

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 23 JUNE, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN – 8.00PM**

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Present: Cr Anderson (Mayor/Chairman), Cr Corrigan, Cr Patterson, Cr Winn, Cr Fekete, Cr McFadden, Cr Senise, Cr Campbell, Cr Batros.

Staff: General Manager , Director Development & Environment, Director Works & Services, Director Governance & Outcomes, Manager Corporate Services, Manager Community Services. Manager Engineering, Senior Governance Officer.

GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Barry Brown addressed the Council in relation to Item 2.

MOTION

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Patterson that an extension of two (2) minutes be granted.

059/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

Diane Glover addressed the Council in relation to Item 2 of the Traffic Committee Minutes.

Mr Kevin Lawler addressed the Council in relation to Item 1.

MOTION

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Patterson that an extension of two (2) minutes be granted.

060/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

Frank Brooking addressed the Council in relation to Item 1.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public Questions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Batros that confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 26 May, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

061/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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1. Capital Budget Issues - Camden Car Park & Camden Swimming Pool

(File 3968/7)(Director - Governance & Outcomes)

Introduction

This report has been prepared in response to two resolutions of Council from its meeting of 12 May, 2003 when it considered the draft 2003 - 2007 Budget and Management Plan. Council resolved at that meeting to seek further information on the implications, financial and otherwise, of constructing a two level car park in the Camden central business district and of redeveloping the Camden War Memorial Swimming Pool.

The report is provided in three sections:

- Common discussion including this introduction and the final conclusions and recommendations
- Discussion on the Car Park matter
- Discussion on the Swimming Pool matter

Set out below is detailed information on the components of the various options for the two projects; costing of each of those components; functional and management implications of those options; and the short and long term financial implications of the two projects for the Council and the community.

Camden Two Level Car Park

The Options Described

For a number of years Council has been debating the relative merits of various proposals for car parking in the Camden township. It is not proposed to revisit in any detail any of those proposals except the two level, decked structure options. Council has specifically requested that this report focus on those options.

Two locations have been considered over recent years. Firstly, the existing car park accessed from either John or Murray Streets and secondly, the existing car park known as Larkin Place.

The John/Murray car park would be a two level structure involving substantial earthworks and cutting into the rising ground away from Argyle Street. Preliminary designs and costings, prepared by consultants, in 1999 indicated that it would provide 81 new spaces (from 139 to 220). Those construction estimates, indexed to current costs, equate to \$2,096,956 in total; \$9,532 per space or \$25,888 per additional space. These indexed figures have been used for assessing the financial implications later in this report.

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In 2001 Council commissioned a comprehensive assessment of car parking needs, including a feasibility study for the development of a decked parking structure. This assessment concluded that demand for a facility of this kind was 7 to 10 years away, and that when the time came the appropriate location would be Larkin Place. This assessment was based on location, access and value for money. The subsequent conceptual design and costings indicated a largely "at grade" ground floor with a second level above would provide a total of 315 spaces (an additional 134 from 181) at a total cost of \$2,749,721; \$8,729 per space or \$20,520 per additional space.

It should also be noted that the feasibility study was commissioned and completed prior to Council being advised that St Paul's Primary School will be vacating the Camden CBD. This will have an impact on the parking needs and patterns within the CBD, in initially removing some demand for parking (both all day and at delivery/pick up times) and, following redevelopment, in adding to demand. However it would be expected that the demand generated by any redevelopment would be met on site and, in fact, opportunities may exist to provide additional parking on site.

In addition to the construction cost of each of these projects there would also be a further 10% required for architectural and structural design, specifications, documentation and administration. Also, there will be ongoing maintenance and cleaning required and this has been estimated at approximately \$20,000 per year.

Funding Options

Council has, in the past, collected funds for the provision of parking within the Camden town centre. At present, these funds total \$615,000 and are available to utilise on a project of this type. Further, Council has included \$1,906,000 in the draft budget from its Internal Reserves (primarily, the Capital Works Reserve) to fund refurbishment of the Camden Pool (\$1,000,000 spread over 2003/04 & 2004/05), construction of a skate park (\$130,000 in 2003/04) and the redevelopment of Camden Library (\$776,000 spread over 2003/04 & 2004/05). The Capital Works Reserve has been built by prudently collecting, and setting aside, any surplus funds identified at each quarterly review so that significant capital works may be funded without incurring additional borrowings or reductions in works and services. It is, in its simplest explanation, like saving up for large purchases.

If Council wishes to proceed with the construction of a car park, there will be a shortfall that will require funding from an alternate source. The only sources suitable are either the reduction of services or works in other areas (that is, cutting the existing budget) or additional loan borrowings. As

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requested by Council, this report will later discuss the implications of borrowing the additional funds. In the meantime, it is necessary to consider whether Council is prepared to offset the costs of a project such as this by imposing fees and charges for the use of the facility. The costs of running a car park of the type proposed may, in addition to routine maintenance, also include the need to provide for security services.

Experiences in other Councils suggest that security is an issue in decked parking structures because of the lack of surveillance. In the case of Fairfield Council, charges were introduced to fund the provision of security patrols in all of the Council's parking stations. Initially, the first three hours were free however the Council has introduced charges for all parking stays to recoup their costs.

Safer by Design Principles would be applied to any proposed deck structure and in this regard a preliminary assessment of the proposed designs has been undertaken. This suggests that both designs have possible entrapment areas and there is a need to ensure that all balustrades are of an open nature to allow surveillance. High levels of lighting are required to provide a sense of safety to users of the facility.

Discussion has also been held with the Local Area Commander of Police who advises that the existing car parks are already the site of vehicle theft and abandonment. He advised that decked structures do tend to attract car theft and wanted Council to ensure that Safety by Design principles were incorporated and the police involved in design should Council decide to proceed with the construction of a deck at either site. Particular emphasis on lighting and the painted surfaces was seen to be necessary.

The cost of security has not been built into the analysis below pending further detailed costing being developed, however an indicative annual cost of between \$50,000 and \$80,000 would be likely.

The imposition of parking charges in the decked structure would have an impact upon the longer term financial impact of the project, as well as some unintended consequences for some businesses within the town. If Council were to charge a fee for the use of the car park, it would be necessary to incur further cost to manage the collection of those fees. Collection may be by the use of either staff (contract or direct) or meter systems and will, almost certainly, have a cost. Indeed it is doubtful whether it would be cost effective to charge for the facility. In addition, charging for parking at Camden, when parking at other nearby regional shopping centres is free, would be

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detrimental to improving shopping for the Camden centre and for encouraging the use of the Camden business area

Of further concern is the issue of Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). Under the current legislation any non-exempt employer who provides on-site car parking for employees within a 1-kilometre radius of a site that charges for parking will become liable to pay FBT on the parking provided for those employees. In other words, the "free" parking provided by the employer becomes a fringe benefit to the employee. This could have serious consequences for those employers with space available for staff parking if their business meets the criteria established by the Australian Tax Office. In fact, Council would be the most seriously affected as it has the largest employee base in the town and many of the staff park in spaces on land owned by the Council. This liability has been estimated to exceed \$40,000 annually for the Council. In addition, several other businesses in the town would be liable to FBT costs if they are unable to gain an exemption. As an example, a business providing 5 spaces to employees would incur an annual FBT cost of \$6,500.

For these reasons it is considered impractical to charge for parking in any Council car park at this time and the estimates set out below do not include any revenue component. It should be acknowledged, however, that any time limited car parking would be the subject of Council's normal enforcement regime.

Financial Implications

Set out below is a comparison table that outlines the costs of each option:

	Larkin Place	John/Murray Streets
	134 new spaces	81 new spaces
Estimated construction (2003\$)	2,749,721	2,096,956
Design, documentation & administration (10% allowed)	<u>274,972</u>	<u>209,695</u>
	3,024,693	2,306,651
Less: Available Section 94 funds	560,000	560,000
Less: Parking Reserve funds	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>
Amount To Be Borrowed	2,409,693	1,691,651

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Annual Principal Repayment	240,970	169,165
Annual Interest Repayment	101,000	70,000
Annual Maintenance Costs	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total Annual Impact On Budget	361,970	259,165
Annual Cost Per Additional Parking Space	2,738	3,261

These figures indicate that whilst the John/Murray Street option requires less capital outlay and has a lower annual impact on the budget, it does cost more per car space generated.

Camden Memorial Swimming Centre

The Options Described

In a report commissioned by Council earlier this year, several options for the redevelopment of the Camden Pool complex were investigated. This study was reported to Council in some detail on 12 May, 2003 and will not, therefore, be revisited in any depth except to describe the options in order to identify the cost elements associated with each of them.

A total of seven options were costed and they are:

1. 25 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, unheated pool (\$ 1,115,000)
2. 25 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, heated pool (\$ 1,265,000)
3. 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, unheated pool (\$ 1,737,000)
4. 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, heated pool (\$ 1,987,000)
5. 50 metre, 8 lane, indoor, heated pool (\$ 5,407,000)
6. New changerooms, kiosk, entry and administration (\$ 1,396,000)
7. Refurbish existing buildings (\$ 320,800)

Like the car park, it is expected that a further 10% allowance would be required to meet design, supervision and administration of any contract.

The options for outdoor, unheated pools discussed in the viability study do not include provision for the later heating and/or enclosure of the pool however it is clear that the project could be staged over a number of years as funding and population grow. A staged program may involve:

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Stage 1	Engineering report to quantify needed repairs	\$ 15,000
Stage 2	New 50m unheated pool & refurbished buildings	\$ 1,737,000 \$ 320,000
Stage 3	Upgrade to include heating	\$ 250,000
Stage 4	Enclosure of pool	<u>\$ 3,500,000</u>
		\$ 5,822,000

In addition, to providing estimates of the capital costs of each option, the consultants carried out detailed assessments of the likely financial viability of each option. Each of the options proposed will involve increased losses or subsidies of the complex, above and beyond current levels due to increased operating costs and the lack of sufficient population to create revenue for the centre.

The annual losses of the two primary options, based on a realistic scenario, are expected to be in the order of:

1. 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor/unheated pool (\$ 116,735)
2. 50 metre, 8 lane, indoor/heated pool (\$ 288,564)

Council already subsidises the Camden pool complex to the extent of up to \$100,000 annually depending upon the season's weather and the maintenance required. Therefore, if the unheated, outdoor option were to be adopted the additional cost would be in the order of \$10,000 to \$25,000 annually (from best case to worst case). The additional subsidy for the heated, indoor option would be in the order of \$169,000 to \$208,000 annually.

To further complicate and adversely affect the lack of viability of any improved facilities at Camden Pool, it has recently been confirmed that a major sporting club will be lodging an application to develop a leisure facility at Narellan. Councillors were briefed on this proposal to establish a licensed club, motel and leisure facility in May and the proponents have now confirmed their intention to move forward with their application. The leisure facility will include an indoor, heated 25m pool and gymnasium area.

