

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 28 MAY, 2001, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET,
CAMDEN – 8.00PM**

Present: Cr E Campbell (Mayor/Chairperson), Crs F Anderson, C Patterson, Cr Corrigan, S Winn, S Fekete, N McFadden, S Senise,

Staff: General Manager, Director Works & Services, Director Development & Environment, Director Governance & Outcomes, Manager Engineering, Acting Manager Community Services (Library Administrator), Manager Administration

Apologies: An apology was received from Cr Batros from this meeting.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Anderson, that leave of absence be granted to Cr Batros from this meeting.

037/01 *THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.*

PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Mrs Pat Smith addressed the Council in relation to Item7. Mrs Pam McNamara addressed the Council in relation to Item 2. Mr Geoff Siemsen addressed the Council in relation to Item 4.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 23 April, 2001, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

038/01 *THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.*

MAYORAL MINUTE

Council has received a request from Lifeline Narellan to support a Fundraising event on 31 May, 2001. As it now appears that Councillors will be available to represent Council on this occasion, I propose that we officially support this charity fundraising function.

We have received a request for similar support or sponsorship from the Kids of Macarthur fundraising committee and a request for support in the purchase of a brick in a "Buy a Brick" scheme for the reopening of Camden hospital later this year.

Provision of children's medical services in Macarthur is a worthwhile cause and the reopening of the Camden District

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Hospital is particularly significant and historic occasion for our community. I therefore propose that we officially support both these major health service initiatives.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council take a table for 8 or 10 representatives at the Lifeline charity fundraising function on 31 May, 2001.
- (ii) Council become a sponsor of the Kids for Macarthur Ball at a cost of \$250.00.
- (iii) Council make a donation to the “Buy a Brick” fundraising effort in support of the reopening of Camden Hospital with a donation of \$1,000.00

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) Council take a table for 8 or 10 representatives at the Lifeline charity fundraising function on 31 May, 2001.
- (ii) Council become a sponsor of the Kids for Macarthur Ball at a cost of \$250.00.
- (iii) Council make a donation to the “Buy a Brick” fundraising effort in support of the reopening of Camden Hospital with a donation of \$1,000.00

039/01

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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1. **Loan Borrowings 2000/2001** (BF182) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Council's 2000/2001 Budget, when adopted, made provision of loan income of \$2,300,000 to be utilised for infrastructure time assets.

Council's Budget Review as at 20th September, 2000 indicated a surplus of funds for the financial year 2000/2001 and resolved to reduce loan borrowings for \$2,300,000 to \$2,000,000.

The Budget Review as at 31st March, 2001 forecast that Council's Working Capital balance of \$800,000 would be maintained for the year inclusive of the reduction in loan financing. This reduction in loan income reduces Council's debt servicing costs over the next ten (10) years. With this particular loan, the annual debt servicing saving would be \$41,532 per annum.

The Commonwealth Bank has offered to advance Council loan funds of \$2,000,000 for the 2000/2001 Financial year. The term of the offer is on a ten (10) year repayment basis at an interest rate of 6.64%. The current indicative interest rate for Local Government at this time is 6.98%.

Approval has been received from the Department of Local Government for the loan and the debt servicing cost of the loan has been provided in the current 2000/2001 adopted Budget and future years Budgets.

Recommended: That

- (i) The offer of loan funds of \$2,000,000 from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for a period of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 6.64% per annum be accepted.
- (ii) The seal of Council be authorised to be affixed to the necessary security documents.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Anderson that

- (i) *The offer of loan funds of \$2,000,000 from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for a period of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 6.64% per annum be accepted.*
- (ii) *The seal of Council be authorised to be affixed to the necessary security documents.*

040/01

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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2. **Crookston Drive/Wire Lane, Camden Traffic Device** (File 3459) [Director Works and Services]

As part of its continued assessment of the traffic devices at Crookston Drive and Wire Lane, Camden South, Council considered a report on the 26 February 2001, which discussed an amended traffic facility design at this junction. It was resolved:

“that further consideration of this matter be deferred to allow further consultation with the community and the Bus Company.”

This report deals with the responses received by Council from letters sent to 157 residents and a questionnaire sent to Busways Bus Company which services the precinct.

Survey of Resident Opinion

Letters (**Tabled Document “BPA 1”**) were sent to 157 residents within close proximity to the Crookston Drive/Wire Lane intersection, who would use the intersection and/or bus service. **Tabled Document “BPA 2”** details the catchment for the letter drop of the neighbourhood.

