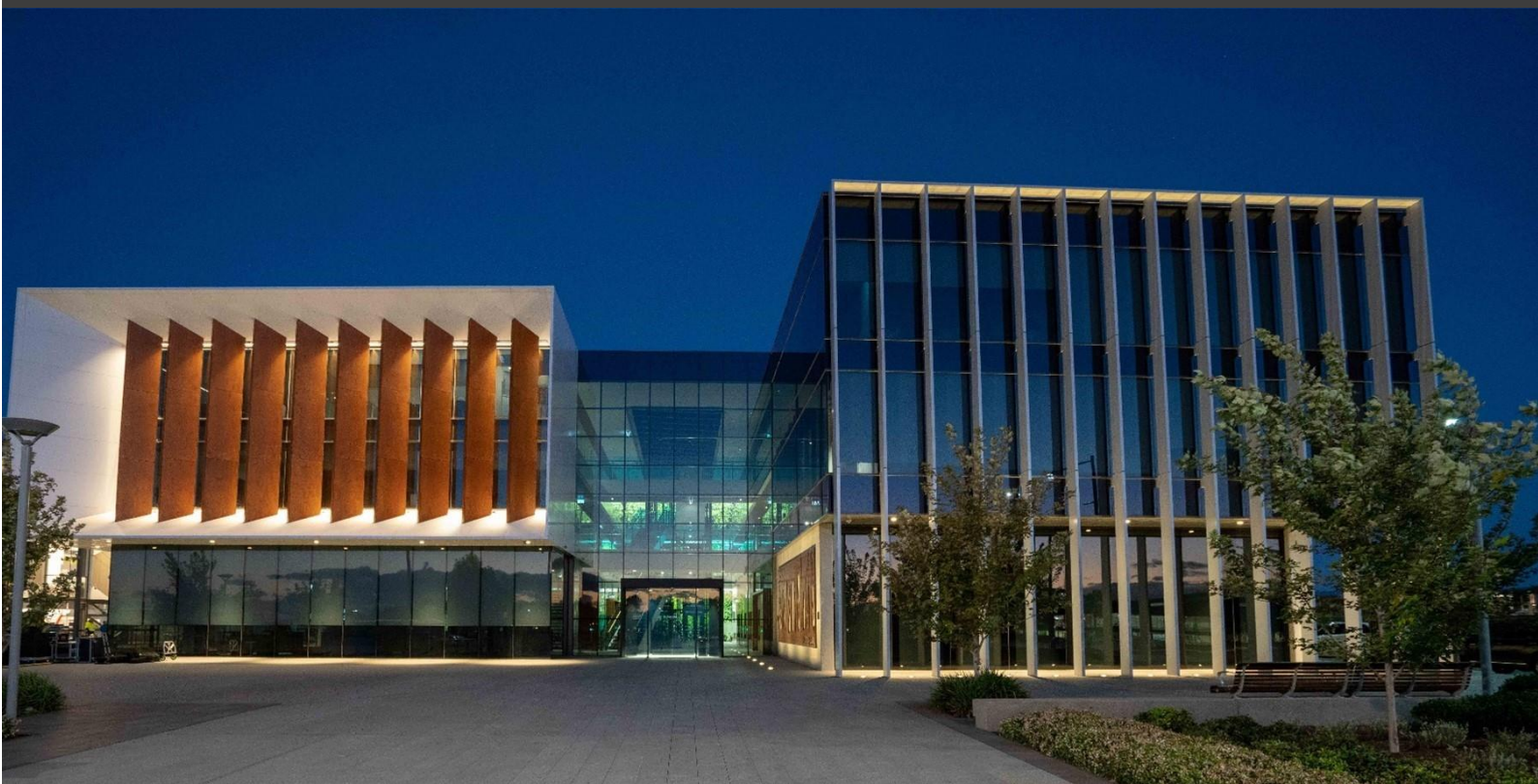


# Business Paper

Ordinary Council Meeting

Camden Council  
Administration Centre  
70 Central Avenue  
Oran Park

11 April 2023

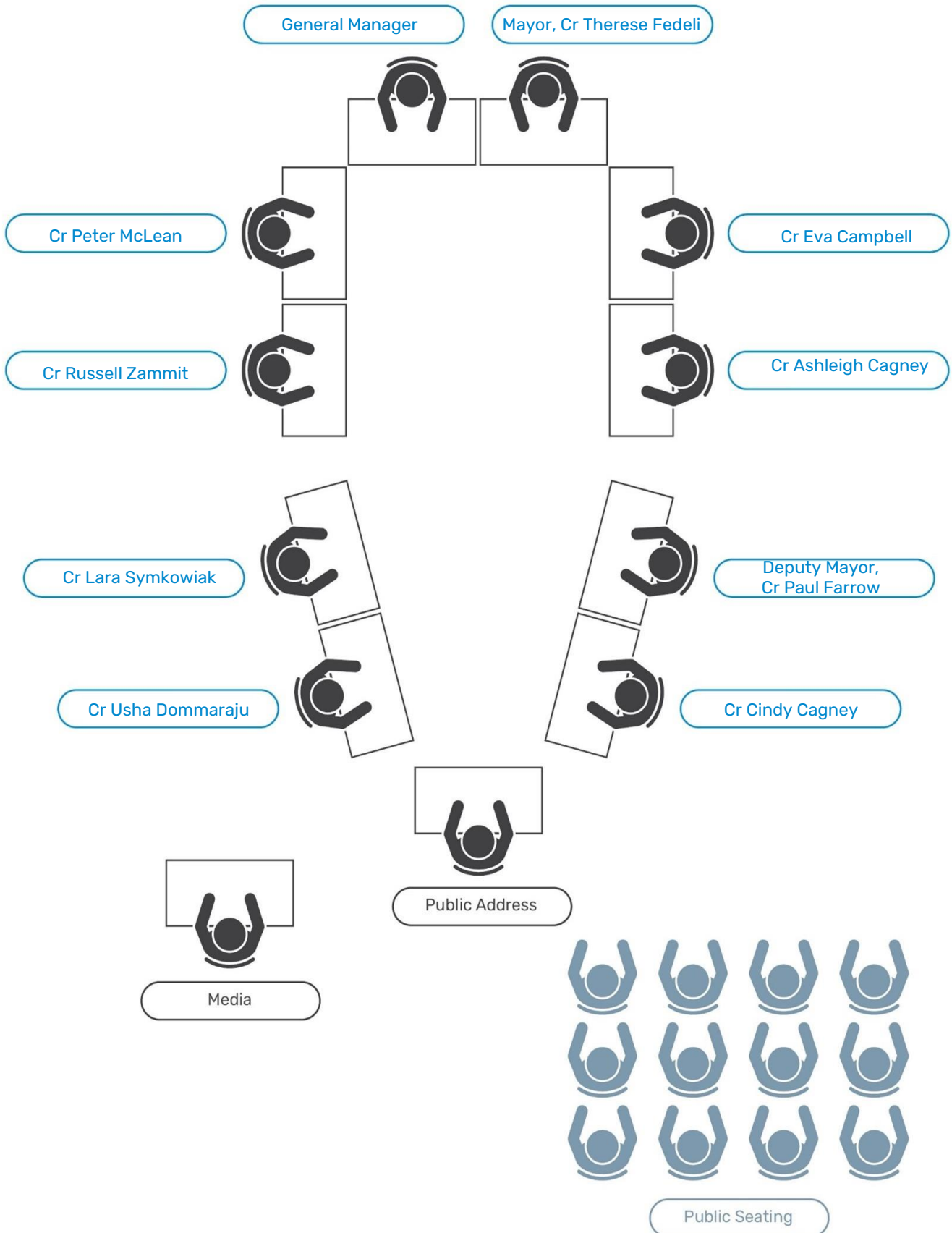


The public can also view the meeting via Council's webcast. A link to this webcast can be found on Council's webpage - <http://webcast.camden.nsw.gov.au/video.php>

camden  
council

## 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".

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Prayer.....	6
Acknowledgement of Country .....	7
Webcasting of Council Meetings .....	8
Leaves of Absence .....	9
Approval to Attend by Audio-Visual Link .....	10
Declaration of Interest.....	11
Public Addresses .....	12
Confirmation of Minutes .....	13
Mayoral Minute .....	14
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. .... 15
ORD02	Delivery Program Performance Report - July to December 2022..... 32
ORD03	Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision - Post-Exhibition ..... 36
ORD04	Public Exhibition - Public Spaces Legacy Program..... 46
ORD05	Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy - New ..... 49
ORD06	Appointment of Expert Members to the Camden Local Planning Panel .... 52
ORD07	Investment Monies - February 2023 ..... 56
ORD08	Acceptance of Grant Funding - Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative 2023 ..... 57

**SUBJECT: PRAYER**

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## 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**

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I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet and pay our respect to elders both past and present.



**SUBJECT: WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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 Local Traffic Committee held 7 March 2023 and the Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 March 2023.

**RECOMMENDED**

**That the Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee held 7 March 2023 and the Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 March 2023, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.**

**SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE**

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Consideration of Mayoral Minute (if any).