Funding Options

Like the car parking, Council has prudently built the Camden Pool Reserve over a number of years to assist in the funding of any improvements to the complex. Currently, the reserve stands at \$342,171 and these funds are available for allocation to any improvement project at the pool. In addition, a total of \$657,829 has been allocated to the project from the Capital Works Reserve in the Draft Management Plan and Budget. This provides total funding of \$ 1,000,000 to the project. The \$1 million was allocated in the draft budget prior to the receipt of the viability study and would, without further funding, meet

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the cost of buildings refurbishment and repairs to the existing pool structure.

Once again, if Council were to proceed with either the outdoor/unheated option or the indoor/heated option additional funds would be required. It is anticipated that the additional borrowing required would be in the order of \$1,231,500 to \$5,268,500 depending upon the chosen option.

It may be possible to include the collection of funds for the redevelopment of the Camden Pool complex in the revised Contributions Plan currently under development. This would, however, mean that the work could not be commenced until sufficient funds had been collected.

Financial Implications

Set out below is a comparison table that outlines the costs of each option:

	Outdoor/Unheated	Indoor/Heated
Estimated construction	1,737,000	5,407,000
Design, documentation & administration (10% allowed)	<u>173,700</u>	<u>540,700</u>
	1,910,700	5,947,700
Building refurbishment*	<u>320,800</u>	<u>320,800</u>
	2,231,500	6,268,500
Less: Available reserve funds	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Amount To Be Borrowed	1,231,500	5,268,500
Annual Principal Repayment	123,150	526,850
Annual Interest Repayment	40,150	214,480
Annual Extra Loss/Subsidy	<u>17,000</u>	<u>190,000</u>
Total Annual Impact On Budget	180,300	931,3300

* Please note: If the buildings are to be replaced rather than refurbished, the cost increases by \$1,100,000

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General Discussion

Council's Current Budget Position

The draft Management Plan & Budget which has been placed on public exhibition encompasses a \$60 million program for the 2003/2004 financial year. It delivers a substantial number of new initiatives and capital works without, at present, any additional loan funding beyond Council's \$1.5 million annual allocation. It delivers a proposed surplus of \$206,399 and identifies a further \$107,000 in minor projects requested by Council for inclusion. If the projects identified at the Budget workshop are funded, Council will have delivered effectively a "balanced" budget to its community. (The \$100,000 remaining surplus represents only 0.175% of the total Budget).

If either of these two major capital projects are funded it is unlikely to have a significant effect on the 2003/2004 budget as there are sufficient cash funds available to commence any work required in that financial year. The impact of these decisions will occur in the 2004/2005 financial year when the loans would need to be taken up and then repayment commenced. The other recurrent expenses (such as maintenance and loss subsidies) would also commence in that year.

Council needs to be mindful that if either of these two significant projects proceed our Internal Reserves would become severely depleted and increase Council's exposure to insolvency (an inability to meet short-term financial obligations such as creditors, loan repayments, payroll etc).

Council's Current Indebtedness

Camden Council is currently indebted to the value of \$9,412,000. This represents a debt per capita rate of \$185 and a debt servicing ratio of 8.65%. Council will repay in the 2003/2004 financial year \$1,207,655 in principal and \$653,126 in interest.

Both of these indicators have reduced considerably over the past 5 years following a concerted effort to reduce reliance on borrowings on an annual basis and to actively and regularly retire debt. One of the reasons for management's action in this regard is to build capacity within the Council's financial structure to accommodate additional borrowings for major capital works when necessary. After only 5 years of this strategy, the organisation is not quite at the ratios that management would desire before embarking on significant additional loan borrowing. A table is included as **Tabled Document "BPA 1"** that sets out the likely impact of each of the proposed projects and options on the financial ratios of debt per capita and debt servicing. Council's own adopted

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policy is that debt per capita not exceed \$250 and, as can be seen in the tabled document, a number of the scenarios will see that policy limit exceeded.

Council's Debt Service Ratio is calculated as follows:

Annual Cost of Debt (Principal and Interest Repayments)
Total Revenue from Ordinary Operations

Council's current position compares to the following Council's of similar nature or geographic location:

COUNCIL	DEBT SERVICE RATIO
Campbelltown	12.12%
Penrith	10.95%
Camden	8.65%
Shellharbour	7.17%
Bankstown	6.98%
Liverpool	6.58%
Blue Mountains	6.44%
Fairfield	3.90%
Wollondilly	2.82%
Wollongong	1.95%
Hawkesbury	1.33%
Blacktown	Debt Free
Canterbury	Debt Free
State Average	5.70%

If, for example, Council was to borrow an additional \$2.9m (\$1.2m for an outdoor unheated pool and \$1.7m for parking at John/Murray Streets) the debt service ratio would increase from 8.65% to 11.34% (nearly twice the State Average). The Local Government Industry benchmark suggests a debt service ratio in excess of 10% is not financially sustainable, nor is it representative of an organisation demonstrating prudent financial management.

It is also important to note that if Council borrowed an additional \$2.9m, Council's debt per capita would increase from \$185 to \$227 (approaching Council's policy limit of \$250 per capita).

The Loan Approval Process

There are two external processes through which Council must proceed in order to secure approval for loan borrowing. The first of these is the granting of Ministerial approval.

The Minister for Local Government, through his department, approves a limit for each Council in the state dictating the ability of that Council to borrow money. That limit is set on

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application by the Council and is based on the assessment, by departmental officers, of the reasonableness of the projects to be funded and the capacity of the Council to accommodate the expense of principal and interest repayments. It also considers financial ratios to ensure that individual Councils do not exceed the desirable limits of capacity at the expense of other community activity. Preliminary discussions with departmental officers indicate that the department would be unlikely to approve, at the most extreme, a loan program of \$8 million (\$4.8m pool + \$1.7m car park + \$1.5m normal borrowing) next year. A smaller program may be considered by the Department/Minister.

Secondly, the financial institution must approve the disbursement of the funds. Council's usual finance provider is the Commonwealth Bank and, again, exploratory discussions have been held with our account manager. All loans to Council are secured by first mortgage against the Council's General Fund. This means that the bank may, if necessary, foreclose on debts by appropriating any funds within the General Fund and any income to that Fund in the event of default. This is tantamount to the failure of the Council as the General Fund is the source of all payments to staff, suppliers and contractors and any significant interruption to those payments would render the Council unable to conduct its business.

The bank is primarily concerned with the Council's capacity to repay its instalments on a regular basis and would assess the size of the loan against the cash flow implications of the repayments in determining its willingness to advance the required funds.

Impacts on the Recurrent Budget

The information provided in the earlier parts of this report is intended to put the two projects being considered into some context. The real test of the viability of these projects is their long term impact on the ability of the Council to not only maintain its current levels of works and services, but to continue to improve the range of services and facilities it offers to its constituency. It is this ability to grow and meet the challenges of changing community expectations that requires careful capital and recurrent planning. Set out below is the variety of options being considered by Council, in a further variety of combinations, together with their relevant impact on the annual budget for the next decade. The supporting table for the data forms **Tabled Document "BPA 1"**.

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	\$ Impact Per Annum
Outdoor pool only	\$ 180,300
Indoor pool only	\$ 931,330
John/Murray car park only	\$ 264,165
Larkin Place car park only	\$ 366,970
Outdoor pool & John/Murray car park	\$ 444,465
Outdoor pool & Larkin Place car park	\$ 547,270
Indoor pool & John/Murray car park	\$ 1,195,495
Indoor pool & Larkin Place car park	\$ 1,298,300

By way of comparison, the following information provides a guide to the net cost to the annual budget of several projects and or services. Given the cost of several of the options above, if Council wished to proceed with both projects it would need to cut services or facilities elsewhere to accommodate the costs.

Draft new projects list for 2003/2004	\$ 782,900
Total Roadworks program for 2003/2004	\$ 1,606,100
Safe & Healthy Premises program	\$ 300,892
Community Development program	\$ 356,124
Library Services program	\$ 1,053,235

Conclusion

It is the view of management that the construction of one of the pool options and one of the car park options together is not sustainable and cannot be recommended under any circumstances. If Council is seriously considering the approval of either of these projects it must be one or the other. It must also be borne in mind that additional loans of this magnitude would remove Council's capacity borrow any further funds for up to ten years.

In a similar vein, management is unable to recommend the construction of the indoor/heated pool option under any circumstances. Both the significant nature of the borrowings required and the substantial amount of the projected annual losses make this project completely unsustainable.

Therefore, if Council wishes to fund the unheated/outdoor pool option the annual cost to the recurrent budget will be \$180,300. If the Larkin Place car park is the selected project the cost will be \$366,970 annually. The funding of either of these projects in the next financial year will result in the funds available in the subsequent years being reduced by those recurrent expense amounts. In other words, whereas additional projects totalling \$900,000 can be funded this coming year, only \$620,000 to \$533,000 will be available in future years.

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Recommended:

- (i) That Council confirm its allocation of \$1,000,000 in the 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget for the refurbishment of Camden War Memorial Swimming Centre and that a longer term funding strategy be developed for the collection of funds to develop a heated, indoor pool in Camden.
- (ii) That Council confirm its projection of funds in the 2005/2006 (\$300,000) and 2006/2007 (\$2,800,000) Budgets for the development of a decked parking structure in Camden.
- (iii) That Council consider providing an additional \$45,000 in the 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget for the upgrading of the community bus with a 22 seat replacement.

(Cr Winn declared a pecuniary interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being a shop owner in Argyle Street, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 8.23pm)

(Cr Patterson declared a pecuniary interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being the Manager of a business within the Camden CBD, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 8.24pm)

(Cr Campbell declared a pecuniary in interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being the joint owner of a business in Argyle Street, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 8.27pm)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that:

- (i) *Based upon the fact that several Councillors have declared an interest in relation to the car park matter, consideration of this report be made in two parts;*
- (ii) *Those sections dealing with the Camden Swimming Pool and the Community Bus be dealt with first in order to permit all Councillors to participate in the debate;*
- (iii) *Those Councillors with an interest in the car park matter be invited to return to the Chamber for discussion of the pool and the community bus;*

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- (iv) *The matter of the Camden car park be dealt with as a separate item and those Councillors with an interest in that issue again retire from the Chamber and take no part in debate on that Item.*

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

(Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Campbell returned to the Chamber – the time being 8.30pm).