Summary of Resident Responses

Bus Shelter

Written responses (**copies were separately circulated to Councillors**) were received from 16 residents.

It is clear from the responses received the community wishes Council to abandon the proposal to relocate the bus stop from its present position in Wire Lane to Crookston Drive. The responses also indicate substantial support for Council to install a bus shelter and associated footpath treatments in Wire Lane at the official designated bus stop.

Intersection Improvement

Some residents also expressed their approval to straightening the banana shaped islands but a number of other responses advised that the present shape should remain and were concerned that straightening would increase speeds in Wire Lane.

Questionnaire to Busways

Council contacted Busways regarding this matter, their responses are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”**:

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Busways responded to the issues noted in a similar fashion to that furnished by the residents of the precinct in that they did not favour relocating the bus stop to Crookston Drive (**Tabled Document “BPA 4”**).

Council has also undertaken a Bus Patronage Survey which revealed that in the a.m. period, 28 passengers used 12 buses between 7.09 a.m. and 8.40 a.m. During the afternoon period between 2.50 p.m. and 4.13 p.m, 27 passengers used 13 buses. (refer **Tabled Document “BPA 5”**).

Conclusions Drawn from Surveys

Both the community and Busways have indicated that a bus stop in Crookston Drive is inappropriate; substantial support exists for the retention of the bus stop in Wire Lane with associated improvements as per Council proposal.

There is mixed reaction regarding whether straightening the banana shaped islands or leaving them in their present state would affect travel speeds in Wire Lane. There was support however for widening the islands which would enhance safety for pedestrians.

Comment

It is considered that the present Wire Lane bus stop is the most appropriate location to serve the community’s needs. Passenger patterns have been established and are accepted by the community. Relocation of the bus stop to Crookston Drive is seen to be an unnecessary burden to all and a question of safety has been raised.

The works shown on **Tabled Document “BPA 6”** are proposed to be constructed. There is no bus shelter as part of these works as this is not considered to be the highest priority at this point of time.

The adjustment of the islands by making them wider will increase safety when passengers and pedestrians generally wish to cross Wire Lane. However, previous data presented to Council regarding motorist speed through the present banana shaped islands is of concern as it is greater than the designated 50 km/hr speed for this road. It is of more concern that straightening the islands would induce even higher speeds.

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Recommended: That

- (i) Council maintain the present bus stop in Wire Lane at the official designated stop;
- (ii) Council approve the island modifications and associated works through Crookston Drive/Wire Lane intersection in accordance with Council's plan at a cost of \$8,000;
- (iii) those canvassed through the neighbourhood survey be advised of Council's action thanking all residents who provided submissions to Council for their comments and assistance;
- (iv) The improvements be installed as a matter of urgency.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Fekete, seconded Cr McFadden that

- (i) Council maintain the present bus stop in Wire Lane at the official designated stop;
- (ii) Council approve the island modifications and associated works through Crookston Drive/Wire Lane intersection in accordance with Council's plan at a cost of \$8,000;
- (iii) those canvassed through the neighbourhood survey be advised of Council's action thanking all residents who provided submissions to Council for their comments and assistance;
- (iv) The improvements be installed as a matter of urgency.

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3. **Appointment of Rural Fire Service Officers (Camden District) 2001 Annual General Meeting for Camden West and Narellan Brigades.** (File 584/1) (Director Works and Services)

To date, the Annual General Meetings have been held by a number of brigades with results as follows:

Camden West Rural Fire Brigade:

Captain: Jim Drinnan
Senior Deputy Captain: Andrew James

Narellan Rural Fire Brigade:

Captain: Ross Smith
Senior Deputy Captain: Lee Hoppitt
Deputy Captain: Mary Wallace
Deputy Captain: Jason Stevenson

Recommended: That

- (i) Existing appointments for brigades mentioned in this report to be deleted,
- (ii) The personnel as named in this report be appointed to positions as specified, and,
- (iii) Any outgoing officers be duly acknowledged for their commitment to service.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Corrigan that

- (i) *Existing appointments for brigades mentioned in this report to be deleted,*
- (ii) *The personnel as named in this report be appointed to positions as specified, and,*
- (iii) *Any outgoing officers be duly acknowledged for their commitment to service.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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4. **Closure of Pathway – Cedar Wattle Place, Narellan Vale** (File 4443) [Director, Works and Services]

Background

At its meeting of 22 January 2001, Council considered a petition requesting closure of three (3) individual pathways in Cedar Wattle Place, Narellan Vale, where it was resolved in part that Council;

“Maintain the current status of the two Cedar Wattle Place pathways and further investigate the pathway closure or identify ways of improving the pathway between Holdsworth Drive and Cedar Wattle Place”.