**ORD01****ORD01**

**SUBJECT: 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.**

**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

**EDMS #:** 23/148381

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that 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, are now in a position to be formally considered by Council and placed on public exhibition.

### 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 14 June 2022, Council endorsed the revised Community Strategic Plan and Connecting Camden – Our 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 a 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 2023/24 Operational Plan is the second annual plan within the four-year Delivery Program.

Councillors were briefed on the Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget on 14 March and 21 March 2023.



**DRAFT 2023/24 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

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.

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

A copy of the 2022-2026 Adopted Delivery Program and Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan are provided as **Attachment 1** to this report.

**DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET**

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

Draft 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
<b>Gross Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$444,424,700</b>
Less: Developer Delivered Capital Works	(\$83,212,000)
Less: Depreciation Expense	(\$32,175,000)
Less: Transfers to Cash Reserves	(\$61,464,000)
<b>Net Cash Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$267,573,700</b>

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 \$215.465 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$215,465,400</b>
<b>Funded By:</b>	
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$215,465,400</b>

A copy of the draft Capital Works Program is provided as **Attachment 2** to this report.

**2023/24 BUDGET AND RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS**

The draft 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 draft 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:

Allocation of Available Funds	2023/24
Available Funding	<b>\$2,508,900</b>
<b>Recommended Allocation:</b>	
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

ORD01

Allocation of Available Funds	2023/24
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)
<b>Total – Recommended Allocation</b>	<b>\$2,508,900</b>
<b>Draft Budget Position</b>	<b>Balanced</b>

**DRAFT 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
<b>TOTAL WESTINVEST</b>	<b>\$131,992,694</b>

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
<b>Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (Round3)</b>	
Dickson Road – Leppington	\$18,060,000
Woolgen Park Road – Leppington	\$3,710,000
<b>Western Sydney Infrastructure Fund – Local Roads Package</b>	
Camden Valley Way / Hilder Street Upgrade - Elderslie	\$6,409,049
<b>Total – Additional Grant Funding</b>	<b>\$28,179,049</b>

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 draft 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
<b>Total Proposed Program:</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

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

Community Buildings	Amount	Expected Delivery
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
<b>Total – Community Buildings</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>	

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
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
<b>Total - Playgrounds</b>	<b>\$1,400,000</b>	

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
<b>Total – Open Space</b>	<b>\$680,000</b>	



ORD01

Community Infrastructure Renewal Projects - 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
<b>Total - Sportsgrounds</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	

**DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

Rate Income

Rates consist of a base charge (\$710 proposed in 2023/24) and an ad-valorem charge. The base charge amount is a standard amount, which is applied to all properties. The ad-valorem charge is primarily determined by the value of the property as provided by the NSW Valuer General.

The land valuation calculated for each property is determined by the Valuer General’s Department and is reviewed every three years. The most recent review was conducted in 2022 with the impact of that valuation included in the proposed rates 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.

It is proposed that total 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).

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 Draft 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, which is impacted by inflationary pressures, Council recognises that it plays an important role in providing services and facilities to all residents within the LGA.

Fees set by legislation have been reviewed and updated as required.

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

A copy of the Fees and Charges Report has been provided as **Attachment 3** to this report.

#### 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%).

Loan Borrowings - External

The proposed loan borrowings for the four-year Delivery Program 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.

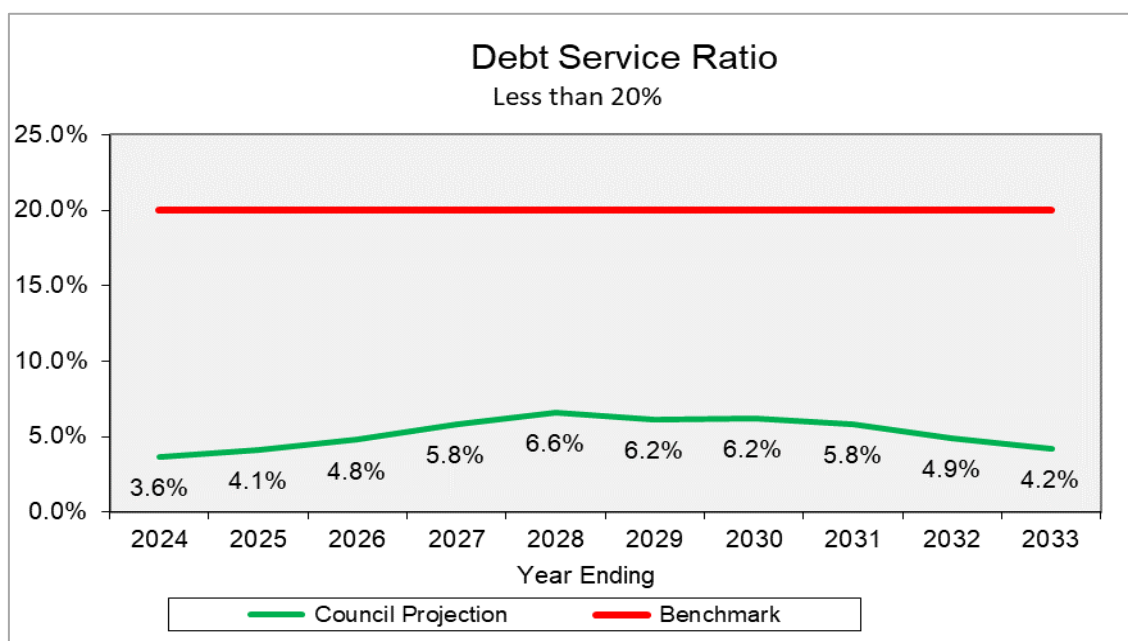
Purpose	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Renewal Program	\$3.50M	\$1.50M	-	-
CSP Stage Three	\$12.95M	\$15.40M	-	-
Community/Civic Catalyst Site	-	-	\$27.30M	\$27.30M
Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	-	\$1.50M	\$1.25M	\$1.25M
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>\$16.45M</b>	<b>\$18.40M</b>	<b>\$28.55M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

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

Council’s proposed debt is shown in the table below:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>Principal Outstanding</b>	\$59,600,000	\$74,300,000	\$98,600,000	\$122,300,000
<b>Debt Servicing Costs (principal &amp; interest)</b>	\$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:



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	(\$450,000)
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 – \$450,000**

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 \$450,000 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.

**RESERVE BALANCES**

The balances available to Council for future allocation from its three major reserves are shown below.

Capital Works Reserve

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

<b>Capital Works Reserve</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance 1 July 2022</b>	<b>\$1,663,810</b>
<b>Add: June 2022 Budget Review Transfer</b>	\$608,489
<b>Add: 2022/23 September Quarterly Budget Review</b>	\$434,246
<b>Available Balance of Reserve</b>	<b>\$2,706,545</b>
<b>Committed Funds Held in Reserve</b>	
<b>Less: 2021/22 Revoted Projects</b>	(\$381,911)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Community Support Package Round 3 Funding</b>	(\$205,000)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Narellan Catchment Creek Flood Study (ORD 55/22)</b>	(\$133,333)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Nepean River Corridor Study (ORD 10/23)</b>	(\$25,000)
<b>Less: 2023/24 Nepean River Corridor Study (ORD 10/23)</b>	(\$175,000)
<b>Less: 2023/24 Camden Memorial Pool Funding</b>	(\$330,000)
<b>Less: Proposed - 2023/24 Community Infrastructure Renewal Program (see reserve transfers section of this report)</b>	(\$500,000)
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>(\$1,750,244)</b>
<b>Uncommitted Balance – Capital Works Reserve</b>	<b>\$956,301</b>

Asset Renewal Reserve

Council approved the creation of the Asset Renewal Reserve as part of adopting the 2013/14 - 2016/17 Delivery Program for the replacement and/or renewal of existing assets.

<b>Asset Renewal Reserve</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance 1 July 2022</b>	<b>\$754,854</b>
<b>Add: Transfers to Reserve (Loan Interest Savings) 2022/23</b>	\$90,100
<b>Add: Transfers to Reserve (Loan Interest Savings) 2023/24</b>	\$74,900
<b>Available Balance of Reserve</b>	<b>\$919,854</b>
<b>Committed Funds Held in Reserve</b>	
<b>Less: 2021/22 Revoted projects</b>	(\$89,973)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Community Support Package Round 3 Funding</b>	(\$291,800)
<b>Less: Proposed - 2023/24 Community Infrastructure Renewal Program (see reserve transfers section of this report)</b>	(\$500,000)
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>(\$881,773)</b>
<b>Uncommitted Balance – Asset Renewal Reserve</b>	<b>\$38,081</b>

Working Funds Reserve

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

<b>Working Funds Reserve</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance 1 July 2022</b>	<b>\$559,224</b>
<b>Add: June 2022 Budget Review Transfer</b>	\$500,000
<b>Add: 2022/23 Adopted Budget - Transfer to Reserve</b>	\$507,000
<b>Available Balance of Reserve</b>	<b>\$1,566,224</b>
<b>Committed Funds Held in Reserve</b>	
<b>Less: 2021/22 Revoted projects</b>	(\$559,224)
<b>Less: Proposed - 2023/24 Transfer from Reserve (see reserve transfers section of this report)</b>	(\$450,000)
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>(\$1,009,224)</b>
<b>Uncommitted Balance – Working Funds Reserve</b>	<b>\$557,000</b>

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Council’s Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) outlines the key financial ratios that assist councils to determine their financial health and sustainability. An overview of these ratios is provided in this section.