MOTION

Moved Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Campbell that

- (i) *Council approve \$15,000 for the Engineering report into the current status of the Camden Swimming Pool and a report be provided back to Council within three (3) months;*
- (ii) *Council approve up to \$1,000,000 for repairs to the Camden Swimming Pool structure. Upon completion a further report be provided to determine further restoration of the facilities as required;*
- (iii) *A longer term funding strategy be developed for the collection of funds to develop a heated, indoor pool in Camden.*

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

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Patterson, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) *Council provide an additional \$45,000 in the 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget for the upgrading of the community bus with a 22 seat replacement.*

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

(At this stage Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Campbell having previously declared a pecuniary interest in part of this Item relating to the proposed car park, took no part in discussion or voting on the rest of this Item and left the Chamber – the time being 8.49pm).

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FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Corrigan that Council approve the construction of a decked car parking structure in the John/Murray Street car park and the seeking of appropriate loan approvals from the Minister for Local Government and consider the allocation of funds in the 2003/04 Budget.

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

(Cr Batros and Cr Fekete voted against the Further Motion).

(Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Campbell returned to the Chamber – the time being 9.08pm).

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2. 2003/04 Management Plan & Budget
(3968/5)(Director Governance & Outcomes)

Introduction

At the Resources & Services Committee Meeting on 12 May 2003, Council considered the Draft 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget. Council resolved to place the Draft Management Plan and Budget (including the Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges documents) on public exhibition for comment for 30 days, with written submissions closing on 13 June 2003.

Submissions From The Public

At the close of business on 13 June 2003 there was one public submission received in relation to the Draft 2003/04 Management Plan & Budget. This submission was received from the Camden Men's Bowling Club Inc requesting financial assistance of \$37,384 for the maintenance of the Bowling Greens. (refer to **Tabled Document "BPA 2"**)

The submission from the Bowling Club seeks Council's assistance with the maintenance of the greens during the transitional period until the new Camden Sports Club Inc receives its liquor licence and can assume full control of the Club premises. The request effectively seeks \$3,000 per month for ten to twelve months.

Council has been actively involved in efforts to "save" the bowling club and has, apart from rent relief (of \$1,900 pa), made no financial contribution to the Club in the past.

Proposed 2003/04 Budget Adjustments

Three (3) issues have come to light since the 2003/04 Draft Management Plan & Budget was first placed on public exhibition (14 May 2003). These issues are as follows:

1. Projects approved by Council

At the Resources and Services Committee Meeting held on 12th May 2003 Council identified the following projects be included in the 2003/04 Budget.

Project	Cost
Onslow Toilets	\$35,000
Macarthur Park Irrigation	\$60,000
Floor Scrubber (Pavement Cleaner)	\$4,500
Let's Connect	\$7,500
TOTAL	\$107,000

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At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26th May 2003 Council approved the construction of a car parking facility at the corner of Oxley Street and Mitchell Street for \$92,000. This amount is fully funded (ie no impact on the budget bottom-line) from the Car Parking Reserve and Developer Contributions. The income and expenditure figures have been included into the 2003/04 Budget.

2. Councillors' Fees

At the Resources & Services Committee Meeting held on the 10th June, 2003, Council resolved to increase the remuneration payable to the Mayor and Councillors for the year 2003/04.

Council budgeted for an amount of \$138,772 in the Draft Budget. Council resolved to increase this amount to \$140,345 which represents an increase of \$1,573.

The net impact of the above two issues on the 2003/04 Budget is a reduction of the budget surplus by \$108,573.

3. Community Bus

At a Council workshop held on 10th June, 2003 consideration was given to the inclusion of a 22 seater community bus instead of a Hiace commuter. This option requires an allocation of \$45,000 which, if approved by Council, will be sourced from the \$97,826 budget surplus.

Summary of 2003/04 Budget

The 2003/04 Budget forecasts accumulated Working Funds as at June 30, 2004 of \$1,097,826. This figure represents a \$97,826 surplus above Council's minimum desired Working Funds level of \$1,000,000.

The figure of \$1,097,826 is obtained after the inclusion of proposals 1 and 2, which were approved by Council at meetings subsequent to the Resources & Services Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2003.

Council needs to formally approve the inclusion of the Community Bus allocation (Proposal 3) for it to be included in the adopted 2003/04 Management Plan and Budget

Dissection of Expenditure

Funds have been allocated to Council's five Strategic Directions as follows:

Sustainable Urban Growth	\$ 5,012,314	8.3%
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Accessibility	\$ 15,940,475	26.3%
Environmental Systems	\$ 11,316,513	18.8%
Economic & Community Development	\$ 15,625,104	25.8%
Governance	\$ 12,539,542	20.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 60,433,948	100%

Source of Funding

Council's expenditure budget is funded by the following sources of income:

Rates & Extra Charges (incl Waste)	\$21,313,718	35.2%
Fees & Charges	\$ 3,527,308	5.8%
Grants & Contributions	\$15,719,180	26.0%
Loan Funds	\$ 1,500,000	2.5%
Reserve Funds Utilised	\$ 3,597,547	5.9%
Interest on Investments	\$ 1,827,473	3.0%
Depreciation (Non-Cash Income)	\$ 5,819,534	9.6%
Other Income	\$ 7,227,014	12.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$60,531,774	100%

General Rate Increase

The 2003/04 Budget provides for a rate increase in line with the Minister for Local Government's determination of 3.6%. In addition to this general rate increase Council has received confirmation from the Local Government Minister that a further 1.088% increase to Council's notional rate income has been approved to compensate Camden for rates lost on Crown owned land.

In essence, Council's total notional rate income (i.e. total rate revenue) will therefore increase by 4.688% in 2003/04. This increase was included in the Draft Budget and, as such, does not represent a budget gain.

Conclusion

The 2003/04 Draft Budget is in many ways a landmark budget as Council embarks on an aggressive capital works program over the next 4 years. In doing so, prudent financial management has been exercised with no additional loan borrowings above the standard recurrent loan borrowings of \$1,500,000.

Council has been able to deliver a significant capital works program by sourcing Section 94 Contributions and Internal Reserves (primarily, the Capital Works Reserve) to fund the works.

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A budget surplus of \$97,826 and the preservation of \$1,000,000 in accumulated working funds has also been achieved, all this without compromising existing services and the advancement of Council's strategic plan: Camden 2025.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Adopt the 2003/04 Management Plan and Budget
- (ii) Acknowledge that the following authorised variations have been included in the 2003/04 Management Plan and Budget:

Project	Expense	Income	Net Cost
Onslow Toilets	\$ 35,000	NIL	\$ 35,000
Macarthur Park Irrigation	\$ 60,000	NIL	\$ 60,000
Floor Scrubber (Pavement Cleaner)	\$ 4,500	NIL	\$ 4,500
Let's Connect	\$ 7,500	NIL	\$ 7,500
Oxley & Mitchell Street Parking	\$ 92,000	\$92,000	NIL
Councillor's Fees	\$ 1,573	NIL	\$ 1,573
TOTAL	\$200,573	\$92,000	\$108,573

- (iii) An additional allocation of \$45,000 be made available to purchase a 22 seater community bus
- (iv) Consider the submission from the Camden Men's Bowling Club and determine whether their request for financial assistance be included in the 2003/04 Budget
- (v) Adopt the 2003/04 Schedule of Fees and Charges as advertised
- (vi) A base amount of \$465.00 be levied for each rateable assessment for the 2003/04 financial year
- (vii) In accordance with Section 537(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993, it be noted that the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2003/04 financial year for each class of rate is:

Residential	49.11890%
Farmland Intensive	25.35823%
Farmland	31.69219%
Business	15.32499%

- (viii) The following ad valorem rates be fixed and levied on the land value of all rateable assessments for 2003/04 financial year:

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Residential	0.323060
Farmland Intensive	0.290754
Farmland	0.161530
Business	0.807650

(ix) The rates referred to in (vii) above to apply as follows:

Residential

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is for residential accommodation;

Farmland Intensive

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is intensive horticulture or livestock keeping establishments, feed lots, piggeries, poultry farming establishments, mushroom growing and other agricultural activities carried on in large sheds; which

- (a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and
- (b) is engaged in for the purpose of profit on a continuous or repetitive basis (whether or not a profit is actually made).

Farmland

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is for farming (that is, the business or industry of grazing, dairying, viticulture, orcharding, beekeeping, horticulture, vegetable growing, the growing of crops of any kind, forestry, oyster farming, or fish farming within the meaning of the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935, or any combination of those businesses or industries) which:

- (a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and
- (b) is engaged in for the purpose of profit on a continuous or repetitive basis (whether or not a profit is actually made).

Business

Land valued as one assessment that is not categorised as Farmland Intensive; Farmland or Residential.

(x) Council allow a discount of 2.5% of the nett ad valorem and base amount rates on an assessment payable for the 2003/04 financial year, provided the ratepayer pays the total nett amount owing on that assessment in full by the *date of the first installment*.

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(Cr Winn declared a pecuniary interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being a shop owner in Argyle Street, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 9.10pm)

(Cr Patterson declared a pecuniary interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being the Manager of a business within the Camden CBD, and also declared a pecuniary interest relating to Part (iv) of the recommendation dealing with the submission from the Camden Men's Bowling Club. Cr Patterson and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 9.11pm)

(Cr Campbell declared a pecuniary in interest in this matter relating to consideration of the car park, being the joint owner of a business in Argyle Street, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 9.10pm)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that

- (i) Based upon the fact that several Councillors have declared an interest in relation to the car park matter, consideration of this report be made in two parts;*
- (ii) Those sections dealing with the 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget generally be dealt with first in order to permit all Councillors to participate in the debate with the exception of any discussion related to the development of the Camden car park and the allocation of funds to the Camden Men's Bowling Club;*
- (iii) Those Councillors with an interest in the car park matter be invited to return to the Chamber for discussion of the Budget generally;*
- (iv) The matter of the Camden car park and the allocation of funds to the Camden Men's Bowling Club be dealt with as separate items and those Councillors with an interest in that issue again retire from the Chamber and take no part in the debate on that Item.*

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

(Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Campbell returned to the Chamber – the time being 9.14pm).