This report informs Council of the results of this investigation.

Investigations into closure

As part of the investigations preceding a formal application to close a pathway, the Department of Land and Water Conservation requires Council undertake a letterbox drop survey of the identified feeder area for the pathway to gauge community opinion.

Council delivered survey forms to 101 properties in the surrounding area seeking comments regarding the proposed closure of the pathway connecting Holdsworth Drive and Cedar Wattle Place, Narellan Vale, on the catchment shown on **Tabled Document “BPA 7”**. In addition signs were erected at both ends of the pathway for the same period inviting comments from interested parties.

Council received 32 responses to the survey; of these 16 supported the closure, 15 objected to the closure and 1 was non-committal. **Tabled Document “BPA 7”** defines the results of the consultation process detailing those residents in support of the closure, residents in opposition to the closure and the existing footpath network.

Support for the closure of the pathway was based on:

- Many incidents of vandalism and unacceptable behaviour, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Laneway used by yahoos, graffiti sprayers and drug users.
- Interrupted sleep with loud voices and obscene language. Groups of youths shouting, using foul language, smashing beer bottles, vomiting in pathway, etc.
- Closure would stop vandalism including graffiti, damage to fence, people looking over fence in pool, rubbish thrown in pool, plants destroyed, smashed beer bottles, litter, riding motor bikes, rubbish bins tipped over.

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- Garbage bins turned over, letterboxes smashed and pulled out.
- Closure will result in property becoming safer and will not wake with dread at weekends to discover further damage.
- Whilst it will be somewhat inconvenient, the safety of children and property, as well as privacy are far more valued.
- The laneway has very few users at anytime of day and would be minimal or no impact to the very few users of the laneway.
- Support for closure was supplemented by request for additional closure of laneway opposite which connects Holdsworth Drive and Casuarina Place. Laneway used by teenagers to meet, drink, yell and scream.
- Request for closure of Holdsworth Drive/Casuarina Place footpath due to sleepless nights, damage to property, car egged, tyres slashed, rocks thrown through window, language, tools stolen from work truck.

Objection to the closure of the laneway was based on:

- Laneway connects to the bicycle path network throughout the estate and is a vital central link to the Narellan Vale bicycle/pedestrian network. The extensive network of pathways throughout the estate is a major attraction for living in this area.
- Closure would create discontinuous network, particularly between Casuarina Place and Manna Gum Road. Closure would impede the free flow of pedestrians who enjoy walking.
- Closure of walkway will cause a major inconvenience to the majority of the people who use it most; laneway provides convenient access to Holdsworth Drive for both parents and school children.
- Laneway serves as access to bus stop located at the junction of the laneway and Holdsworth Drive. This bus stop caters for school children daily from the abutting streets, notably Cedar Wattle Place.
- Residents purchased specifically close to limited public transport and closure of the laneway would restrict access to the bus stop.
- Resident purchased property in the street because of open walkway for recreational purposes.
- Walkway is used by mothers with prams and small kids on bikes to avoid roadways. Many children live in Cedar Wattle Place and the majority utilises this pathway. Walkway is main thoroughfare for access to and from both Narellan Public School and Elizabeth Macarthur High School.
- Appealing aspect of the area is all the access to bike paths and being able to get from one area to another without having to walk the length of all the streets.

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- Laneway, and many others like it, are used regularly as recreation routes and to gain access to connecting walkways and cycleways; safer than roadways.
- Provides a safer option for all the children in the area who use the path frequently to access bus stop, adjoining streets, sporting venues and retail facilities.
- Closure will create precedence for further closures. The walkways are a feature of this housing precinct; if one is closed then there will be a spate of closures that follow.
- The laneway was there when we bought and residents who purchased next to it knew it was there. Resident who lives beside a nearby walkway has not had any trouble.
- The subject walkway does not seem to have suffered from littering or graffiti.
- Vandalism happens in every area, not just to people who live on laneways. Drunken teenage vandalism is unfortunately happening throughout the estate, including damage to letterboxes and gardens; such matters should be referred to the police.
- Closure of Laneway is not a solution.