Council’s long-term financial sustainability is primarily driven by increased economies of scale through population growth. Council will remain financially sustainable if the rate peg recommended by IPART is adopted annually and the rate of growth remains within the parameters allowed for in the LTFP.

Most councils in NSW adopt the recommended rate peg set by IPART annually as it is the only way of maintaining existing services without applying to IPART for a special rate variation, now or in the future. Recurrent rate income is essential to operations, maintaining the service quality expected by our community, to upgrade/renew and construct infrastructure. It is also expected that Council will continue to deliver its services as efficiently as possible, adopting leading technologies and practices that are sustainable and environmentally sensitive.

Council has a history of strong financial management through adopting and maintaining a balanced cash budget position. This is supported by a Council that does not spend beyond its means and has the appropriate budgetary controls and project management frameworks in place.

Council’s rapidly growing and diversifying asset base continues to be maintained at a high standard with the appropriate maintenance and asset renewal programs in place. Council has a strong cash position which is maintained at a level better than the industry benchmark, which is prudent for rapidly growing community and organisation.

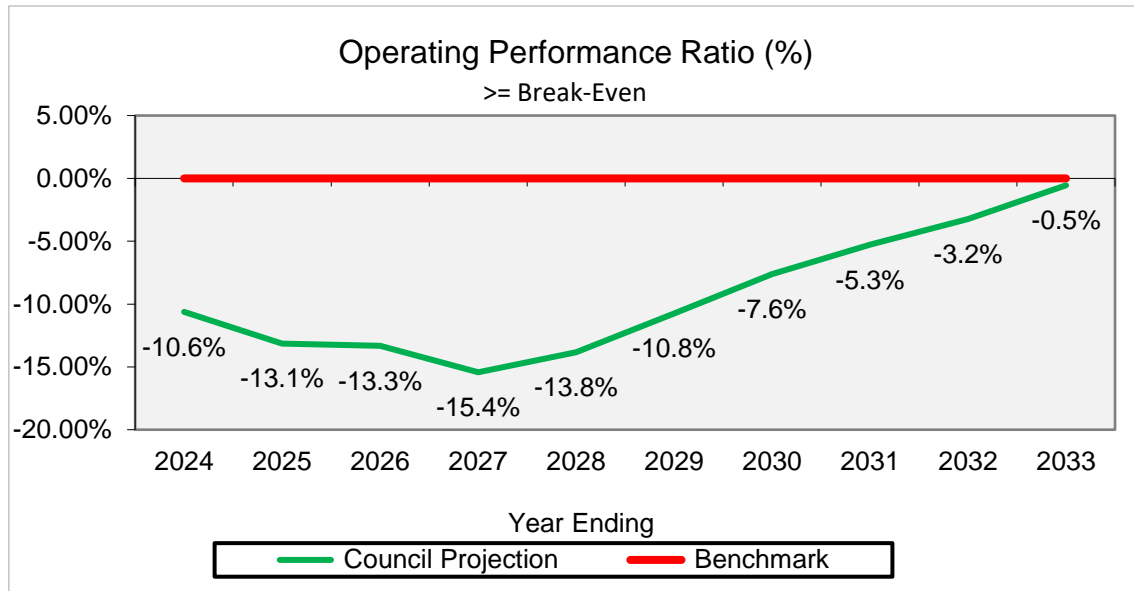
Council has a strong capacity to borrow, which is essential for the delivery of infrastructure in a rapidly growing environment. In this instance, borrowing ensures the cost of growth is distributed across generations with no one community responsible for infrastructure that will be used by communities over many years. Where possible, Council looks to capitalise on low-cost loan initiatives made available by the State Government or grant funding as it becomes available.

Further information on Council’s financial health ratios is provided below and in Council’s LTFP.

A copy of the Long-Term Financial Plan has been provided as **Attachment 4** to this report.

Operating Performance Ratio

This ratio measures Council’s ability to fund operations (including non-cash depreciation) now and into the future. The benchmark for this ratio is to break even or better.



The Camden LGA is the fastest growing area in NSW. Camden welcomes over five hundred new residents per month. This brings the challenge of planning and delivering service demand and infrastructure sometimes years before additional income is realised through growth.

Rates and annual charges income is expected to double over the next 10 years, providing greater economies of scale in the later years of the long-term financial plan. The Operating Performance Ratio remains below breakeven predominantly due to high depreciation expense resulting from infrastructure constructed for future growth in the area.

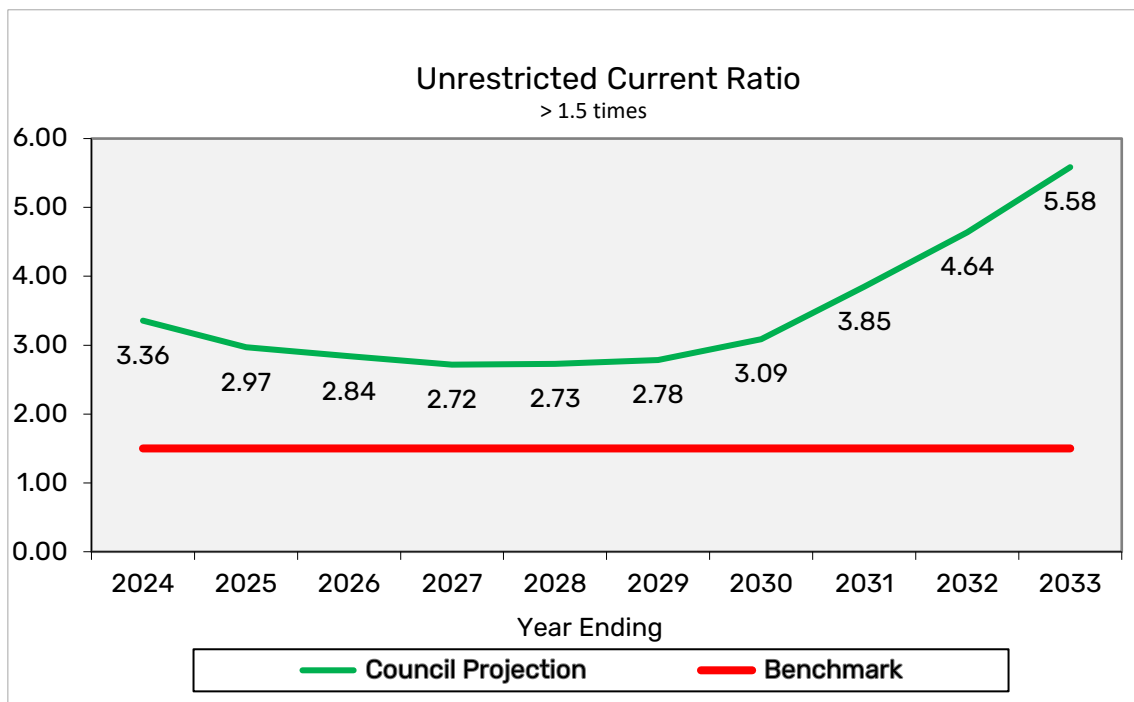
A Council undertaking greenfield developments cannot decide to deliver infrastructure once the population is fully realised; it must deliver services and infrastructure from the time growth commences. It is expected that this ratio will continue to improve over time as Council’s economies of scale increase.

It is important to note that the operating performance ratio is not a measure of the Council’s budget or cash position. Council has a history of adopting balanced budgets and prudently managing expenditure throughout the year to ensure, at each quarterly budget review, the budget remains in a balanced or surplus position. Council’s cash reserves and ability to fund debt (borrowings) are in a strong position.

The operating performance ratio declines in the first three years primarily due to an anticipated increase in domestic waste management (DWM) disposal costs. Council has in place a DWM reserve which has allowed Council to limit the offsetting increase in DWM Charges in 2023/24 to only 5%; without this intervention, the increase would have been 23%. While increasing disposal costs are recognised as an expense in the Income Statement the transfer of cash from reserves is not recognised as income which means, while the waste cash budget balances over the next three years, there will be no correlating income to offset the increasing waste disposal costs in the Income Statement until 2026/27.

Unrestricted Current Ratio

The unrestricted current ratio measures Council’s ability to fund short term financial obligations such as loans, payroll and leave entitlements (measures liquidity). The benchmark for this ratio is greater than 1.5:1.