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MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Campbell that Council

- (i) *Adopt the 2003/04 Management Plan and Budget*
- (ii) *Acknowledge that the following authorised variations have been included in the 2003/04 Management Plan and Budget:*

Project	Expense	Income	Net Cost
<i>Onslow Toilets</i>	\$ 35,000	NIL	\$ 35,000
<i>Macarthur Park Irrigation</i>	\$ 60,000	NIL	\$ 60,000
<i>Floor Scrubber (Pavement Cleaner)</i>	\$ 4,500	NIL	\$ 4,500
<i>Let's Connect</i>	\$ 7,500	NIL	\$ 7,500
<i>Oxley & Mitchell Street Parking</i>	\$ 92,000	\$92,000	NIL
<i>Councillor's Fees</i>	\$ 1,573	NIL	\$ 1,573
TOTAL	\$200,573	\$92,000	\$108,573

- (iii) *An additional allocation of \$45,000 be made available to purchase a 22 seater community bus*
- (iv) *Adopt the 2003/04 Schedule of Fees and Charges as advertised*
- (v) *A base amount of \$465.00 be levied for each rateable assessment for the 2003/04 financial year*
- (vi) *In accordance with Section 537(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993, it be noted that the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2003/04 financial year for each class of rate is:*

<i>Residential</i>	49.11890%
<i>Farmland Intensive</i>	25.35823%
<i>Farmland</i>	31.69219%
<i>Business</i>	15.32499%

- (vii) *The following ad valorem rates be fixed and levied on the land value of all rateable assessments for 2003/04 financial year:*

<i>Residential</i>	0.323060
<i>Farmland Intensive</i>	0.290754
<i>Farmland</i>	0.161530
<i>Business</i>	0.807650

- (viii) *The rates referred to in (vii) above to apply as follows:*

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Residential

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is for residential accommodation;

Farmland Intensive

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is intensive horticulture or livestock keeping establishments, feed lots, piggeries, poultry farming establishments, mushroom growing and other agricultural activities carried on in large sheds; which

- (a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*
- (b) is engaged in for the purpose of profit on a continuous or repetitive basis (whether or not a profit is actually made).*

Farmland

Land valued as one assessment and its dominant use is for farming (that is, the business or industry of grazing, dairying, viticulture, orcharding, beekeeping, horticulture, vegetable growing, the growing of crops of any kind, forestry, oyster farming, or fish farming within the meaning of the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935, or any combination of those businesses or industries) which:

- (a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*
- (b) is engaged in for the purpose of profit on a continuous or repetitive basis (whether or not a profit is actually made).*

Business

Land valued as one assessment that is not categorised as Farmland Intensive; Farmland or Residential.

- (ix) Council allow a discount of 2.5% of the nett ad valorem and base amount rates on an assessment payable for the 2003/04 financial year, provided the ratepayer pays the total nett amount owing on that assessment in full by the date of the first installment.*
- (x) Confirm the allocation of \$1,000,000 in the 2003/2004 Management Plan and Budget for the refurbishment of the Camden War Memorial Swimming Centre, inclusive of the Engineering Report*
- (xi) The Financial Assistance Program for 2003/2004 be increased to \$40,000.*

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

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(At this stage, Cr Patterson having previously declared a pecuniary interest relating to the Camden Men's Bowling Club, left the Chamber – the time being 9.25pm).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that an additional allocation of \$3,000 per month for up to 10-12 months be provided for the maintenance at the bowling greens as submitted by the Camden Men's Bowling Club.

068/03

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

(At this stage, Cr Winn and Cr Campbell having previously declared a pecuniary interest in consideration of the car park, left the Chamber – the time being 9.27pm).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr McFadden that Council include the construction of the decked car parking structure in the John/Murray Street car park at a capital cost of \$2.3million in the 2003/04 Budget and seek loan approval from the Minister of Local Government.

THE FURTHER MOTION AS MOVED BY CR CORRIGAN ON BEING PUT WAS **LOST** ON THE CASTING VOTE OF THE MAYOR.

(Cr Batros, Cr Fekete, and Cr Senise voted against the Further Motion).

(Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Campbell returned to the Chamber – the time being 9.35pm).

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3. Inquiry Into Public Transport

(File 4363/3) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Introduction

On 12 May, 2003, the Minister for Transport Services, the Hon. Michael Costa announced a Ministerial Inquiry into current funding, community transport, fares and investment options for train, bus and ferry services.

The inquiry is described as Stage 3 of an overall Transport Restructure package. Stage 1 of the package, announced on 8 April, 2003, comprised the creation of an independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator and a restructure of Transport NSW as a result of the recent Ministerial changes. Stage 2, announced on 30 April, 2003, partly comprised a restructure of the Rail Infrastructure Corporation.

The inquiry, to be conducted by Dr Tom Parry, will consider and report on the following matters:

- The likely future revenue needs of the CityRail and STA Bus and Ferry operations with regard to efficient operating and capital costs for the networks;
- Funding options to meet these revenue needs as well as funding options for any future expansion of the public passenger transport system;
- Options for enhancing the optimum use of public passenger transport relative to other transport modes;
- Possible arrangements for incentive mechanisms which better link fares and service standards, including safety; and
- Options for better targeting the funding and delivery of transport services to meet the needs of different groups in the metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities, including rural community and heath transport needs.

Report

This report will consider each matter above and make recommendations to the Inquiry in relation to the funding of an effective and efficient public transport system in Camden and South-Western Sydney generally.

1. The likely future revenue needs of the CityRail and STA Bus and Ferry operations with regard to efficient operating and capital costs for the networks.

Camden residents have access to the CityRail network primarily via the stations at Macarthur, Campbelltown, Leumeah and Minto, though some residents may access the network via Liverpool station. From these departure

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points, Camden residents travel to a variety of destinations including Liverpool, Parramatta and Sydney City. There are four train lines that provide this access, the East Hills-Macarthur Line, the Campbelltown-Granville Line, the Regents Park-Bankstown Line and the Parramatta-Blacktown Line.

There are significant issues at each of these stations and on each line that need to be addressed to improve the efficiency of the train services and to improve patronage, with the priorities being:

- Extension of dual lines to Macarthur Station and the corresponding extension of services to Macarthur;
- Upgrading of Macarthur Station in terms of access and safety;
- Upgrading of Glenfield Station in terms of access; and
- Provision of additional secure commuter parking at Macarthur, Minto and Leumeah Stations.

In addition to the above, the proposed Leppington rail spur should be “fast-tracked”, designed with adequate commuter parking and accessibility and have an adequate level of service, in order to provide an alternative access to the CityRail network for existing and future residents of Camden and Liverpool local government areas.

The STA Bus and Ferry services do not serve the Camden community. Camden is serviced by private bus operators, including Busways and Busabout.

2. Funding options to meet these revenue needs as well as funding options for any future expansion of the public passenger transport system.

The fundamental principle of public transport provision should be that it is a community service, not a private enterprise. The short and long-term benefits of an effective public transport system to existing and future communities should be considered above the initial capital costs of infrastructure provision.

With this in mind, funding to meet existing and future needs must be a priority of government. In particular, the up-front provision of new public transport infrastructure is essential to supporting sustainable communities. In relation to rail infrastructure, the following works should be undertaken before any new residential development proceeds:

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- Electrification and dual carriageways to Menangle Park, before land is released there for urban development; and
- If the investigation of land in the South-West Sector identifies land suitable for urban development, the proposed Leppington rail spur must be committed before land is released for urban development.

As a community service, funding of the above works and those identified in point 1 above is the responsibility of the State Government. The fact that the State Government has neglected funding of public transport in the past should not absolve it of the responsibility to fund it now. However, it is the lack of historical funding of public transport that has resulted in the crisis that now exists. The cost of providing public transport services to existing communities that were developed without them is enormous, let alone the cost of providing public transport to communities being planned now.

As a result of this crisis, the State Government is suggesting that public transport be funded by developers, through a levy (that will inevitably increase land values) or by public/private partnerships (that will most likely involve increased ticket prices under a non-subsidised user pay system).

Neither of these options are equitable, as the cost of using public transport in areas where a levy or a private system exists will be greater than the cost of using state-operated public transport in areas where this exists.

Already, there are inequities between the cost of using private buses as opposed to STA buses, with different concessions rates and types available being the prime example. These inequities must be addressed as a matter of priority.

Further, it is inequitable to suggest that the provision of public transport to some parts of Sydney (and any upgrading to that existing system) should be funded by the Government (i.e. all taxpayers of New South Wales) but other parts of Sydney will only get public transport if they fund it themselves.

However, recognising the astronomical costs and the inability of the Government to fund the required works without borrowing and accepting a short-term budget deficit, the likelihood of some other funding option is high. Whatever the option, there must be equity.

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If a levy is proposed, the levy must be born by all developers. A developer proposing the demolition of a dwelling in Leichhardt and the erection of 5 townhouses is placing an additional burden on public transport infrastructure and therefore should equally be responsible for an appropriate share of the cost of upgrading the public transport.

If a public/private partnership is proposed, the cost of using the public transport should be equivalent to using existing state-operated services. Therefore, the subsidies and concessions available to state-operated services should apply equally to privately operated services.

3. Options for enhancing the optimum use of public passenger transport relative to other transport modes.

There are many factors why people choose not to use public transport in Camden, not only the cost. Availability, reliability, frequency, time, mode changes and lack of direct routes all influence the behaviour of people when they choose a transport mode.

This issue therefore requires broader consideration than funding and pricing of public transport. Some of the options for increasing the mode split to public transport include:

- Education of the environmental consequences of car use.
- Education of the personal costs associated with car use as opposed to public transport use.
- Where it is determined that the personal cost of using public transport is higher than using a car, policies shall be implemented to address this.
- Incentives for car use must be removed and incentives for public transport use must be provided.
- Public transport must be provided to new release areas before people move in, to discourage the purchase of a second or third car.
- Travel behaviour change programs should be implemented, similar to those used in Western Australia.
- Road-based public transport must have priority over private vehicles on the road network.

All of the above involve costs over and above the infrastructure costs referred to in points 1 and 2. However, such costs should be considered in sustainability terms. The benefits to future generations of an adequate, efficient and reliable public transport

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system are significant in terms of reducing social, environmental and economic impacts. Therefore, the government should consider budgeting based on intergenerational borrowing.

To quote the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, the Hon. Craig Knowles, "*My interest is in issues of generational equity, because [transport] infrastructure lasts a lifetime.*" (Sydney Morning Herald, June 13, 2003, p.7)

4. Possible arrangements for incentive mechanisms which better link fares and service standards, including safety.

In order to determine whether fares should be increased based on improved service standards, there must be a comprehensive and transparent process including a list of matters that must be taken into consideration.

Suggestions for matters that must be considered include:

- Evidence of increased patronage;
- Reduction in incidents of crime and vandalism on public transport;
- Satisfaction or exceedence of minimum industry standards, or demonstrated improvements based on identified service indicators.

Such service indicators may relate to:

- Minimum frequency of services;
- Maximum waiting times at interchanges where a mode change is required;
- Maximum travel times.

5. Options for better targeting the funding and delivery of transport services to meet the needs of different groups in the metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities, including rural community and heath transport needs.

Targeting the needs of various groups necessarily requires consultation with the community and an understanding of the community's travel patterns.

In Western Sydney for example, the statistics will show that most people stay within Western Sydney for work trips, shopping trips, school trips and recreation trips. Yet, the public transport system is primarily focused on trips to Sydney. There are insufficient cross-regional links to allow most people to travel within Western Sydney by public transport.