Narellan Vale Footpaths and Cycleways

As noted within the previous report, footpaths and cycleways throughout Narellan Vale were identified as part of the original planning process and aim to encourage and facilitate access to essential community services such as the main cycleway, buses, schools, shops and various recreational facilities. As can be seen by the comments received, concerns were raised that the closure of this pathway would limit access to essential community services and recreational facilities.

Furthermore the potential for application for closure of similar pathways throughout Narellan Vale was evident by several comments received which sought the concurrent closure of the pathway opposite which connects Holdsworth Drive and Casuarina Place. This same issue was also a concern to a number of objectors who could foresee a spate of requests for similar closures, resulting in the removal of the continuous footpath network.

Improving the Pathway

Means of improving the Holdsworth Drive/Cedar Wattle Place pathway are limited to the introduction of additional public lighting within the pathway. This can be achieved by either installing a single light column midway along the pathway (adjacent to the rear boundary of the properties) or installation of lights on the existing poles at either end of the pathway.

The introduction of a street light column midway along the pathway is estimated to cost \$4,000. A similar light column is

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erected midway along the opposite footpath which connects Holdsworth Drive and Casuarina Place.

The erection of an additional light on each of the existing light poles at the ends of the pathway is estimated to cost \$3,000; such lighting would be directed towards the pathway. The ability to satisfactorily direct/contain such lighting within the pathway may result in “glare” or “obtrusive light” spilling onto adjoining residents. This proposal will however fully illuminate the length of the pathway

Conclusion

As noted within the previous report, it is becoming widely acknowledged that interallotment pathways similar to this pathway can attract varying degrees of anti-social behaviour which have a direct impact on the immediately adjoining residents. The main purpose of these pathways were included within the subdivision layout of Narellan Vale (and other residential subdivisions) with the main intent of ensuring accessibility to essential community services for the wider community. The pathways were introduced as a complete network to provide full access for residents to schools, bus services and neighbourhood shopping; but also for recreational purposes for all ages and users.

The results of the community survey indicate that supporters for the closure are concerned with safety and vandalism, whilst the objectors to the closure are concerned with restricted access to community service and facilities and limitations to recreation opportunities within the neighbourhood which would result should the closure proceed.

Recommended : That Council

- (i) Maintain the current status of the Holdsworth Drive/Cedar Wattle Place footpath.
- (ii) In consultation with the adjoining residents, investigate the installation of an additional light column midway along the Holdsworth Drive/Cedar Wattle Place footpath; source of funding Council’s Street Lighting Capital Contributions.
- (iii) Notify the residents of Council’s resolution.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that Council

- (i) Maintain the current status of the Holdsworth Drive/Cedar Wattle Place footpath.

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(ii) *In consultation with the adjoining residents, investigate the installation of an additional light column midway along the Holdsworth Drive/Cedar Wattle Place footpath; source of funding Council's Street Lighting Capital Contributions.*

(iii) *Notify the residents of Council's resolution.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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5. **Part Road Closure – Lerida Avenue, Camden** (File 4850.60)
[Director, Works and Services]

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to proceed with the part closure of a portion of public road reserve fronting No. 6 Lerida Avenue, Camden.

Background

The owner of No. 6 Lerida Avenue, Camden, is currently in the process of selling her property. Solicitors acting on behalf of both the vendor and prospective purchasers have drawn Council's attention to anomalies identified within the survey report which was undertaken in preparation for the sale. The survey report dated 20 October 2000, identified an encroachment of the structure into the Lerida Avenue Road Reserve; a copy of the survey report forms **Tabled Document "BPA 8"**.

Given the identified encroachments, Council is unable to issue a 149B (Building Certificate) for the subject property at this time. To enable the issue of the certificate the owner must either;

1. Remove those structures or part thereof which encroach onto Council's road reserve; or
2. Apply to Council to have the affected portion of road reserve closed and purchased from Council.

As the intrusions onto the road reserve affect the house, the second option is the only practical course open to the owner.

Partial Road Closure

In order to resolve this unusual issue it is proposed to redefine the front boundary of No. 6 Lerida Avenue. This can be achieved by closing a portion of the Lerida Avenue road reserve, transferring ownership of this portion of land and consolidating it with the original allotment. The proposed redefinition of the allotment will also resolve the unusual frontage of the lot and rationalise the road frontage in Lerida Avenue. The proposal will create a larger allotment and alleviate all structural encroachments. A copy of the proposed redefinition of the front boundary forms **Tabled Document "BPA 9"**.