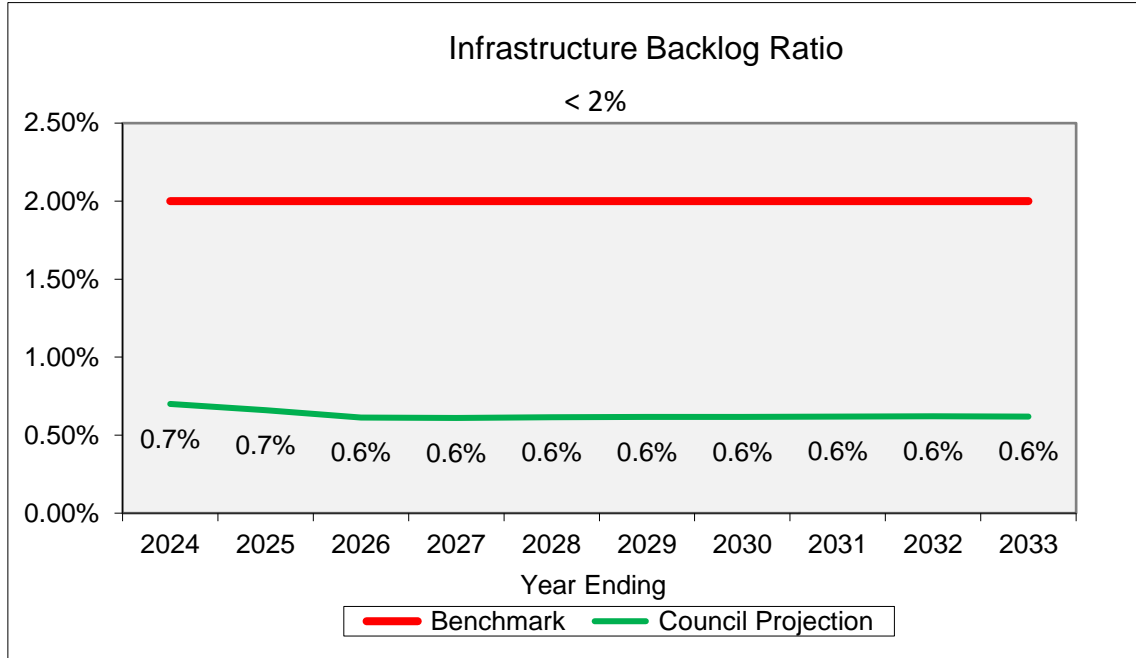
This indicator measures Council’s ability to fund its short-term liabilities. It is forecast that in the 2023/24 financial year Council will have \$3.36 to fund every \$1 of liability. Forecasts indicate that Council will remain above benchmark levels over the life of the plan, demonstrating Council’s strong cash position.



ORD01

Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

This ratio measures the proportion of the infrastructure backlog against the total value of Council’s infrastructure asset base. The benchmark for this ratio is less than 2%.



Camden’s rapid growth forecasts will result in a significant proportion of new assets to be constructed each year. This ratio improves as a result of the magnitude of new assets being received through development and existing renewal/maintenance programs such as the Community Infrastructure Renewal Program, which will see an additional \$5mil invested in renewal programs over the next 4 years.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

The draft documents – 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget, 2023/24 Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges schedule, Draft Capital Works Program and Long-Term Financial Plan – have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and IPR framework.

The draft documents must be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days as per the legislation. Public exhibition will commence Wednesday 19 April 2023 and conclude Tuesday 16 May 2023 (inclusive).

The documents will be available at Council’s Customer Service Centre (Oran Park) and the Camden and Narellan Libraries, and will be published on Council’s website throughout the course of the exhibition period.

Submissions and/or comments received will be reported back to Council as part of the adoption of 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications are covered within the body of the report

## CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget, Draft 2023/24 Revenue Policy, Draft Fees and Charges schedule, Draft Capital Works Program and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

## RECOMMENDED

**That Council:**

- i. endorse the following documents for the purposes of public exhibition:**
  - **Draft 2023/24 Operational Plan and Budget including Revenue Policy;**
  - **Draft 2023/24 Capital Works Program;**
  - **Draft 2023/24 Fees and Charges schedule; and**
  - **Draft Long-Term Financial Plan.**
  
- ii. note a further report will be presented to Council at its meeting of 13 June 2023 to consider submissions received during the public exhibition period and to adopt the documents outlined above.**

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Delivery Program 2022-26 and Operational Plan 2023-24
2. Draft 2023-24 to 2026-27 Capital Works Program
3. Draft 2023-24 Fees And Charges
4. Draft 2023-24 to 2032-33 Long Term Financial Plan

**SUBJECT: DELIVERY PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2022**  
**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy  
**EDMS #:** 23/181436

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the 2022 - 2026 Delivery Program draft Performance Report for the period July to December 2022.

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, all councils are required to undertake their planning and reporting activities using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. The framework requires councils to develop a suite of documents that reflect the vision and aspirations of their community.

The documents that form part of the IPR framework include:

- **Community Strategic Plan (10 year+)**  
The Community Strategic Plan is the highest level of plan, identifying the community aspirations, desired outcomes, and necessary strategies.
- **Four Year Delivery Program and Operational Plan (Budget)**  
The Delivery Program is Council's commitment to progress the Community Strategic Plan in its Council term. The Operational Plan is the sub-set of the Delivery Program.
- **Resourcing Strategy: Executive Summary**  
The Strategy ensures the community's long-term objectives are met, and the associated plans are:
  - Asset Management Plan;
  - Workforce Management Strategy; and
  - Long-Term Financial Plan.

Council adopted these documents in June 2022.

The IPR framework requires Council to report the progress of the Delivery Program. This report is the first Performance Report for Council's Delivery Program 2022 - 2026 and provides a progress update for the period July to December 2022.

A Councillor briefing on the Performance Report was held on 28 March 2023.

### MAIN REPORT

The Performance Report is provided as **Attachment 1** to this report and provides a status update on the 27 performance indicators within the 2022 - 2026 Delivery Program and the 170 actions within the 2022 – 2023 Operational Plan.

Council monitors its progress in achieving the objectives stated in the Community Strategic Plan through the implementation of the Delivery Program under the five Key Directions:

1. Welcoming – Embracing our Vibrant and Diverse Community;
2. Liveable – Strong and Integrated Connections between our People and our Services;
3. Prosperous – Advancing Local Economic Opportunities and Job Creation;
4. Balanced – Providing Sustainable and Responsible Solutions that Enhance our Heritage and Natural Environment; and
5. Leading – A Successful Advocate for our People and Places.

Council utilises a rating scale to assess the status of the Delivery Program performance indicators. **Table 1** provides a description of each rating scale.

**Table 1**

The rating scale for assessing performance indicators:	
	<p><b>On Track</b></p> <p>When the 'actual' is either equal, less, or greater than the set target.</p>
	<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>Corporate variance of ±10% applies to the set target and is considered achievable, feasible and realistic for performance improvement, with the exception of Legislative requirements</p>
	<p><b>Needs Work</b></p> <p>When the 'actual' is either below or above the corporate variance</p>
	<p><b>External Impacts</b></p> <p>Deliverables impacted by a range of incidents including severe weather events</p>

**Table 2** provides a summary of the status of the Delivery Program performance indicators, with detailed information noted within the Performance Report provided as **Attachment 1** to this report.

Table 2

Key Direction	No. of Performance Indicators	Status			
		On Track	Monitoring	Needs Work	External Impacts
Welcome	5	5	0	0	0
Liveable	10	6	0	3	1
Prosperous	3	3	0	0	0
Balanced	5	4	0	1	0
Leading	4	4	0	0	0
	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1*</b>

Council utilises a linear gauge system to assess the progress of the Operational Plan actions, assessed against a target of 50% for the reporting period. **Table 3** describes each rating scale, and **Table 4** provides an overall progress status on the 170 actions within the Operational Plan.

Table 3

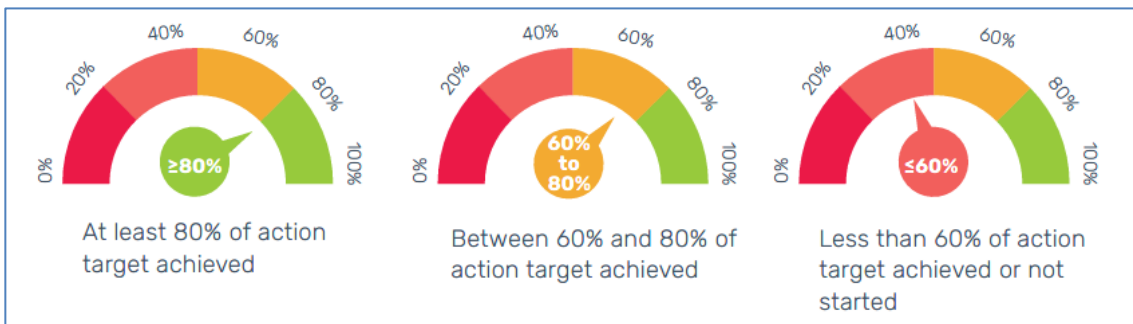
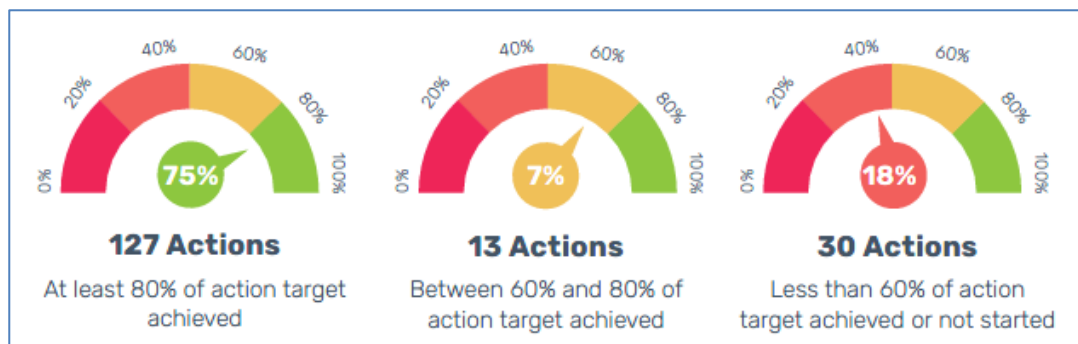


Table 4



**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### CONCLUSION

The Performance Report highlights that at the end of the reporting period (31 December 2022), Council is progressing in implementing the 2022 – 2026 Delivery Program and 2022 – 2023 Operational Plan.

