission as part of this review, requesting that the Tribunal consider creating a new category of Metropolitan Medium - Growth Area and re-categorise Camden Council into that new category. The submission argued that the proposed new category would allow criteria to be established that would better reflect Council's growth rate, economic influence and complexities involved in servicing growth.

However, the Tribunal decided not to create this requested category, noting that in its 2023 determination it had already determined a new metropolitan category of Metropolitan Major and was not persuaded to include another new metropolitan category.

The revised fees payable for a Metropolitan Medium council for 2023/24 have been set by the Tribunal as follows, and include a three per cent per annum increase in the minimum and maximum fees applicable:

COUNCILLORS	MAYOR
Minimum \$14,810 – Maximum \$27,650	Minimum \$31,470 – Maximum \$73,440

The current fees for Camden Council are \$22,270.49 per annum for Councillors and \$59,177.85 per annum for the Mayor.

On balance, it is recommended that Council adopt the maximum amounts payable to the Mayor and Councillors, for the reasons outlined below.

Comparing Fees for Metropolitan Medium Councils

Of the other seven councils in the Metropolitan Medium category, six councils pay 100% of the maximum fees payable and one council pays 96% of the maximum fees payable. In contrast, Camden Council currently pays only 83% of the maximum fee payable for both the Mayor and Councillors. This comparison is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

Council	% of Max. Councillors' Fee Paid 2022-23	% of Max. Mayoral Fee Paid 2022-23
Camden	83%	83%
Campbelltown	100%	100%
Georges River	96%	96%
Hornsby	100%	100%
Ku-ring-gai	100%	100%
North Sydney	100%	100%
Randwick	100%	100%
Willoughby	100%	100%

It is evident from this comparison that a decision by Council to set the Councillors' and Mayor's fees to the maximum amounts permitted would generally be consistent with the industry standard for Metropolitan Medium councils. It would also provide better recognition of the complexities associated with the rapid growth that the Camden Local Government Area (LGA) is experiencing.

Growth Considerations

In June 2019, the population of the Camden LGA was 101,437 and, on this basis, the Tribunal re-categorised Council as a Metropolitan Medium council in its 2020 determination. The 2021 Census data for the Camden LGA revealed that the population had further increased to 119,325. Forecast.id has estimated that in 2041 the population will be 243,531, an increase on the current population of approximately 100%. This is the fastest growing populations amongst LGAs across Australia, with approximately 120 new residents per week.

Associated with the population growth in the Camden LGA is significant development. In the 2021/22 financial year alone, more than \$897 million worth of Development Applications within the LGA were determined. This volume of development is reflected in a substantial increase in the number of registered businesses within the Camden LGA, with the 2021/22 figure of 11,550 registered businesses representing a 12% increase on the equivalent figure for 2020/21.

In the coming years, further growth and development will result from:

- The Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport and the surrounding business area (Aerotropolis), including the Bradfield City Centre, which will support wider employment, education and training opportunities in the Western Parkland City and drive the creation of tens of thousands of jobs;
- The North South Rail Line linking Macarthur to Bradfield City Centre and Western Sydney International Airport, which is planned to include train stations at Narellan and Oran Park that will result in these town centres continuing to evolve as strategic centres for the provision of jobs, services and homes; and
- The Leppington Town Centre and Precinct, which is identified as a priority growth precinct for the NSW Government as part of the South West Growth Area and is planned to be connected to Bradfield City Centre via the South West Rail Link.

An outcome of this ongoing development is the substantial growth in the net value of assets (equity) owned by Council, increasing to \$2.5 billion in the 2021/22 financial year from \$2.2 billion in the 2020/21 financial year. Most of this equity relates to the ownership of land and infrastructure assets such as roads, stormwater drainage, footpaths and bridges, with Council's increase in equity predominantly due to infrastructure assets being dedicated to Council as part of new release areas. This places Council in an unusual position with the provision of infrastructure on a scale closer to that of a large rather than a medium council.