Council previously advised that all associated costs including survey, subdivision, relocation of services, application to DLWC, legal fees, registration fees, purchase of land (at Valuer General's valuation), etc. would be borne by the property owner.

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When presented with a proposed front boundary redefinition, Solicitors acting on behalf of the property owner advised that *“We are instructed that the plan of the proposed acquisition is acceptable to our client and that she will meet the total cost of the acquisition, subject to her approval thereof.”*

Classification of the closed portion of the Lerida Avenue road reserve as “operational” land for the purposes of the Local Government Act, 1993 will facilitate the future transfer of this portion of land to the adjoining property owner.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Resolve to proceed with the investigation of a partial road closure of a section of road reserve fronting No.6 Lerida Avenue, Camden, subject to the affected property owner meeting the full cost of the partial closure and the property transfer (valuation to be provided by Valuer General).
- (ii) Determine the closed portion of Lerida Avenue road reserve to be classified “Operational” land for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993.
- (iii) Approve the fixing of Council’s seal to any necessary documentation.
- (iv) Advise the property owner of Council’s resolution.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Corrigan that Council

- (i) *Resolve to proceed with the investigation of a partial road closure of a section of road reserve fronting No.6 Lerida Avenue, Camden, subject to the affected property owner meeting the full cost of the partial closure and the property transfer (valuation to be provided by Valuer General).*
- (ii) *Determine the closed portion of Lerida Avenue road reserve to be classified “Operational” land for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993.*
- (iii) *Approve the fixing of Council’s seal to any necessary documentation.*
- (iv) *Advise the property owner of Council’s resolution.*

044/01

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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6. **NSW Rural Fire Service - Model Service Level Agreement**
(File 584) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose of this report

As Council would be aware the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) will be assuming direct control of all Fire Control Officer and other staff engaged in the RFS management, administration or maintenance, currently employed by Council, as of 1 July 2001.

The main thrust of this change is to remove the Fire Control Officer (and other staff) from a position of serving two masters (both RFS and Council). The change puts these officers under the direct control of RFS. Other changes aim to clarify and assist this transfer to occur.

In order to facilitate this change the Service has developed a Draft Model Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the process to be undertaken for the transfer of staff to the NSW Rural Fire Service. The SLA is to be developed separately for each Council; interpreting the individual needs of each Council.

Various anomalies have arisen in the execution of the transfer process which are of concern to Council. This report aims to highlight these issues.

History

The State Government's proposal to transfer RFS personnel to their control was flagged in early 1999. The details of the transfer process have only recently been finalised and clarified.

A full day meeting was held at Liverpool on 3 April 2001 about the Service Level Agreement when a number of queries regarding the transfer process were aired. Responses to the unanswered issues were provided in the 12 April 2001 Government Weekly Circular 15/01 (attached **Tabled Document "BPA 10"**). A further half day meeting revisited the SLA and other transfer issues without further development of the issues.

SLA Process Flowchart

The RFS have included a "SLA Process Flowchart" as part of documentation to assist in the preparation of this documentation (refer **Tabled Document "BPA 11"**).

A schedule to achieve the RFS transfer deadline has been provided which is extremely tight. (refer **Tabled Document "BPA 12"**).

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SLA Concerns

Council has serious concerns with the Draft Model Service Level Agreement provided by the RFS. It must be remembered that the Service Level Agreement, once signed will be a legal contract. The agreement is for a duration of three years though it can be reviewed after 12 months.

The intent of the SLA is to formalise existing arrangements between RFS and Council, in most cases this is carried through, however some anomalies have been added:

1. Status of the Liaison Committee

The SLA, provides for the establishment of a Liaison Committee which is to consist of the following representatives:

- 2 Councilors;
- the General Manager of the Council (or his/her delegate);
- 1 volunteer rural fire fighter from the District;
- 1 member of the Service staff from the District;
- FCO who will be the DLC's Executive Officer.

Thus the committee has equal membership from Council and the RFS.

However, Clause 4.6 of the SLA states, the Liaison Committee is not a Committee of the Council or of the Service. If this Committee is not a Committee of Council and not a Committee of the RFS, the question of the authority for this Committee to exist is raised. If it is not a Committee of Council it cannot be constituted under the Local Government Act and it is questionable whether Council can constitute a Committee outside the Local Government Act. Of major concern is the matter of responsibility and accountability if Council acts on this Committee's recommendations which subsequently turns out to be wrong or invalid or creates a liability for the Council.