All performance indicators and actions will continue to be monitored to ensure Council meets the targets set.

### RECOMMENDED

**That Council note and endorse the attached Delivery Program Performance Report for the period July to December 2022.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Delivery Program Performance Report - July to December 2022

ORD02

**SUBJECT: CAMDEN GREEN AND BLUE GRID VISION - POST-EXHIBITION**  
**FROM:** Director Planning & Environment  
**EDMS #:** 23/9874

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the draft Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision (the draft Vision), including amendments recommended in response to submissions received during the public exhibition.

A copy of the draft Vision (as amended) is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

### BACKGROUND

In March 2018, the Greater Cities Commission (previously Greater Sydney Commission) released the *Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities* (Region Plan) and the *Western City District Plan* (District Plan). The Region and District Plans set planning priorities and objectives to enhance the Green and Blue Grid across the Greater Sydney region (region-scale) and the Western Parkland City (district-scale).

On 26 June 2018, Council resolved to participate in the NSW Government's Accelerated LEP Review Program and accepted funding from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to prepare the Camden Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and undertake various supporting studies. The Camden Green and Blue Grid Analysis (the Analysis) was one of the studies identified to be undertaken as part of this program.

In 2020, Council officers engaged consultants to undertake an analysis of the Camden Green and Blue Grid network and identify opportunities to connect the Green and Blue Grid across the Camden Local Government Area (LGA).

Based on the key findings and recommendations in the Analysis, Council officers have prepared the draft Vision. The draft Vision was publicly exhibited from 1 November 2022 to 28 November 2022 (28 days), and eight submissions were received from public agencies. A response to submissions is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Vision on 17 May 2022 and 28 March 2023.

### MAIN REPORT

#### **Draft Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision Summary**

The 'Green and Blue Grid' is a network of high quality green open spaces, biodiversity corridors, riparian land, waterways, natural bushland, tree-lined streets, pedestrian paths, cycleways and recreational trails. A connected Green and Blue Grid is an important feature of a sustainable, liveable and healthy community – enabling people to move comfortably between places and access key destinations such as open spaces, schools, workplaces, town centres and public transport hubs.

The Green and Blue Grid provides health and wellbeing benefits by delivering walking and cycling trails for exercise and leisure and providing opportunities for people to interact with nature and wildlife. Enhancing the local Green and Blue Grid is necessary for cooling the urban environment, restoring and reconnecting habitat and biodiversity corridors, and supporting ecological resilience.

The Region and District Plans set planning objectives and priorities to enhance green and blue links, which aim to:

- link parks, open spaces, bushland and walking and cycling paths (Region Plan - Objective 32);
- increase urban tree canopy cover and deliver Green Grid connections (District Plan – Priority W15);
- protect and improve the health and enjoyment of waterways (District Plan – Priority W12); and
- identify the South Creek corridor as a key landscape feature within the Western Parkland City (District Plan – Priority W13).

Transforming the Camden Green and Blue Grid can positively impact the Greater Sydney (region-scale) and Western Parkland City (district-scale) Green and Blue Grid networks.

The draft Vision provides a long-term goal to create an accessible, connected, healthy, maintained and valued Green and Blue Grid across the LGA. It outlines the approach to joining and enhancing Camden’s open spaces, biodiversity corridors, riparian areas, and natural bushland (the Green Grid) using creeks, rivers, lakes and waterways (the Blue Grid) as the spine for these connections.

The draft Vision identifies potential opportunities for further consideration, including:

- New east-west biodiversity corridors to connect Nepean River and South Creek;
- Revegetating riparian land along waterways;
- Leveraging existing natural assets such as the Nepean River and Scenic Hills to create open space and recreational trails; and
- Opportunities for green links between town centres, open space, sports fields, employment areas, schools and public transport hubs.

It is recognised that these opportunities require further investigation and may be varied in the future subject to detailed planning and funding opportunities.

The draft Vision also provides:

- Guiding Principles for Green and Blue Grid projects;
- Key initiatives to be implemented by Council; and
- Suggestions for how Council, State Government, community groups and landowners can work together to achieve the vision for greener neighbourhoods and healthier waterways.

### **Public Exhibition and Community Engagement**

The draft Vision was exhibited for 28 days from 1 November to 28 November 2022.



The community consultation included the following:

- Information on Council's website (including Quick Poll);
- Stakeholder notification letters (neighbouring councils, public agencies and key stakeholders);
- Promotion in Council's eNewsletters (Camden Kids eNews, Camden Business eNews, and Our Waterway Health eNews)
- Social media posts; and
- Copies available at Council's Administration Building and libraries.

A total of eight submissions were received from public agencies, including seven providing support and one objection. A copy of the submissions is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

### Summary of Public Agency Submissions

A summary of the key issues raised in the submissions is provided below. A detailed consideration of submissions is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

#### 1. *WaterNSW – Objection (resolved post-exhibition)*

The WaterNSW submission objected to the use of the Upper Canal for public recreation, active transport and to a lesser degree for urban greening projects. This objection is due to potential risks posed to the delivery of Sydney's drinking water supply.

No objection was raised to using land *adjoining* the Upper Canal for revegetation projects, provided tree planting does not negatively impact on the operation of the Upper Canal or pose any safety and security risks. The submission requests that the narrative and certain Key Findings, Key Recommendations and Project Opportunities are amended to reflect this position.

The submission notes that any Green and Blue Grid projects on land identified as 'affected land' on the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* maps, must be consistent with WaterNSW's *Guideline for Development Adjacent to the Upper Canal and Warragamba Pipelines*.

The submission requests Council remove the image of the Upper Canal as a 'Blue Grid' feature, consult WaterNSW on revegetation programs proposed on land adjoining the Upper Canal, that the colour of the Upper Canal on Figure 2 is shown as 'grey', and that a different colour is used to show the 'New Urban' area on Figure 4.

#### *Officer comment*

The Western City District Plan identifies the WaterNSW Upper Canal as a project for the Western Parkland City, for both protecting drinking water infrastructure and making use of the space along the canal for open space, urban greening and an active transport corridor.

The following changes are recommended in response to this submission:

- Remove the image of the Upper Canal under the heading 'Blue Grid';

- Amend the commentary to clarify that green links are to be provided on land adjoining the Upper Canal, and acknowledge the need to protect Greater Sydney's drinking water infrastructure and supply; and
- Amend the colour of the Upper Canal on Figure 2 from 'blue' to 'grey'.

WaterNSW has been consulted on proposed post-exhibition amendments related to the Upper Canal. They have offered in-principle support for the suggested amendments. Council officers will continue to engage WaterNSW on Green and Blue Grid initiatives that may impact the Upper Canal.

## 2. *Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) – Support*

The submission is generally supportive of the draft Vision and recommends the following:

- Reference the *Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan*, the *Interim Green Infrastructure and Public Spaces Framework*, the *2022 Independent Flood Inquiry Report*, and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*;
- Expand commentary on waterways support of farming practices, health benefits and healthy ecosystems, the interplay between increased tree canopy and flood and bush fire risk and water management in the urban environment;
- Highlight Council's partnership with DPE on Green and Blue Grid initiatives such as the Greener Neighbourhoods Program; and
- Minor text changes including using the term 'green infrastructure' and providing additional examples for capturing and retaining water in the urban environment (i.e., 'detention basins and ponds and rain gardens on residential land').

### *Officer comment*

The following changes are recommended in response to this submission:

- Add commentary on the *2022 Independent Flood Inquiry Report*, the *Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan* and the *Interim Valuing Green Infrastructure and Public Spaces Framework*;
- Add commentary to acknowledge the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* and the identification of 'strategic conservation areas' within parts of Camden LGA;
- Expand commentary to acknowledge the improved physical, social and physiological outcomes and support of healthy ecosystems benefits from an enhanced Green and Blue Grid;
- Update the 'key recommendations' section to include the benefits of revegetating land along the Nepean River and South Creek;
- Expand commentary on aspirations for rural settlement areas to acknowledge the valuable role rivers and creeks play in enhancing farmland and farming practices (such as irrigation);
- Reference 'detention basins' as an additional example of how water can be captured and retained in the urban environment;
- Expand commentary to acknowledge the need for Green and Blue Grid connectivity and potential flood and bush fire risks to be considered during precinct planning;

- Clarify that Council officers will continue to guide development (via planning controls) to require consideration of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles, appropriate management of water and increased tree canopy cover;
- Amend the 'How to Get Involved' section to encourage residents to install ponds, water fountains and rain gardens in addition to planting suitable trees, vegetation and gardens in yards; and
- Add commentary about Council's collaboration with the State Government on Green and Blue Grid initiatives.