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Conclusion

The inquiry into the funding of public transport only covers one aspect of the issue. Cost issues alone do not determine whether public transport infrastructure is provided or whether people choose to use public transport. Therefore, a submission to the inquiry should highlight that cost issue must be considered in conjunction with other issues such as safety, environment and service levels.

The most important matter that should be addressed at the inquiry is equity. Existing cost inequities must be addressed and any new funding or pricing proposals must be equitable.

Recommended: That Council forward to the Inquiry a submission that incorporates the discussion contained in this report and makes the following recommendations:

- (i) Consideration of the future revenue needs of City Rail must take into account the following:
 - (a) Upgrading works at Macarthur Station in terms of access and safety, including the extension of dual lines to increase services to Macarthur, are required to improve access to rail facilities for residents of Camden.
 - (b) Upgrading of Glenfield Station in terms of disabled access is required to improve the travel options for Camden residents, as Glenfield operates as an important interchange station.
 - (c) Provision of additional commuter car parking is required at Macarthur, Minto and Leumeah Stations to improve access to rail facilities for Camden residents.
 - (d) The proposed Leppington Rail spur should be fast-tracked and designed with adequate commuter car parking to provide an alternative access to the City Rail network for Camden residents.
 - (e) Should land at Bringelly be considered suitable for urban development, the Leppington Rail spur should be committed before development occurs.
 - (f) Before land is released for urban development in Menangle Park, the rail line must be electrified with dual carriageways extended to the area before development occurs.

- (ii) Consideration of funding options to meet the revenue needs of City Rail, the State Transit Authority and Ferry services must take into account the following:

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- (a) Public transport is a community service and as such, the responsibility for funding lies with the State Government.
 - (b) Consideration must be given to the long-term benefits to the community of up-front capital outlays.
 - (c) Inter-generational equity and long-term sustainability must be seriously considered before infrastructure decisions are made.
 - (d) Consideration must be given to equity issues before decisions are made regarding infrastructure funding.
 - (e) If a levy is proposed, the levy must be born by all developers.
 - (f) If a public/private partnership is proposed, the cost of using the public transport service should not be greater than the cost of using a solely public service.
 - (g) Existing inequities in concessions and base travel rates must be addressed.
- (iii) Consideration of options to enhance the optimum use of public transport should include the following:
- (a) Community education.
 - (b) Removal of incentives for car use.
 - (c) Provision of incentives for public transport use.
 - (d) Early provision of public transport services.
 - (e) Implementation of travel behaviour change programs.
 - (f) Provision of physical priority to road-based public transport over the private vehicle.
- (iv) Consideration of arrangements for linking service standards to fare increases should include the following:
- (a) Evidence of increased patronage.
 - (b) Reduction in incidents of crime or vandalism.
 - (c) Satisfaction of industry standards, including minimum frequency of service, maximum waiting times at interchanges, maximum travel times, etc.
- (v) In order to better target the funding and delivery of public transport to meet the needs of the community, extensive community consultation and statistical analysis should be undertaken to identify the travel needs of the community.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that Council forward to the Inquiry a submission that incorporates the discussion contained in this report and makes the following recommendations:

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- (i) *Consideration of the future revenue needs of City Rail must take into account the following:*
- (a) *Upgrading works at Macarthur Station in terms of access and safety, including the extension of dual lines to increase services to Macarthur, are required to improve access to rail facilities for residents of Camden.*
 - (b) *Upgrading of Glenfield Station in terms of disabled access is required to improve the travel options for Camden residents, as Glenfield operates as an important interchange station.*
 - (c) *Provision of additional commuter car parking is required at Macarthur, Minto and Leumeah Stations to improve access to rail facilities for Camden residents.*
 - (d) *The proposed Leppington Rail spur should be fast-tracked and designed with adequate commuter car parking and road access to provide an alternative access to the City Rail network for Camden residents.*
 - (e) *Should land at Bringelly be considered suitable for urban development, the Leppington Rail spur should be committed before development occurs.*
 - (f) *Before land is released for urban development in Menangle Park, the rail line must be electrified with dual carriageways extended to the area before development occurs.*
- (ii) *Consideration of funding options to meet the revenue needs of City Rail, the State Transit Authority and Ferry services must take into account the following:*
- (a) *Public transport is a community service and as such, the responsibility for funding lies with the State Government.*
 - (b) *Consideration must be given to the long-term benefits to the community of up-front capital outlays.*
 - (c) *Inter-generational equity and long-term sustainability must be seriously considered before infrastructure decisions are made.*
 - (d) *Consideration must be given to equity issues before decisions are made regarding infrastructure funding.*
 - (e) *If a levy is proposed, the levy must be born by all developers.*
 - (f) *If a public/private partnership is proposed, the cost of using the public transport service should not be greater than the cost of using a solely public service.*
 - (g) *Existing inequities in concessions and base travel rates must be addressed.*
- (iii) *Consideration of options to enhance the optimum use of public transport should include the following:*

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- (a) *Community education.*
 - (b) *Removal of incentives for car use.*
 - (c) *Provision of incentives for public transport use.*
 - (d) *Early provision of public transport services.*
 - (e) *Implementation of travel behaviour change programs.*
 - (f) *Provision of physical priority to road-based public transport over the private vehicle.*
 - (g) *Provision of an appropriate road network to facilitate maximisation of public transport options.*
- (iv) *Consideration of arrangements for linking service standards to fare increases should include the following:*
- (a) *Evidence of increased patronage.*
 - (b) *Reduction in incidents of crime or vandalism.*
 - (c) *Satisfaction of industry standards, including minimum frequency of service, maximum waiting times at interchanges, maximum travel times, etc.*
- (v) *In order to better target the funding and delivery of public transport to meet the needs of the community, extensive community consultation and statistical analysis should be undertaken to identify the travel needs of the community.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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4. Draft Community Wellbeing Policy
(File 4695) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose

This report advises Council of the comments received during the public exhibition period of the draft Community Wellbeing Policy.

Background

Council at its meeting held on 10 February 2003 *resolved that:*

Council endorse the draft Community Wellbeing Policy and that it be placed on public exhibition for a period of six weeks. **(Tabled Document “BPA 3“).**

This matter was presented at Council’s meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2003, when Council resolved to defer the matter until the meeting of Monday 23 June.

Discussion

1. Public Exhibition Period

The draft Community Wellbeing Policy was placed on public exhibition from 17 February 2003 until 31 March 2003.

The public exhibition period was advertised through the local newspaper (Camden Wollondilly Advertiser). All groups and organisations listed in Council’s Community Directory mailing list were sent information about the exhibition period and community information sessions. Information on the draft policy was also distributed through the Macarthur Community Forum’s newsletter ‘Forum Flash’ (peak body for community organisations in the Macarthur area) as well as on community noticeboards.

The draft policy was made available at the following locations:

- Camden Council Customer Service Desks - Narellan and Camden;
- Camden and Narellan Library;
- Cobbitty General Store, 357 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty;
- Leppington Post Office and Newsagency, 1469 Camden Valley Way, Leppington; and
- Catherine Field Newsagency and General Store, 169 Catherine Field Road, Catherine Field.

Two community information sessions were held during the consultation period to provide information on the policy and assist groups make informed submissions, these were held on:

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- Tuesday 25 February, 2003 at The Art Gallery, Camden Civic Centre; and
- Wednesday 12 March, 2003 at The Undercroft, Camden Civic Centre.

2. Summary of comments received during the public exhibition period

Following the public exhibition period a total 8 responses were received, of these:

- Four responses were received from individuals; and
- Four from community groups/organisations.

Comments received fell into three main categories:

1. Amendments to grammar, word use;
2. Suggested additions to draft policy; and
3. General Comments on the policy structure, direction, purpose.

A detailed summary of comments is contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 4”**.

1. Amendments to grammar, word use

A number of minor changes to sentence structure, terminology and word usage were suggested. These suggestions, where possible, have been incorporated into the draft policy. Examples included the word ‘*wellbeing*’ being hyphenated in some parts of the document.

2. Suggested additions to draft policy

A number of suggested inclusions were offered. These included:

- Additional statements relating to accessibility and life long learning as components of Community wellbeing;
- Extending the definition of active citizenship and participation to include reference to ‘stimulating debate’ amongst the community;
- Balancing the rights of citizens with responsibilities towards other citizens and making a positive contribution to community life;
- A statement under ‘social capital’ to reflect that Council wants to encourage an environment where people feel free to express diverse opinions and know that they are valued;
- Replacing the word ‘tolerance’ with ‘valuing diversity’; and
- In relation to community consultation, that feedback is provided to citizens who have participated in the community consultation process on the outcome.

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These suggestions have been incorporated into the draft policy.

3.General comments on the policy structure, direction, purpose etc.

There were a number of questions raised during the consultation period. These are set out below.

- (i) *‘Will the Community Wellbeing policy replace the existing Access and Equity policy?’*

It is proposed that the Community Wellbeing Policy replace the existing Access & Equity Policy. The Community Wellbeing policy is designed as a tool to support social sustainability within the Camden Local Government Area. It is an overarching policy statement that sets the tone and direction of future Council activities by fostering and developing the four underlying principles of Social Justice, Social Capital, Democratic Governance and Active Citizenship.

The principles of access and equity are included within ‘social justice’ one of the four underlying principles of social sustainability or community wellbeing. The current Access and Equity policy is primarily a Local Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement or (LEAPS) and focuses mainly on Non-English Speaking or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people within our community. The Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre has requested in their submission that:

“Council develop and maintain an active ‘Access and Equity for CALD Communities’ policy.”

It is envisaged that specific actions around CALD issues would be addressed through Council’s social planning process, however, it would be possible to develop a specific policy statement that relates directly to CALD needs within the community.

- *Does the policy relate to any other state/federal legislation?*

The policy is consistent with the principles of the NSW policy on Social Justice, Disability Discrimination Act etc. However, the policy does not make specific reference to these documents.

- *If the policy is not available in other languages – how can Council endorse a policy that promotes social justice?*

Several respondents expressed concern that the policy was not available in other languages. It is recognised that the numbers of people living within the Camden community who speak a language other than English at home is increasing. In 1996,

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2,558 or 8.8% of Camden residents stated that they spoke another language at home. By 2001, 3,701 or 8.4% of residents spoke another language at home.

The need to produce information must be weighted against the many priority areas facing Council. Council does not currently have a dedicated budget to 'translate' information into community languages. However, it is proposed as part of the 2003/2004 budget to provide a translated message with relevant community information distributed to the public. This message advises customers to access the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) (a free service for non-English speaking people) who can contact council on behalf of the customer and communicate the information in their language.

It should also be noted that Council's with high non-English speaking populations do not translate all materials but rather select a few key documents, in particular, general brochures on Council services and regulations as well as translated messages on the reverse of letterheads. Apart from the cost of translating all materials, the level of literacy in particular language groups can also vary significantly.