It is considered that a rationalised Committee consisting of:

- Director of Works and Services, or his representative;
 - Fire Control Officer;
 - Deputy Fire Control Officer;
 - Representative of volunteer fire fighters;
- would operate effectively in a reporting role to both bodies, which is the thrust of the committee.

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2. Resources and Staffing

No assurances are contained within the SLA regarding the level of resources and/or staffing to be provided or maintained throughout the period of the SLA, and it would be open to the RFS to change the level of service by division of resources, placing a Council's area in a situation of potential risk far below the Council's required and existing level of protection.

Zoning of the RFS services is of concern under this point, where Council's current level of service may be compromised.

This requirement of the SLA is a matter of concern.

3. Financial Delegations

Council is currently responsible for 12.3% of the RFS budget, State Government paying the balance. This proportion is to grow to 13% effect 1.7.2001.

One of the requirements of the SLA is the delegation by Councils of financial control for the Local Rural Fire Service to the Fire Control Officer. Apart from it being questionable whether the Council and/or the General Manager has power to delegate financial responsibility to a non Council employee, it is the loss of control by a Council over the expenditure of its funds. Recent changes to the RFS budget has seen Council responsible for funding the SLA process and budget shortfall.

This requirement of the SLA is not supported.

4. Equipment

The SLA formalises the RFS use of all equipment. The current agreement provides that the RFS is vested with the use of all equipment. Council can be directed to maintain the equipment. The FCO has control over who carries out the maintenance, which is funded from the existing budget.

As the SLA is a legal contract once signed the level of maintenance required to be supplied becomes an issue. The current maintenance arrangements between Council and RFS have produced satisfactory results.

The issue becomes does Council have any onus where it maintains equipment but it does not have the use of it?

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It is considered that RFS should assume the responsibility for the maintenance of all equipment.

The issue of Council's onus for maintained equipment be clarified.

5. Buildings

Council has worked to improve the standard of its RFS buildings in recent years, and has a contribution plan in place to fund the further upgrade of its buildings.

However after 1 July 2001 where the RFS are not content with the standard of the current buildings Council would be required under the SLA to bring the building to meet the Fire Service Standard.

As improvement to Council's buildings are made by merit, considered in the context of total asset management of all its buildings; controls imposed by an external body are unreasonable.

Council's RFS buildings are currently constructed to a high standard, the requirement may therefore not affect Council. However, this proposal, imposed by an external body, could impact on Council's budget.

This principle is therefore unsatisfactory.

6. Use of Council Property

The SLA requires Council to identify all buildings that it will make available to the RFS.

The agreement formalises the use of the Camden RFS buildings. Currently under the Rural Fire Act Council is required to provide buildings for the use of the RFS. The buildings are to be cited.

The responsibility to provide the building remains with Council.

7. Issuing of Permits and Notices

Currently the Local RFS issues Section 66 Notices (Council direction to remove a bush fire hazard) on behalf of Council, as the staff are employees of Council. However, after 1 July 2001, these staff become employees of the State Government and as such may not be delegated the issue of these notices under the Local Government Act. The agreement will specify that these

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Notices will continue to be carried out by the RFS officers means that this issue will need to be clarified.

The agreement states that the issue of Section 66 Notices will remain a Council function (as provided within the Rural Fires Act). The expertise of the RFS can be called upon to issue these Notices (under Schedule 1 and Schedule 3, Part 4).

SLA

The SLA consists of:

- General clauses and instrument of delegation;
- Schedule 1 – duties, functions and responsibilities imposed upon the local authority by the Rural Fire Act 1997 that remain with the local authority;
- Schedule 2 – identifies the premises that the Commissioner will occupy and use in the execution of the SLA.
- Schedule 3 – the provision of services to the ‘Camden’ Rural Fire District by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.
 - PART 1 Duties, functions and responsibilities imposed upon the NSW Rural Fire Service and Officers of the NSW Rural Fire Service by the Rural Fires Act 1997.
 - PART 2 Duties, functions and responsibilities imposed upon the Local Authority by the Rural Fires Act 1997 which may be exercised by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.
 - PART 3 Responsibilities conferred upon the NSW Rural Fire Service by the Service Standards.
 - PART 4 Other Services to be provided to the Council not identified in the Rural Fire Act 1997, but consistent with the provision of advice and service relating to rural fire and incident management.
- Schedule 4 – all forms of existing levels of equipment at 1.7.2001 transfer.
- Schedule 5 – Specified services to be delivered by the local authority to the Commissioner.
- Schedule 6 – NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme.
- Schedule 7 – Treasury Managed Fund Indemnity Statement.