The term '*green infrastructure*' is used by public agencies however the draft Vision has been written in plain English for a broader community audience. Council officers do not recommend changing the draft Vision to incorporate this recommendation in the draft Vision.

### 3. *Endeavour Energy - Support*

The submission notes that the draft Vision aligns with Endeavour Energy's Sustainability Strategy 2022.

Endeavour Energy request collaboration with Council to identify, design and implement Green and Blue Grid projects within or adjoining electricity easements, and to develop a tree specification list to alleviate potential risks to the electricity distribution network.

The submission provides additional information relating to standard conditions, design specifications and maintenance requirements for vegetation management that assist to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the electricity network.

#### *Officer comment*

Council officers will work with Endeavour Energy on Green and Blue Grid initiatives within, or in close proximity to, electricity easements. Some of the additional information provided in this submission is technical and will be addressed as part of future planning proposals, development applications or implementation of Green and Blue Grid projects.

Council officers are currently developing an Urban Forest Strategy that seeks to review current and future trends in tree species suitability. Endeavour Energy will be consulted as part of the development of this strategy.

This submission will be addressed as part of the draft Vision's implementation and other Council projects. No amendments to the draft Vision are proposed in response to this submission.

### 4. *Liverpool City Council - Support*

This submission offers support for the draft Vision and recommends that health outcomes should be a significant consideration in Green and Blue Grid projects.

It suggests Healthy Active By Design (HABD) principles be considered in the detailed project scoping for Green and Blue Grid projects and in future reviews of existing planning controls.

*Officer comment*

Council officers recommend amendments to the draft Vision to clarify that Council will consider HABD principles in Green and Blue Grid projects.

The recommendation for HABD principles to be embedded in planning controls has merit however is out-of-scope for this project. HABD has broader considerations beyond green and blue grid connections and may be considered as part of a future review of existing planning controls.

5. *NSW Health – South West Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) - Support*

The submission offers support for the draft Vision and notes the following:

- There are positive links between increasing trees and providing new walking and cycling paths, and improving physical and mental health outcomes;
- New research relating to the 3:30:300 rule for greener cities – people can see at least 3 trees from their home, there is a minimum 30% tree canopy cover in urban areas and green open spaces are located within a maximum 300m distance of people's homes;
- The use of electricity easements as green links is an innovative opportunity to increase walking and cycling in residential areas;
- Support for the Western Sydney Parklands Scenic Hills green link;
- Support for the Macarthur Regional Recreational trail green link; and
- Commends Council's "Adopt the Street Tree Outside Your Home" project.

SWSLHD supports the key recommendations within the vision as they will provide improved infrastructure and amenity to support people to walk and cycle.

*Officer comment*

The submission is generally supportive of the draft Vision and the potential health outcomes generated by enhancing the Camden Green and Blue Grid.

The new research related to the 3:30:300 rule is noted. Council officers will consider the applicability of this principle in future reviews of planning controls.

The following changes are recommended in response to this submission:

- Add commentary to acknowledge the positive physical and mental health outcomes associated with trees; and
- Amend Figure 1 – Benefits from trees and healthy waterways, to note that trees offer protection against harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV).

Council officers will continue to work with NSW Health and seek their advice during the draft Vision's implementation (as appropriate).

6. *NSW Rural Fire Service - Support*

The submission requests Council consider the *Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2019* requirements in the implementation of this Vision, and in associated planning proposals and development assessment.

*Officer comment*

Council officers acknowledge the interrelationship between increasing tree canopy cover and potential bush fire risk. The need to balance increased tree planting and bush fire risk will be considered during the planning, design and implementation of Green and Blue Grid projects.

Council will continue to work with the NSW Rural Fire Service on ensuring compliance with *Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2019* requirements as part of future precinct planning, development assessment and implementation of Green and Blue Grid projects.

This submission will be addressed as part of the Vision's implementation. No amendments to the draft Vision are proposed in response to this submission.

*7. Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) - Support*

The submission commends Council for preparing the comprehensive draft Vision. WPCA notes the draft Vision's potential to deliver substantial positive outcomes for the community and natural environment, and its synergies with the Western Parkland City Blueprint (October 2022).

The WPCA recommends the draft Vision be amended to note carbon emission reductions, the protection of climate refuge areas for fauna, and endangered and other ecological communities which may be enhanced by additional tree planting.

The submission suggests Council incorporate Caring for Country practices (e.g., cultural burning practices) and adaption requirements, such as species choices for street trees that are resilient to changing climate conditions.

*Officer comment*

The draft Vision, as exhibited, acknowledged Caring for Country practices in the 'Place Based' Guiding Principle and under the 'Learning, supporting and partnering' section.

Council recognises the need for ongoing knowledge exchange and learning from the local Aboriginal community relating to Caring for Country practices. In response to this submission, additional commentary is recommended to acknowledge that Council will engage with local Aboriginal stakeholders to learn about Caring for Country practices.

Environmental resilience, including the selection of suitable tree species, will be considered during scoping of Green and Blue Grid projects. The draft Camden Urban Forest Strategy (currently under development) will provide an updated tree species list to assist with tree species selection.

The request that endangered species and ecological communities (that may benefit from an enhanced local Green and Blue Grid) be noted in the draft Vision is considered out of scope. Endangered ecological communities and animal and plant species that could benefit from healthy and sustainable biodiversity corridors are discussed in complementary Council strategies such as the Sustainability Strategy (2020) and the Biodiversity Strategy (2023).

The following changes are recommended in response to this submission:

- Amend WPCA images under 'The Strategic Context' section;
  - Insert new commentary to clarify that 'Council will' engage Aboriginal stakeholder groups on the planning, design and implementation of Green and Blue Grid projects; and
  - Add carbon emission reduction as a data source to measure impacts of increased tree planting at specific project sites.
8. *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan)*

The submission acknowledges the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (ABGMA) is a contributor to the local and regional green grids and references the intention to connect existing and proposed lakes within the ABGMA (i.e., the 'lakes precinct' project).

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (The Trust) notes support for green grid connections between the southern portion of the ABGMA through Gundungurra Reserve and William Howe Regional Park, and the northern portion of the ABGMA to the Scenic Hills. The Trust requests further information about the proposed 'green' link between the ABGMA and Leppington via the Scenic Hills prior to providing support for this project.

The submission also states that connecting the ABGMA to the Nepean River catchment and riparian land will protect and enhance the health and character of the waterway.

The Trust offers general support for riverside walks and notes their broader organisational commitment to creating regional cycleways, native vegetation corridors, biodiversity connectivity, and restoring critically endangered species such as the Cumberland Plain Woodland.

The submission recommends Council officers work with the ABGMA to expand the recycled water network and to manage noxious weeds such as the African Olive.

The submission recommends the following change to the draft Vision:

- Investigate planting trees along Narellan Road to encourage greater use of pedestrian and cycle paths.

*Officer comment*

Council officers will engage The Trust on the scoping and design of projects that propose connections to the ABGMA.

Council officers agree there is merit in exploring opportunities to plant trees and vegetation along Narellan Road as an extension to the proposed The Northern Road Green Boulevard project. As part of Narellan Road is in State Government control, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) will be engaged in any proposed project along Narellan Road.



The following changes are recommended in response to this submission:

- Include Narellan Road as a potential green boulevard.

### Summary of post-exhibition changes

A copy of the final Vision including changes (in red) is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

Post-exhibition amendments are proposed to the following parts of the draft Vision, based on matters raised in the submissions:

- The narrative;
- 'Blue Grid' images and Figures;
- The 'Natural & Sustainable' Guiding Principle;
- Certain Green and Blue Grid project opportunities;
- 'Council will' commitments;
- Certain Actions of the Green and Blue Grid Action Table; and
- Monitoring and Review data.

In addition, Council officers have proposed the following post-exhibition amendments to the draft Vision:

- Update census data;
- Amend certain Actions of the Green and Blue Grid Action Plan; and
- Minor text changes to improve readability.

The proposed post-exhibition amendments are consistent with the intent of the publicly exhibited draft Vision and do not warrant re-exhibition.

### Next Steps

The recommended LGA-scale Green and Blue Grid project opportunities will be investigated by Council officers. Not all projects may be achievable, and some may need to be varied to respond to planning and funding opportunities. Detailed project planning and implementation of identified short-term priority projects will commence, as funding becomes available.

The draft Green and Blue Grid Vision will be used to support future grant applications that enable the delivery of greener places and healthier waterways across the LGA.