- *How will the policy objectives be met – why is there no action plan?*

Concerns were raised that the community wellbeing policy did not contain actions. The community wellbeing policy is the lead policy within a broader social sustainability policy framework that contains a series of policies that cascade down to the more specialist operational policies. **see Tabled Document "BPA 5"**.

The community wellbeing policy is a statement of principles that are purposefully broad and that can be applied in a variety of situations to guide Council's decision making thus ensuring that its practices are consistent with the promotion of social sustainability.

Actions that Council will take to implement the policy will be contained in plans, such as the social/community plan, Youth Strategic Plan etc. Specific actions and strategies will change over time. However, the underlying principles will remain constant.

- *Language used is not user friendly – how will the community understand this?*

Several respondents raised that the language used in the draft policy was difficult to understand and not user friendly.

The language used in the draft policy is technical language and used widely within the community sector. While it is

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acknowledged that the words 'reciprocity' and 'proactivity' may not be commonly used by the general public, they are important and have a particular relevance to the topic. Terminology used such as 'social capital', 'social justice', 'democratic governance' and 'active citizenship' are again not widely understood, however a full explanation of the terms is contained within the policy.

It is proposed to produce a 'plain' English brochure on Community Wellbeing for general community use. This is consistent with the approach undertaken with other Council policies such as rates. It should also be noted that unless the words such as 'social capital' are actively introduced into our language they will not become widely understood and accepted as one was the case with terms such as 'ecologically sustainable development'.

It was suggested through the public consultation process to place the 'policy statement' at the front of the document, and to add the explanation of the terminology at the end. This has been done to aid general understanding of the policy.

Conclusion

The Community Wellbeing Policy is designed to outline Council's role in promoting social sustainability within the Camden Local Government Area. It is an overarching policy statement that sets the direction for Council's activities and supports the principles of social justice, social capital, democratic governance and active citizenship.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council adopt the Community Wellbeing policy and rescind the existing Access & Equity Policy 2.2.; and
- (ii) Council write to all individuals/groups that made submissions to advise them of the outcome.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Patterson that:

- (i) Council adopt the Community Wellbeing policy and rescind the existing Access & Equity Policy 2.2.; and
- (ii) Council write to all individuals/groups that made submissions to advise them of the outcome.

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- (iii) *Council note the Community Wellbeing Policy complements the NSW Government Greenpaper “Harmony in the Next Decade 2002/2012” and will enable Council to meet statutory requirements.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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5. Community Financial Assistance Program 2003
(File 3130) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

This report seeks Council's approval to allocate funding to local community groups under Council's annual Community Financial Assistance Program.

Background

Each year Council provides funds to local non profit community organisations and groups through its Community Financial Assistance Program. This funding is allocated to assist groups in providing services and facilities, which would be of benefit to the Camden community. Whilst there is no limit on the amount groups can apply for, projects over \$1,500 need to be well-developed and targeted to community needs.

Council's budget allocation for the Financial Assistance Program for 2002/2003 is \$13,050.

Guidelines and Assessment Criteria for Applications

Under the adopted guidelines for this program all applications are ranked against the programs and funding principles.

Funding applications are assessed against Council's guidelines and the following objectives:

- To assist the establishment of new groups and services;
- To enhance the quality of service delivery and facilities to meet community needs;
- To promote increased access and equity of community resources, services and facilities; and
- To encourage community participation in the provision of local services and activities.

Target

- Local non-profit community organisations.
- Projects for which there may be no other source of funding available.

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Current Guidelines

Under the current guidelines Council will only consider applications from local non-profit community organisations and groups and not from organisations that are solely government funded.

Individuals are not eligible for funding under this program.

Accountability

Successful applicants must provide an Evaluation Report on their project within three (3) months of receiving funds, that includes:

- how funds were spent;
- how the community is able to access the project;
and
- the benefits local residents have gained.

Discussion:

Promotion of Program

The Community Financial Assistance Program was advertised in the Camden/Wollondilly Advertiser. In addition, information about the funding round was sent to organisations listed in Council's Community Directory.

The funding round opened on Monday 28 April, 2003 and closed on Monday 26 May 2003.

Three information sessions were held during the funding round. These sessions were designed to give groups the opportunity to find out more about the program and to seek support and advice from Council Officers on the application process.

The sessions were held at Camden Council, Narellan Building on:

- Monday 5 May, 2003

Morning Session: 10.00am - 11.30am

Evening Session: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

- Thursday 15 May, 2003

Evening Session: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

A total of twenty-seven (27) people, representing twenty (20) different organisations/groups, attended the three sessions,

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which were held at various times to enable as many groups as possible to attend. Feedback from the participants indicated that they considered it had been beneficial to attend the information sessions.

Applications Received

A total of twenty-nine (29) applications were received under the program seeking a total of **\$50,516** of funding.

Applications were generally of a high quality.

Allocation of Funds

Applications have been assessed by Council Officers and ranked either, Low, Medium or High against the objectives of the program as a basis for consideration by Council.

Set out below is the criteria that has been used to rank applications.

Low	Application is outside the guidelines.
Medium	Application is within the guidelines, however: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative sources of funding are available, or• Application is not considered as high a priority as other applications, or• Application's budget is outside the resources of this program.
High	Application meets guidelines and is considered appropriate for Council to fund.

Tabled Document "BPA 6" provides a summary of each application received an assessment against the criteria and a ranking.

Recommended projects for 2002-2003

An assessment of the applications received was made against the program guidelines and the funds available within the 2002-2003 Financial Assistance Program. The following groups or organisations have been assessed against the funding principles and guidelines and have been ranked as a **High** priority for Council's consideration.

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No	Group	\$	Project Description	Ranking
3	Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Camden (ADFAS)	\$1,819	Project to help establish group – contribution towards hire of equipment and costs of hosting series of lectures by prominent guest speakers	High
4	Early Childhood Intervention Australia (NSW chapter)	\$1,500	Program to raise awareness of importance of early intervention.	High
6	Camden Athletic Club	\$2,556	Purchase of sporting equipment (stopwatches, javelin, shot-put, discus)	High
7	Camden Historical Society Inc	\$1,140	Photo Gathering and Captioning Project Purchasing, scanning, copying and printing and presentation of approx. 200 photos	High
8	Creditline Macarthur Counsellor Services	\$1,460	Community Education – Financial Counselling Funding to purchase TV & Video plus training resources to assist in running a series of workshops to provide training and consumer awareness in financial decision making in personal finances.	High
9	Camden Falcons Soccer Club Inc.	\$1,098	Funds to purchase TV & Video for training purposes	High
11	Camden Uniting Church - Family and Children's Division	\$1,500	Project to enhance recreation area within church grounds Enhancing concrete area adding playground area sandpit storage shed child safe gates	High
13	Country Women's Association	\$1,500	Project to enhance existing facility Provision of BBQ and portion of costs of building pergola	High
15	Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre	\$1,000	Multicultural Youth Group Funds to establish a new youth groups with multicultural focus	High
18	Mt Annan Monkeys playgroup	\$1,100	Monkeys Kickstart Funds to purchase 'start-up' equipment for new group	High

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No	Group	\$	Project Description	Ranking
19	Camden Anglican Parish	\$1,665	“Divorced and Separated Recovery Workshops” Funds to run a series of free workshops. Costs include participant's fees, stationery, postage and refreshments etc.	High
22	Razorback Crank-handle Assoc.	\$1,170	Historic Vehicle Display & Trophy Presentation Funds to assist in costs of hiring Camden Civic Centre & Showground.	High
24	Camden Local Youth Group	\$800	Camden Car Smart Project Funds to run a series of workshops during school holidays with focus on road safety and car maintenance.	High
25	St Clare's Catholic Community	\$1,500	Landscaping of playgroup area (includes fencing, seating and shade)	High
26	Camden Show Society	\$2,720	Funds to upgrade portable grandstands	High
29	Mount Annan Swimming Club	\$2,196	Funds to purchase timing equipment and computer program to manage statistics for swim meets.	High
Total amount of funds requested:				\$24,724

Resource Implication:

Council’s budget allocation for the Community Financial Assistance Program for 2002/2003 is **\$13,050**. If all applications ranked as ‘High’ are funded the total cost will reach **\$24,724**.

Council provides limited funds under the Community Financial Assistance Program, given the quality of these applications and overall benefits to the community it is proposed to allocate the difference of **\$11,674** from Council’s Community Support Pool. The development of a Draft Financial Assistance Policy over the past 12 months has resulted in the Council's Community Support Pool budget allocation remaining relatively unspent at this time. The Community Support Pool is used to fund “one-off” requests and has not been fully expended.

Communication Strategy

It is proposed that successful applicants be presented with their grants at an event hosted by the Mayor. This would be a valuable opportunity for Councillors to meet representatives from the community groups that have applied and to hear first hand about the programs funded. As part of this event it is also proposed that recipients of grants in 2001/2002 be invited

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to promote feedback and showcase the projects receiving Council support.

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the outcome and provided with suggestions for alternate sources of funding.

Conclusion:

Council's Community Financial Assistance Program acts as an important capacity building strategy for the Camden Community. Projects recommended for funding will provide a wide variety range of positive projects and outcomes for the Camden community.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council provide funds under the Council's Financial Assistance Program to the sixteen (16) applications that have been given a 'high' ranking.
- (ii) Council approve allocation of an additional \$11,674 out of the Community Support Program budget (job no: 1925.201) to meet the shortfall.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Patterson that:

- (i) *Council provide funds under the Council's Financial Assistance Program to the sixteen (16) applications that have been given a 'high' ranking.*
- (ii) *Council approve allocation of an additional \$11,674 out of the Community Support Program budget (job no: 1925.201) to meet the shortfall.*
- (iii) *Council approve the additional allocation of \$1,000 in support of the application made by Quota International of Camden Inc on behalf of the Antique Fair Committee.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**6. National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance
Committee (NAIDOC) Week 6-13 July 2003**

(File No. TC/1640) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

This report is to inform Council of activities planned for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week (July 6-13) which aims to develop greater relations and communication between Council and the indigenous members of the Camden community.

Background

At the 2001 census, 525 residents or 1.2% of the Camden Local Government Area (LGA) stated that they were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI). This represents a 37% increase since the 1996 census.

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) Week is held annually to celebrate and recognise indigenous people and their heritage, and to bring issues of concern to the attention of Governments and the community as a whole. The activities and events of NAIDOC week aim to demonstrate the ideal of an inclusive but diverse nation.

Last year, during NAIDOC Week Council hosted a flag-raising ceremony and civic reception and exhibited Aboriginal artworks in Council's Customer Service Foyer at Camden.

Discussion

The following activities are planned for NAIDOC Week 2003:

- Flag raising ceremony;
- Indigenous art workshops – Narellan Library; and
- Indigenous Stories & Craft (Camden & Narellan Library)

A full program of activities is attached in **Tabled Document "BPA 7"**.