Comment:

The RFS deadline for completion of the SLA is 26 May, 2001. It is considered that Council’s concerns regarding various areas of the content of the agreement need to be discussed and negotiated with the RFS prior to processing/ratification of the document. Council will therefore not meet the RFS deadline for

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completion of the SLA. Information suggests that the majority of Councils will not meet the deadline.

Council supports the transfer of the officers to the control of RFS.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council supports the transfer of the FCO (and other staff) to the control of the RFS;
- (ii) The RFS be advised of the concerns noted in respect of the draft SLA, and a request be made to discuss these issues;
- (iii) A report will be presented to Council on the final SLA for approval.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) Council supports the transfer of the FCO (and other staff) to the control of the RFS;*
- (ii) The RFS be advised of the concerns noted in respect of the draft SLA, and a request be made to discuss these issues;*
- (iii) A report will be presented to Council on the final SLA for approval.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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7. **RSL Youth Club Hall; Licence to RSL Youth Club** (File 1153/5) [Director Works and Services]

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the issuing of a licence to the Camden RSL Youth Club for the management and use of the RSL Youth Club Hall in Cawdor Road, Camden

Background

At its meeting of 25th September 2000, Council considered a report on the future management of all its community facilities. Council resolved that:

- i) *The Community Facilities Management Report be placed on public exhibition for a period of two months, and*
- ii) *Following exhibition, a further report be submitted for Council's consideration.*

Council's staff advertised the report and consulted with the existing management group for the various facilities and user groups. This consultation raised a number of issues that staff have been working through as well as responding to submissions made on the report.

Leasing Community Facilities

One of the management options proposed in the original report was to extend leasing agreements to user groups of facilities where there is one dominant group and the facility caters for a specific purpose.

The Camden RSL Youth Club Committee expressed interest in entering such an agreement with Council. Council officers initiated steps to allow such an agreement to come into effect prior to the main report being considered by Council, to enable the testing of such a proposal.

A draft Licence Agreement (**Tabled Document "BPA 13"**) has been developed that is acceptable to the Club and Council officers and public exhibition has been carried out during February/March this year. No submissions were received by Council.

Council has previously entered into a number of licences with community based organisations for the use of Council owned facilities. It is considered appropriate that the RSL Youth Club Hall be managed and used under a similar arrangement.

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Recommended: That

- i) Council approve of the granting of a licence for five (5) years to the Camden RSL Youth Club for the use and management of the RSL Youth Club Hall;
- ii) Council officers proceed with the finalisation of the licence agreement;
- iii) A yearly rental of \$500.00 be charged under the terms of the licence; and
- iv) Approval be given to the fixing of Council's seal to the licence.

MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr McFadden that

- i) Council approve of the granting of a licence for five (5) years to the Camden RSL Youth Club for the use and management of the RSL Youth Club Hall;*
- ii) Council officers proceed with the finalisation of the licence agreement;*
- iii) A yearly rental of \$250.00 be charged for the first year and \$500.00 thereafter under the terms of the licence; and*
- iv) Approval be given to the fixing of Council's seal to the licence.*

046/01

*THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED**.*

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8. **Information Package to Chinese Residents** (File 3568)
Director Works and Services

Purpose

Council's Management Plan, 2000-2001 required the development of an information policy to meet the needs of people with disability and limited language skills by June 2001. To assist in policy development a pilot program was undertaken to assess the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse people.

It was decided to follow up a request from Councillor Sylvia Fekete to make contact with the Chinese-speaking market gardeners in the rural north area and to determine their needs and ways in which information could be provided to them.

The project also relates directly to "Camden 2025: A strategic plan for Camden" under the area of Accessibility and Economic and Community Development.

The Consultation Process

There are approximately 80 market gardens in this area and people are isolated due to transport and childcare issues, and their farming commitments. Their language skills in the Chinese language are generally good, however very poor in English.

Following research, a consultation in partnership with Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre was held at Catherine Field Community Hall with members of the Chinese community to determine any specific information needs. A volunteer interpreter agreed to be present to assist with communication and a representative from Macarthur Area Health Centre also attended.

The community identified their information needs as similar to any other resident. These included a range of Council services, such as Libraries and Customer Services, as well health, Centrelink, migrant assistance and environmental issues.