The accompanying increase in services Council provides is reflected in its Delivery Program 2022/2026, which projects a rapid increase both in Council's operating revenue from \$127 million in 2022/23 to \$163 million in 2025/26 and in its operating expenditure from \$152 million in 2022/23 to \$183 million in 2025/26.

This exponential growth in population, development, infrastructure and assets is having a significant impact on the nature and volume of business that Council deals with and the services it provides, and places substantial pressure on Council's finances and resources. The workload and obligations on Council's Mayor and Councillors have increased accordingly and will continue to do so rapidly for the foreseeable future.

Finally, it is relevant to note that the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) submission to the Tribunal for its 2023 determination highlighted the substantial disparity between the fees payable to mayors and councillors within NSW and Queensland respectively. The submission observed that although the roles and responsibilities of the elected officials in each jurisdiction are almost identical, in Queensland the fees payable to mayors and councillors are significantly higher. The submission concluded that the lower fees in NSW make it more challenging for local government to attract suitable candidates from a broader representation of the community to run for election. This aspect will be exacerbated for Council if fees for Councillors and the Mayor are set at a lower percentage than the maximum. Encouraging this breadth of representation is crucial to the future success of Council as an increasingly significant and influential organisation that is committed to achieving its community's priorities and aspirations for the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If Council adopts the maximum amount of fees payable to the Mayor and Councillors, as recommended, this will result in an increase of \$5,379.51 for each Councillor and an increase of \$14,262.15 for the Mayor.

A provision was included in the 2023/24 draft Budget for an increase in the Councillor and Mayoral fees.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council fix the fees for Councillors and the Mayor as the maximum amounts permitted for the Medium Metropolitan category of councils in the 2023/24 financial year, as determined by the Tribunal.

RECOMMENDED

That Council fix the fees for Councillors and the Mayor as the maximum amounts permitted for the Medium Metropolitan category of councils in the 2023/24 financial year, as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination 2023

ORD11

ORD11

NOTICE OF MOTION**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - IMPACT OF AIRPORT ON THE CAMDEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA****FROM: Cr Campbell****EDMS #: 23/320868**

"I, Councillor Eva Campbell, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 20 June 2023:

That immediately following the imminent release by the federal government of the preliminary flight paths for the 24-hour international airport at Badgerys Creek, a report to Council be prepared on the exposure to residents of Camden Local Government Area to the flight paths, and environmental and noise impacts."

RECOMMENDED

That Council immediately following the imminent release by the Federal Government of the preliminary flight paths for the 24-hour international airport at Badgerys Creek, be provided with a report on the exposure to residents of the Camden Local Government Area to the flight paths, and environmental and noise impacts.

ORD12

NOTICE OF MOTION

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - WARD BOUNDARIES
FROM: Cr Campbell
EDMS #: 23/320938

ORD12

"I, Councillor Eva Campbell, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 20 June 2023:

That a meeting with Councillors be convened, within the next four weeks, to discuss variance between Wards and proposed viable options to reduce this difference between wards to:

- i. take into account future estimate population projections;
- ii. meet Council's legislative obligations with the Electoral Commission with regard to the Ward boundary adjustment process; and
- iii. provide maps to Councillors, to allow discussion options overlaying the number of voters within each ward/suburb."

RECOMMENDED

That Council, within the next four weeks, convene to discuss variance between Wards and proposed viable options to reduce this difference between wards to:

- i. take into account future estimate population projections;**
- ii. meet Council's legislative obligations with the Electoral Commission with regard to the Ward boundary adjustment process; and**
- iii. provide maps to Councillors, to allow discussion options overlaying the number of voters within each ward/suburb.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - CAMDEN MEN'S SHED
FROM: Cr Campbell
EDMS #: 23/323990

"I, Councillor Eva Campbell, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 20 June 2023:

That Council reimburse, from Councillor Ward Funds, the Development Application fees and charges associated with the new premises of the Camden Men's Shed."

RECOMMENDED

That Council reimburse, from Councillor Ward Funds, the Development Application fees and charges associated with the new premises of the Camden Men's Shed.

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camden
council