The draft Vision has recently assisted Council in securing approximately \$4.5 million in funding for 'Green and Blue Grid' projects such as the John Oxley Reserve Trail that proposes new walking and cycling trails and tree planting (Places to Roam Grant 2022/23); the Nepean River Corridor Study that aims to examine 'Green and Blue Grid' opportunities along the Nepean River and adjacent land (Metropolitan Green Space Program 2022/23); and the Camden Community Nursery, which will produce local native plants for 'Green Grid' revegetation and restoration projects (WestInvest 2022).

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of priority Green and Blue Grid projects will be funded through existing Council budgets or by external future funding such as grants.

## CONCLUSION

The draft Green and Blue Grid Vision sets a strategic direction to connect green open spaces, biodiversity corridors, riparian land and natural bushland across the LGA using creeks, rivers and waterways as the spine for these links.

The draft Vision was placed on public exhibition from in November 2022 and eight agency submissions were received. The matters raised in these submissions have been considered and some changes are recommended to the draft Vision. The proposed amendments do not change the intent of the draft Vision, and as such do not warrant re-exhibition.

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised draft Vision (as amended).

## RECOMMENDED

**That Council:**

- i. adopt the draft Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision (as amended); and**
- ii. notify submitters of Council's decision.**

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision
2. Public Agency Submissions - Camden Green and Blue Grid Vision
3. Public Agency Response Table - Green and Blue Grid Vision



**SUBJECT: PUBLIC EXHIBITION - PUBLIC SPACES LEGACY PROGRAM**  
**FROM:** Acting Director Sport, Community and Activation  
**EDMS #:** 23/186201

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the outcome of the public exhibition of the draft Public Spaces Legacy Program (PSLP) – Nepean River Connect Masterplan (Masterplan) and to seek Council's endorsement of the draft Masterplan post-exhibition.

### BACKGROUND

In May 2021, Council was successful in its application to receive funding for PSLP with a view to delivering a project that enhances Camden's connection with the Nepean River.

Community engagement and detailed investigations have been undertaken and a draft Masterplan has been prepared, which will provide a recreational network that will complete missing links and create several route options that connect the Nepean River to the Camden Town Centre via the Camden Town Farm, Ferguson's Land and the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park.

The project will unlock public land for recreation and quality open space to build a sustainable, inclusive and connected community.

This report outlines the results of the public exhibition period but does not provide detail on the public art elements of the Masterplan.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 28 March 2023.

### MAIN REPORT

#### Public Exhibition

The draft Masterplan was placed on public exhibition from 28 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, with the draft masterplan available to be viewed at Council libraries, Oran Park Administration Centre, on social media and the website. Additionally, targeted consultation was also undertaken with key stakeholders and an on-site meeting was held at the Camden Town Farm during the public exhibition period.

An online poll was conducted on the Your Voice Camden website as part of the public exhibition period, with 94% of respondents supporting the project.

As part of the consultation process, 14 submissions, providing feedback on the proposal, were received. These are provided as an **attachment** to this report.

### Community Feedback

The feedback received through the submissions as part of the public exhibition period included:

- Requests for accessible and shorter pathway options;
- Provision of seating, picnic areas, water station, kayak entry points, exercise equipment and shade;
- Inclusion of a children's play area and skatepark;
- Ensuring connection to First Nations people;
- Increased tree planting;
- The need for flood resistant infrastructure;
- Accessibility and signage;
- Restriction on dogs at the facility;
- Need for diverse parking options; and
- Ensure public art is fitting with the character of the area.

In response to the community feedback, the following elements have been included in the draft Masterplan:

- Pathway network to be 2.5 metres wide where possible;
- Shorter walking loop options to provide choice;
- Additional tree planting;
- Wayfinding, educational and interpretive signage;
- Additional seating has been included;
- Inclusion of water stations;
- Outdoor fitness equipment near the cricket facility at Ferguson's land; and
- Dogs are not permitted in the Camden Town Farm however will be permitted on leash in the remaining sections.

The inclusion of a play space and skate park are unable to be accommodated in the Masterplan as these facilities are not directly aligned with the character and intent of the project.

### River vantage points and canoe and kayak access

Further investigations determined that, due to slope instability and flooding risks, the originally envisaged canoe and kayak launching access point is not able to be provided at this section of the Nepean River and will not be included as part of the PSLP project.

Investigations into additional access points to the Nepean River are continuing as part of a separate project, with canoe and kayak access points to be investigated as part of this projects.

In addition, for same reasons above, the viewing platforms will be designed as vantage points instead, to take advantage of the river views and beyond, and will still be a key element of the project.

### Next Steps

Subject to Council endorsement of the draft Masterplan, detailed designs will continue, with the PSLP project expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has previously adopted \$5.1 million of grant funding for this project.

### CONCLUSION

The PSLP project will unlock public land for recreation and quality open space to build a sustainable, inclusive and connected community. It will provide improved connection between the main centre of Camden and the Nepean River through a series of recreational pathways that link the Camden Town Farm, Ferguson's Land and the Bicentennial Equestrian Park.

Valuable feedback was received through the public exhibition process, with this feedback informing the development of the Masterplan.

It is recommended that the revised Masterplan, as attached to this report, be adopted.

### RECOMMENDED

#### **That Council:**

- i. endorse the Masterplan for the Public Spaces Legacy Program – Nepean River Connect, included as an attachment to this report; and**
- ii. advise submitters of the outcome of this report.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Masterplan - Public Spaces Legacy Program - Nepean River Connect
2. Public Spaces Legacy Program - Submissions

**ORD05****ORD05**

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL-RELATED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY - NEW**  
**FROM:** Director Planning & Environment  
**EDMS #:** 23/134588

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's adoption of the draft *Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy*.

**BACKGROUND**

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) has recently been amended to include requirements to address potential conflicts of interest in council-related development. The new requirements stipulate that a council-related development application (DA) must not be determined unless the council has an adopted Conflict of Interest policy.

A '*Council-related development application*' is an application for which the Council is the applicant and/or landowner and is specifically defined as:

*"a development application, for which Council is the consent authority, that is:*

- (a) made by or on behalf of Council; or*
- (b) for development on land, other than a public road within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993:*
  - (i) of which Council is an owner, a lessee or a licensee, or*
  - (ii) otherwise vested in or under the control of Council."*

The draft *Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy* (the Policy) has been developed in accordance with the prescribed requirements.

Councillors were briefed on the Policy on 28 February 2023.

**MAIN REPORT**

The following requirements have been introduced into Regulation to address conflicts of interest in council-related development:

- Councils must adopt and have a policy that specifies how conflicts of interest in connection with council-related development applications will be handled. The policy must comply with the *Council-related Development Application Conflict of Interest Guidelines* published by the Department of Planning and Environment (section 66A of the Regulation).
- Council-related development applications must be accompanied by either a management strategy statement which explains how the council will manage potential conflicts of interest, or a statement that the council has no management strategy for the application (section 36A of the Regulation).

- Councils must record conflicts of interest in connection with each council-related development application, and the measures taken to manage the conflicts in their existing DA register (section 242A of the Regulation).
- Council-related development applications must be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days to ensure transparency during the assessment process (*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, schedule 1, clause 9B).

While the Regulation changes do not mandate the use of the framework once a development consent has been issued, it is identified as best practice that councils also address conflicts that may occur after a development consent has been granted. To this extent the Policy also seeks to address regulation and enforcement.

The Policy identifies the following controls for managing conflicts of interests:

- Council-related development applications will not be prepared or submitted by Council's Statutory Planning Branch or Development Certification Branch;
- A Council-related development application will be accompanied by a statement specifying how Council will manage conflicts of interest (or that a management statement is not required for the DA);
- The assessment of all Council-related development applications with an estimated cost of works of \$2 million or more will be completed by an independent planning consultant (with the exception of certain development types such as internal alterations to the building);
- Council-related development applications with a capital investment value exceeding \$5 million (where Council is the applicant or landowner) will be determined by the Sydney Western City Planning Panel;
- Council-related development applications with a capital investment value of \$5 million or less (where Council is the applicant or landowner) will be determined by the Camden Local Planning Panel (with the exception of some specific circumstances specified in the Policy);
- The regulation of all approved Council-related development with an estimated cost of works of \$2 million or more will be completed by a private certifier, except where Council is required to be nominated as the principal certifier by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*;
- The regulation of all approved Council-related development with an estimated cost of works less than \$2 million can be completed by Council staff under delegation, subject to the peer review and concurrence of a senior member of Council staff (i.e., Manager level or above); and
- Council-related development applications will be referred to the General Manager (or their delegate) for a conflict of interest risk assessment.

As identified above, the Regulation has been updated to require that all Council-related development applications be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days. It is recommended that the *Camden Council Community Participation Plan 2021* be updated to include this new exhibition requirement.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council arising from the adoption of the Policy.

### CONCLUSION

The Policy has been prepared in accordance with the requirements prescribed in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*. It is recommended that Council adopt the *Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy*.

### RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. adopt the *Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy*; and
- ii. authorise an update to the *Camden Council Community Participation Plan 2021* to identify that Council-related development applications must be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Council-Related Development Application Conflict of Interest Policy

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF EXPERT MEMBERS TO THE CAMDEN LOCAL PLANNING PANEL**

**FROM:** Director Planning & Environment

**EDMS #:** 23/134644

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to appoint additional Expert Members to the Camden Local Planning Panel ('the Panel').