The Environment Protection Authority via the Australian Chinese Growers Association addresses some environmental issues. The Growers Association has kindly offered to include small amounts of our information in their mail outs.

Outcomes

- An initial package of information providing feedback from the consultation was prepared in partnership with the Migrant Resource Centre and Community Health and

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mailed to the Chinese target group. Only one package was returned “not at this address”.

- Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre provided Telephone Interpreter Service training for Council’s Customer Service staff free of charge. Posters may be displayed at service points indicating the availability of this service. This training will be extended to other staff during 2001.
- Agreements have been made with the Chinese Growers Association, Leppington School’s English as a Second Language teacher and local shop owners to assist with future information dissemination.
- The “Camden Chinese Women’s Project” team has been established as a partnership between Camden Council, SWS Area Health and Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre, and is working towards providing outreach health services in the rural north area.
- Rossmore and Catherine Field Preschools are working with the above team to promote their services, noting that Chinese children are entering local schools without social and language skills.
- Outcomes and Environment sections have indicated an interest in working together with Community Development to communicate with this target group.

Recommended: That Council note the information.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Anderson, seconded Cr Campbell that Council note the information.

047/01

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

MINUTES OF DELEGATED COMMITTEES
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - held 23 April, 2001
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - held 14 May, 2001
RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE - held 14 May, 2001

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that Minutes of Delegated Committee Meetings, held on 23 April, 2001 and 14 May, 2001, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and the recommendations be adopted.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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**MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - held 14 May, 2001**

11 Argyle Street (File 1947)

MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Senise that a 15 minute parking restriction be implemented in Argyle Street in front of "Tails Dry Cleaning".

*THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **LOST**.*

(Cr Anderson, Cr Patterson, Cr Fekete, Cr McFadden and Cr Senise voted against the Motion).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Fekete, seconded Cr Anderson that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 14 May, 2001, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and the recommendations be adopted.

049/01

*THE FURTHER MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HIH Insurance Collapse (TC/938-4)

Cr Corrigan asked could advice be provided on Council's position regarding the HIH Insurance collapse.

The Director Governance & Outcomes advised Council had only one minor insurance policy with HIH with approximately one (1) month of the term to run. The collapse has had a nil affect on Council.

Aerial Photographs (TC/1161)

Cr Corrigan drew attention to the environmental vandalism occurring in the Kosciuszko National Park and the detection by aerial surveillance. Could Council arrange a fly over of the aerial, with area photographs to be taken. Advice has indicated building refuse is being dumped on properties in the Cobbitty area.

The Director Development & Environment stated aerial photographs had recently been taken. Council has a good rapport with the pilots and advice has been received of several incidents being detected and Council are investigating these issues.

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Sheathers Lane Roundabout (TC/1791)

Cr Winn requested to be advised of the situation with the large tree in the centre of this roundabout.

The Director Works & Services responded that the tree died and Council is currently looking at suitable replacements.

Traffic Statistics (TC/838)

Cr Fekete drew attention to the fatal road accident in Bringelly Road recently. What area or intersection did it occur and does Council receive safety information from Police regarding these incidents.

The Director Works & Services stated Council works closely with the Police in these instances. The Police provide information for improvement of safety. In relation to this accident no information has been provided and the incident was not related to traffic problems or signage.

Septic System Pumpout Charges (TC/774)

Cr Fekete drew attention to advertisements in local papers regarding tenders for a septic system pumpouts. Will this resolve in an increase in costs to residents.

The Director Development & Environment advised Council does not provide these services. Private contractors provide these services and costs will increase as determined by these providers.

Sheathers Lane Roundout (TC/1791)

Cr Fekete requested to be advised of the maintenance costs of this roundabout particularly the rose plantings. Is the rose garden worthwhile to maintain.

The Director Works & Services advised this roundabout is the lowest maintenance cost roundabout. It is maintained by contract. Council has conducted a survey over recent years to investigate species most appropriate and these species of roses provide excellent ground cover and are not expensive to maintain.

Rossmore Reserve – Pony Club Signage (PF1100.640)

Cr Senise requested an update on the Pony Club signage at Rossmore Reserve.

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The Director Works & Services stated the Pony Club has given Council a copy of a letter from Council providing permission to erect the signs. The old signs fell over and new ones were installed as replacements. The signs are not illegal and Council at this stage has no grounds to remove them.

The Meeting closed at 8.56pm.