Consultation

This proposal has been discussed with the Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Macarthur region, who is very interested in being part of this process. She indicated that there are a number of ATSI people in the Camden area who are keen to develop links with Council, and be consulted on ATSI issues in the community.

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Policy Implications

As previously mentioned, Council has no formal policies or statements in regard to indigenous issues. This proposal has the potential for the future development of policies and statements, in conjunction with the ATSI community members.

The development of working links with the ATSI community will also provide greater opportunity for Council to work in partnership on such projects as the revision and updating of the Community Plan.

Communications Strategy

It is proposed that invitations will be issued to the local ATSI community through the contacts of the Macarthur Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

In addition the event will be advertised through the local press. A press release to promote the event will be issued.

Conclusion

NAIDOC Week is a national event to celebrate and recognise indigenous people and their heritage, and to bring issues of concern to the attention of Governments and the community as a whole.

The NAIDOC week program of event(s) will bring Council and the local ATSI community together to begin a process of developing greater links and communication, and the cooperative development of strategies to see that this achieved more fully in the future.

Recommended: That Council adopt the planned activities for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee week.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that Council adopt the planned activities for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee week.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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7. Draft Camden Council Community Financial Assistance Policy

(File 4694) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose

This report advises Council of the comments received during the public exhibition period of the draft Community Financial Assistance Policy.

Background

Council at its meeting held on Tuesday 10 June resolved that “further consideration of the report be deferred until the next meeting to enable the printing and circulation to Councillors of the points to Councillor Campbell’s motion.”

Option 1: Original Recommendation

The original recommendation put to Council on the 10th June 2003: That

- (i) Council adopt the draft Community Financial Assistance Policy and commence implementation in the 2003/2004 financial year;*
- (ii) Council nominate which option it wishes to implement in relation to the future funding of the Camden Art Prize;*
- (iii) Council continue to fund the Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA) 355 Community Management Committee as a Committee of Council; and advise CIFA that they are not eligible as a Committee of Council to seek additional funding through the Community Financial Assistance Program; and*
- (iv) Council allocate \$5000 to establish an emergency relief fund as outlined in the draft Community Financial Assistance Policy.*

Tabled Document “BPA 8” provides the policy based on Option 1.

Option 2: Revised Recommendation as put by Councillor Campbell at the Meeting of 10 June 2003

Councillor Campbell moved an alternate recommendation at the meeting held on 10th June 2003 stating that:

That Council adopt the Draft Community Financial Assistance Policy when the following amendments are incorporated into the policy:

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- (i) A category be established under the Cultural Development and the Arts category for designated cultural groups which provides a basic amount of recurrent funding for their annual use;*
- (ii) The designated Cultural Development and the Arts category include the groups previously listed as the groups receiving line items amounts in the Council's Annual Budget.*
- (iii) The designated groups within the Cultural Development and the Arts category for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council outlining their membership, functions attended, contribution to the community and detailing how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (iv) The designated groups within the Cultural Development and the Arts category be eligible to make submissions for additional funding through the Community Financial Assistance Policy;*
- (v) The Camden Art Prize Committee continue to receive its annual subsidy for Civic Centre Hire subject to the Committee's willingness to negotiate a reduction in the duration of the hire;*
- (vi) In the Sport and Recreation category, the South Western Academy of Sport be included to receive an ongoing annual grant but not be eligible to make a submission for additional funding and for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council detailing their membership, activities undertaken, contribution to the community and outline how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (vii) Under the Community Development category, the Camden Main Street Committee receive an ongoing annual grant for the Camden Light Up Festival and for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council outlining how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (viii) The Community Financial Assistance Policy overall reflects yearly funding lines with yearly submissions in the \$251 - \$5,000 category; and*
- (ix) Submissions to Council be accepted at any time from groups who consider they may be entitled to be designated a Cultural Group for an annual recurrent funding amount.*

Tabled Document "BPA 9" provides the policy based on Option 2.

This motion was on being put was lost.

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Council subsequently resolved that “further consideration of the report be deferred until the next meeting to enable the printing and circulation to Councillors of the points to Councillor Campbell’s motion.”

Previous Report

Council at its meeting held in December 2001 requested a policy to guide the provision of sponsorship and donations to groups. This was in response to concern over a lack of clear guidelines to assist Council in the allocation of funds.

In the course of developing a sponsorship and donations policy it became apparent that a more strategic and holistic approach to the provision of funds was required. As a result a draft Community Financial Assistance Policy was developed which aims to cover all financial assistance provided by Council to community groups and organisations.

Councillors participated in two separate workshops on 14 October, 2002 and 2 December, 2002, where the key features of the proposed policy were discussed and comments suggested.

Key features of the policy are outlined below. **(see Tabled Documents “BPA 8 & 9” for further details)**

1. Establishment of a special fund to enable Council to respond to emergency relief requests such as bushfire or flood. Allocation of this pool of funding would be at the discretion of the Mayor. It is proposed that \$5,000 be allocated for this purpose.
2. All types of financial assistance offered by Council to community organisations will be covered by the policy, with no distinction between sponsorship, subsidy, grants and donations (including Civic Centre fee relief);
3. Clear procedures and guidelines to support the policy, including clear criteria for eligibility will relate directly to the needs identified in the Community Plan and emerging needs in the community and accountability requirements;
4. Two funding rounds will be held, with applications received in March and September of each year;
5. Categories for financial assistance are established and documented;
6. Funding is available for community cultural development, sport & recreation and community development projects;

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7. The policy will replace the existing policy 2.1.18 Community Support Policy –Civic Centre fee relief;
8. A merit based application system that is widely advertised and available to all community groups to access; and
9. Introduction of an allocation of \$5,000 for funding requests of less than \$250 to be assessed against a clear criteria, with approval delegated to a panel consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager.
10. Council's Gifted Persons Policy (2.1.1) will continue to operate in tandem with the new policy - funding will be allocated from Pool 2 (\$250 and under).

Council at its meeting held on 28 January, 2003 *resolved that:*

- (i) Council place the draft '**Camden Council Community Financial Assistance Policy**' and supporting documents on public exhibition for a period of 2 months and that all groups currently receiving assistance will be asked to comment.
- (ii) Council reserve its decision on funding for any individual organisations until all public submissions are received and reported back to Council.

Discussion

1. Public Exhibition Period

The draft Community Financial Assistance Policy was placed on public exhibition from 17 February to 14 April 2003.

The public exhibition period was advertised through the local newspaper (Camden-Wollondilly Advertiser). All groups and organisations listed in Council's Community Directory mailing list were sent information and invited to the community information sessions scheduled during the public exhibition period. Information on the draft policy was also distributed via the:

- Macarthur Community Forum's newsletter 'Forum Flash' (peak body for community organisations in the Macarthur area);
- Community noticeboards;
- Camden Council Customer Service Desks - Narellan and Camden;
- Camden and Narellan Libraries;
- Cobbitty General Store, 357 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty;
- Leppington Post Office and Newsagency, 1469 Camden Valley Way, Leppington; and

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- Catherine Field Newsagency and General Store, 169 Catherine Field Road, Catherine Field.

Two community information sessions were held during the consultation period to explain the draft policy and assist groups make informed submissions. These were held on:

- 6pm, Tuesday 25 February, 2003, The Art Gallery, Camden Civic Centre; and
- 10am, Wednesday 12 March, 2003 at The Undercroft, Camden Civic Centre.

In addition, meetings were held with representatives from organisations that are currently receiving recurrent funding in the form of subsidies. These groups included:

- Camden International Friendship Association – Section 355 Committee;
- Camden Art Prize Committee;
- Ingleburn RSL Club and Campbelltown Community Pipes and Drums;
- Campbelltown-Camden District Band;
- South West Sydney Academy of Sport; and
- Camden Main Street Committee.

These meetings provided an informal opportunity to discuss the potential impact of the draft policy and any specific issues or concerns of the individual organisations.

Representatives from Camden Rugby Big Band were contacted and offered an opportunity to meet with Council Officers. This offer was not acted upon, although a written submission was received from the Band.

2. Summary of comments received during the public exhibition period

Following the public exhibition period a total of twenty-one responses were received, one individual submitted more than once during the exhibition period, - this submission has been counted as one response.

Copies of submissions received have been circulated to Councillors separately.

Comments received fell into two main categories:

1. General comments on the policy structure, direction, purpose etc; and
2. Comments on the potential impact of the draft policy on specific organisations.

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A summary of submissions received by Council during the public exhibition period are provided in **Tabled Document “BPA 10”**.

1. General Comments on the policy structure, direction, purpose etc.

A number of suggestions were offered. These included:

- (In relation to the \$250 and under pool) Financial assistance of \$250 is too low - \$500 was suggested as more appropriate.
- The policy is one-off project focussed and does not cater for on-going costs incurred by groups.
- Annual/bi-annual submission are would be time-consuming and inefficient way to assist worthy groups.
- Policy should use numerals or letters rather than bullets – to assist in identifying them.
- Planning takes place 12 months in advance - Six-monthly planning would make this difficult.
- Category for long term funding/annual funding should be established.
- Funding levels should be increased.
- Emergency Relief Fund – amount should be allocated each year into the fund and accumulate until required.

2. Comments on the potential impact of the draft policy on specific organisations

Generally organisations agreed with the principles of the draft policy in providing fair and equitable access to Council funds. However, many groups felt that the draft policy should not apply to their particular organisation.

These comments have been grouped by organisation.

(i) Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA)

CIFA felt that its policies and practices were consistent with the aims of the draft policy. In the group’s submission to Council it stated that due to the particular circumstances of the group and the fact that it is established as a 355 Committee of Council it should be considered as separate from the policy and its current subsidy be made available to the group annually.

CIFA considers that as Council is a signatory to the friendship agreement with Shonan Town it has a continuing obligation to support the programs and activities associated with this agreement.

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(ii) Camden Art Prize Committee

At present the Camden Art Prize receives approximately \$15,000 per annum in the form of a subsidy which is paid to the committee and is based on the hire fees for the use of the Camden Civic Centre.

In their submission, the Camden Art Prize Committee felt that it was inappropriate for the Committee to be included within the parameters of the draft policy, as the amount currently received from Council was outside the maximum amount permissible in the draft policy, that is a maximum of \$5000 per funding round.

The Committee's submission stated that the amount received each year should be sufficient to cover hire of the Civic Centre, but that the Committee were willing to work towards minimising the period required to set up and stage the exhibition.

This option was suggested by Council Officers at meetings with the Art Prize Committee during the public exhibition period.

The Committee also felt that the Art Prize offered significant value to the community as an ongoing cultural activity and provides an ongoing valuable art collection to Council.

The Committee raised concerns about their ability to continue in its present form without guaranteed financial support from Council.