### BACKGROUND

On 1 March 2018, Local Planning Panels (LPPs) became mandatory for all councils in Sydney and Wollongong. LPPs, at the Direction of the Minister for Planning, are responsible for determining development applications that involve a conflict of interest, receive 10 or more submissions, are contentious or sensitive in nature or involve development standard contraventions (greater than 10%). LPPs also consider and provide advice on planning proposals.

LPP meetings comprise four members from a pool of members, including a Chair, two Expert Members and a Community Representative. The Chairs and Expert Members appointed to a LPP must be approved by the Minister for Planning. Community Representatives are recruited, selected and appointed by Councils; however, under the criteria established by the State Government, mayors, councillors, property developers and real estate agents are not eligible for appointment.

On 13 February 2018, Council considered a report that sought Council's endorsement for the selection of Chairs, Expert Members and Community Representatives for the Panel. The appointments were made for a term of three years, being the maximum term permitted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

On 9 February 2021, Council considered a report on the reappointment of Chairs, Expert Members and Community Representatives on the Panel. At that meeting, Council resolved to reappoint the current Chairs and Expert Members and Community Representatives on the Panel for a period of up to 12 months. The reappointments were recommended for a period of up to 12 months to allow future membership on the Panel (Expert Member and Community Representatives) to be determined by the new Council following the local government elections.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 8 June 2021, Council resolved to appoint the Chair and Alternate Chairs on the Panel for a period extending to 29 February 2024.

On 14 September 2021, Council considered a further report that sought to extend the appointments of the current Expert Members and Community Members on the Panel to 30 June 2022. The extension was required to account for the postponement of the local government elections and to ensure there was sufficient time for the new Council to consider any appointments/reappointments to the Panel.

On 14 June 2022, Council considered a further report that sought Council's endorsement to appoint/reappoint Expert Members and Community Representatives to the Panel. These appointments were for up to three years.

The Panel currently consists of a pool of three Chairs, five Expert Members and seven Community Representatives. The Chairs, Expert Members and Community Representatives are periodically rotated, ensuring the composition of members on the Panel varies for any given month.

### MAIN REPORT

On 14 June 2022, Council resolved to appoint/reappoint the following Expert Members to the Panel:

- Ms Mary-Lynne Taylor;
- Mr Grant Christmas;
- Ms Sue Francis;
- Mr Michael File; and
- Ms Glennys James.

The NSW Government has recently introduced new rules aimed at reducing corruption risks and improving the decision-making of the State's independent planning panels. To satisfy the new rules, Council must increase the pool of Expert Members that operate on the Panel from the current pool of five members to a minimum pool of 15 members. No changes are required to the number of Chairs or Community Representatives currently appointed to the Panel.

Expert Members must be selected from the pool of experts approved by the Minister for Planning. There are 220 experts that have been approved for appointment by the Minister for Planning. It is a matter for Council to select the additional Expert Members; however, taking into account their qualifications and experience (including experience on other Panels, including in Growth Area Councils), Council staff recommend the appointment of the following experts:

- Mr Mark Carlon;
- Mr Vince Hardy;
- Ms Helena Miller;
- Ms Julie Walsh;
- Ms Heather Warton;
- Ms Marjorie Ferguson;
- Ms Fiona Gainsford;
- Mr Jason Perica; and
- Mr Brian Kirk.

It is further recommended that the existing Chairs on the Panel also be appointed as Expert Members, namely:

- Mr Stuart McDonald;
- Mr Michael Mantei; and
- Ms Pamela Soon.

The CVs of the recommended Expert Members are provided as a **supporting document**.



These additional appointments will ensure Council has more than the required minimum pool of 15 Expert Members and will avoid the need for Council to appoint a new expert should an expert resign from the Panel.

It is noted that Mr Stuart McDonald and Mr Michael Mantei have been Chairs on the Panel since its inception in March 2018. Under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, a member of a local planning panel may not hold office for more than six years. Accordingly, it is recommended that the terms of the appointments of Mr Stuart McDonald and Mr Michael Mantei be limited to 1 March 2024 (i.e., six years in total).

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 28 February 2023.

### **Term of Appointment**

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, a member of a local planning panel may not hold office for more than three years in a single term and more than six years in total.

All new appointments are recommended for a period of up to three years.

As identified above, Mr Stuart McDonald and Mr Michael Mantei were originally appointed to the Panel on 1 March 2018, and accordingly it is recommended that their appointments as Expert Members be limited to a period extending to 1 March 2024 (i.e., six years in total).

### **Panel Member Remuneration**

The Minister for Planning has determined the remuneration to be paid by Council to Expert Members which is \$1,500 (plus GST) per meeting and \$214 (plus GST) per hour for business that is undertaken outside of meetings. The minimum per meeting rate is inclusive of all work a panel member does for a meeting, including preparation, site visits, the meeting itself and any deliberation and voting by the panel on matters considered at the meeting once the meeting is closed.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications for Council arising from this report as the operation of the Panel is budgeted for in Council's operational budget.

### **CONCLUSION**

The NSW Government is introducing new rules to reduce corruption risks and improve the decision-making of the State's independent planning panels. To satisfy the new rules it is recommended that Council appoint additional Expert Members to the Panel for a period extending up to three years.

## RECOMMENDED

That Council:

- i. **appoint the following additional Expert Members to the Camden Local Planning Panel for a period of up to three years:**
  - a. **Mr Mark Carlon;**
  - b. **Mr Vince Hardy;**
  - c. **Ms Helena Miller;**
  - d. **Ms Julie Walsh;**
  - e. **Ms Heather Warton;**
  - f. **Ms Marjorie Ferguson;**
  - g. **Ms Fiona Gainsford;**
  - h. **Mr Jason Perica;**
  - i. **Mr Brian Kirk; and**
  - j. **Ms Pamela Soon; and**
  
- ii. **appoint the following additional Expert Members to the Camden Local Planning Panel for a period extending to 1 March 2024:**
  - a. **Mr Stuart McDonald; and**
  - b. **Mr Michael Mantei.**

**ORD06**

## ATTACHMENTS

1. **Recommended Expert Member CVs - *Supporting Document***

**SUBJECT: INVESTMENT MONIES - FEBRUARY 2023**  
**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy  
**EDMS #:** 23/163615

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### 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 28 February 2023 is provided.

### MAIN REPORT

The weighted average return on all investments was 3.52% p.a. for the month of February 2023. The industry benchmark for this period was 3.18% (Ausbond Bank Bill Index).

The official cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) as at 8 February 2023 was 3.35%. On 8 March 2023, the Board of the RBA subsequently increased the official cash rate to 3.60%.

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 February 2023; and**
- iii. **note the weighted average interest rate return of 3.52% p.a. for the month of February 2023.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Investment Summary Report - February 2023

**ORD08****ORD08**

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WELLBEING RECOVERY INITIATIVE 2023**

**FROM:** Acting Director Sport, Community and Activation

**EDMS #:** 23/154901

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the successful grant funding application of \$50,000 (excl. GST) through the Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW - Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative 2023, and to seek Council's endorsement to accept the funding.

### BACKGROUND

The Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative forms part of the NSW and Commonwealth Government's joint disaster recovery program.

This funding is aimed at creating programs, activities and resources to help children and young people living in storm and flood impacted regions to recover, build resilience, improve wellbeing and strengthen community connections.

The funds provided under this category will enable Council to develop and deliver the Camden United Resilience Basketball (CURB) program, which supports and brings Camden's young people together.

### MAIN REPORT

The Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW has advised Council that it was successful in its application for a grant of \$50,000 to fund the CURB program.

CURB is a free basketball program for young people, aged between 12-18 years, to come together weekly for skill development, workshops and basketball coaching sessions.

The program aims to capitalise on the success of Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre's co-located delivery of soft entry youth programs. The CURB program aims to:

- Strengthen community networks and connections to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people;
- Build community capacity to support children and young people;
- Improve access to youth programs and support services; and
- Provide programs and resources to improve recovery and resilience of children and Young People to respond to the impacts of floods and natural disasters.

CURB will run from the Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre between May and October 2023.

The CURB project is coordinated by Camden Council and will be delivered in partnership with the YMCA for the sporting programs and the Big Yellow Umbrella for the youth development workshops and casework support.

Participation in this program will be free for local young people.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has been successful in its application for a \$50,000 (excl. GST) grant. The grant will support program related costs including resourcing, materials, marketing, and prizes and incentives for young people.

### CONCLUSION

Council has been successful in its application for \$50,000 (excl. GST) to deliver the Camden United Resilience Basketball to support the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative 2023 administered by the Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW.

### RECOMMENDED

**That Council:**

- i. accept the grant funding of \$50,000 (excl. GST) from the Office for Regional Youth, Department of Regional NSW – Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative 2023 for inclusion in the 2022/23 budget to deliver the Camden United Resilience Basketball project;**
- ii. write to the relevant Minister, thanking them for the funding; and**
- iii. write to the Member for Camden, thanking them for their support.**

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