(iii) Ingleburn RSL Club & Campbelltown Community Pipes and Drums

No formal submission was received from this organisation, however a Council officer met with two members of the organisation, and discussed the draft policy and its implications for the group.

The group indicated that that they were comfortable with the draft policy and application process.

(iv) Campbelltown-Camden District Band

Band members submitted individual submissions on the draft policy. A total of 12 submissions were received, nine were from band members and three from the office bearers.

The submissions consistently raised the following issues and concerns. That the:

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- Band has always been accountable for funding received and displays Council logo at events;
- Draft policy will not offer continuity of funding and that the Band would face difficulty in planning in advance;
- Policy does not cater for 'ongoing costs' incurred by the organisation;
- Band represents Camden at local, regional, state and international events;
- Band provides low cost, quality training for band members;
- Band requires regular income to continue good work and encourage excellence;
- Band consists of a number of dedicated volunteers, who give up their time on a regular basis to teach younger members and perform at community events; and
- Value to Council for performances over the year outweighs the subsidy received annually.

The Campbelltown-Camden District Band stated that the policy itself is '*excellent*', but that the activities of the Band are not catered for within the draft policy. The Band has requested that Council reconsider inclusion of the District Band within the draft policy and continue to support the organisation by way of an annual subsidy.

(v) South West Sydney Academy of Sport (SWSAS)

Council Officers met with the Executive Officer of SWSAS during the public exhibition period and discussed the draft policy and the potential implications for the organisation.

During discussions, the Executive Officer raised that financial assistance to SWSAS (\$5,000 per annum) should not be considered as part of the draft policy, as the contribution was in-line with support from other regional Councils, and is similar to contributions that Council currently makes to the members of other organisations, such as the Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC).

No formal submission was received from the organisation.

(vi) Camden Main Street Association

Council officers met with representatives from the Camden Main Street Association (CMSA) to discuss the draft policy and its implications for the Association.

A submission was received from the President of the Association outlining their concerns. The Association stated that they appreciated the need to supervise and document the provision of monies to organisations, however they voiced some concerns, which included that the:

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- CMSA consists of a group of volunteers that represent the traders of Camden Central Business District.
- CMSA work conjunction with the Camden Chamber of Commerce for many years to organise the Christmas festival and that last year the budget for this exceeded the \$5,000 subsidy received from Council; and
- Christmas festival requires forward planning and therefore the Association would need to know in advance if funding was available, or the event would need to be cancelled.

(vii) Camden Rugby Big Band (CRBB)

A submission was received from the CRBB Bandmaster, which outlined the Band's position with regard to the draft policy. This included that the:

- Band appreciated the benefit of having a more strategic and holistic approach to the provision of funds to community groups;
- CRBB plan twelve months in advance and would find six monthly applications 'unsettling' as there is no guarantee that funding would be granted; and
- Band members are all volunteers and number over 100 members.

The CRBB suggested that Council consider a category for long-term or annual funding within the draft financial assistance policy.

Additional Submissions Received:

Council also received a number of submissions from organisations and individuals that do not currently receive any ongoing financial assistance from Council. These submissions generally supported the draft policy and offered further comment. Submissions were received from:

- Camden Society of Artists;
- Vinnies Youth Housing;
- Camden Antique Fair Committee;
- Camden Reds Baseball Club;
- Camden Seniors Events 355 Committee; and
- Dr Liz Kernohan.

Comments made are summarised below: (a detailed summary of comments is provided in **Tabled Document "BPA 10"**).

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(i) Camden Society of Artists

This group stated that the policy was 'very acceptable' and suggested that the \$250 and under category was very low and should be raised to \$500 (which is 10% of the maximum amount available under the draft policy.)

(ii) Vinnies Youth Housing

This organisation stated that the policy appeared to be:

'a clear, comprehensive and fair process for applicants'

(iii) Camden Antique Fair Committee

The above group generally supported the need for a comprehensive financial assistance policy, but requested that the policy be reviewed to allow the Antique Fair access to Civic Centre Fee relief.

The draft financial assistance policy would encompass the existing Civic Centre Fee Relief policy. Under the current 'Civic Centre fee relief policy' groups cannot apply for Civic Centre fee relief if they are charging an entry fee to the event.

Under the proposed policy all non-profit community groups would be eligible to apply for funding to assist with the hire costs of venues as part of a pre-determined program of events or project.

(iv) Camden Reds Baseball Club

This group felt that the policy was 'standard' and offered constructive feedback on the use of numerals rather than bullet points. They also, thanked Council for asking their opinion.

(v) Camden Seniors Events 355 Committee

The above Committee suggested that a system that provided one funding allocation per annum in excess of \$5000 would be preferable.

(vi) Dr Liz Kernohan

Dr Kernohan, provided the only response received by an individual during the exhibition period.

The main points contained in the submission included that:

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- The proposed policy is unacceptable due to the need for one-off grants for particular activities or pieces of equipment;
- The policy denies recurrent funding which is unsuitable for the 7 groups currently receiving subsidies from Council;
- The Camden Art Prize (CAP) subsidy is a book entry which covers the cost of hire of the Civic Centre for the duration of the exhibition;
- Camden International Friendship Association, Camden Art Prize, South West Sydney Academy of Sport & Camden Rugby Big Band be considered as separate entities entitled to uncapped recurrent funding;
- Any change to annual subsidy to be decided at Council meeting 12 months in advance;
- Campbelltown-Camden District Band & Camden Rugby Big Band be guaranteed their existing funding and special assistance given when the Civic Centre is used for community concerts; and
- Ingleburn RSL Pipes & Drums to be dealt with under policy (does not use Civic Centre except for massed band concert).

Emergency Relief Fund

One of the key features of the Draft Community Financial Assistance Policy is the establishment of a special fund to enable council to respond to emergency relief requests such as bushfire or flood. Allocation of this pool would be at the discretion of the Mayor. It is proposed that \$5,000 be allocated for this purpose as an addition to the proposed community support pool.

Assessment

The intention of the draft Community Financial Assistance Policy is to create a more strategic and holistic approach to the provision of funds to community organisations and groups. The draft policy proposes a more streamlined application process, greater accountability for groups who receive funding and stronger links between projects funded and community needs.

Whilst it is recognised that the non-recurrent nature of the grants would cause some uncertainty to the groups that have traditionally received funding, it would increase the funds available to other groups in the area.

While Council has long supported a number of community groups within the Camden community it should be noted that Council is not a funding body. There are a number of alternative sources of funding such as MACAAS (Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme), CDSE (Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme), other State and Federal grants,

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as well as a number of philanthropic trusts and private companies who donate funding to community organisations and groups.

Council needs to ensure that the allocation of public funds is administered in a fair and equitable manner. Currently there are approximately two hundred and ten non-profit organisations in the Camden Local Government area that are eligible to apply for funds and over time this will continue to grow.

Council has a role to support Community organisations so that they can provide opportunities to our citizens, however, Council also has a role to assist organisations to become self sufficient so that Council resources can be used to assist other groups as needs arise.

If Council chooses to support individual organisations on an ongoing basis, then it needs a clear rationale and the ability to review arrangements over time to ensure that funds are directed to where they are of greatest benefit to the overall community.

Proposal

The following proposal for the implementation of the draft policy is presented for Council's consideration.

- (i) Groups currently receiving recurrent funding \$5,000 and under

These groups would be able to apply for the same or greater level of funds they currently receive. However, under the policy their application would be assessed against identified priorities and on merit against other applications received.

This includes the:

- Ingleburn RSL Club and Campbelltown Community Pipes and Drums;
- Campbelltown-Camden District Band;
- Camden Rugby Big Band;
- South West Sydney Academy of Sport; and
- Camden Main Street Committee.

To assist these groups it is proposed that they be provided with their annual subsidy in the 2003/2004 financial year and that they complete an application form and are subject to the same accountability requirements as successful applicants under the '*Community Financial Assistance Program*' CFAP. However,

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these groups would need to apply through the CFAP there after.

(ii) CIFA as a 355 Management Committees

CIFA's request to maintain their funding is consistent with Council's treatment of other 355 Committees. That is, all 355 committees receive an annual amount to support their activities, for example, maintenance of a facility or funding of events/activities.

It is therefore reasonable that the Committee retain its contribution from Council. However, it should be recognised that the contribution is reviewed each year in the context of Council's budget development, as with other Council activities.

As an extension of Council, CIFA would not be eligible for further financial assistance under the Community Financial Assistance Program.

(iii) Camden Art Prize Committee

The Art Prize Committee is the only organisation whose current annual subsidy exceeds the maximum amount allowable, that is \$5,000, under the draft policy.

The Camden Art Prize Committee is a valued group and has contributed enormously to the cultural richness of Camden for the past twenty-nine years. However, there are other cultural organisations that with Council's support could contribute equally to the local community.

The Committee has received their subsidy of \$15,003 as allocated in the 2002/2003 budget to assist with the Camden Art Prize held in May 2003. The Committee has expressed a willingness to work towards minimising the period required to host the event. This would help to reduce the cost to the group of hiring the Civic Centre, minimise lost revenue for Council and increase opportunities for other users to utilise the Civic Centre.

The Camden Art Prize Committee contribute greatly to the cultural life of the local community and this contribution should be recognised. However, Council also needs to ensure that any financial assistance that is provided is done so in a fair and equitable manner. Given the length of time and the substantial subsidy that the Council has provided, any changes to the current situation will require an appropriate transition arrangement to be implemented.

Three options are therefore put forward to Council for their consideration.

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- Option 1:** The Art Prize Committee continues to receive its annual subsidy fixed at \$15,000 per annum.
- Option 2:** The Art Prize Committee is to apply under the revised policy effective from 2003/2004
- Option 3:** The Art Prize Committee is provided with a one year transition period to assist the move to the new policy. A \$10,000 subsidy is paid to the Committee for the 2003/2004 financial year, with the Committee submitting an application and meeting all accountability requirements. In 2004/2005 the Committee would apply for funds through the Community Financial Assistance Policy.

Council officers will also work with the Camden Art Prize Committee to identify other sources of funding such as the Ministry for the Arts. That will assist the committee in the delivery of the Art Prize.

Conclusion

The draft Community Financial Assistance Policy outlines a number of fundamental changes to the way Council distributes funding to community groups and organisations within the Camden Local Government Area. The draft policy offers Council the opportunity to put in place a program is strategic in its thinking and holistic in its approach.

It is recognised that the proposed changes will have a particular impact on groups that have been receiving annual subsidies for a number of years. These groups undoubtedly contribute enormously to the cultural fabric of Camden, and their commitment and dedication to the provision of quality outcomes remains unquestioned. This view however needs to be balanced with the demand placed on Council to provide fair and equitable access to available funds, and provide opportunities for all community groups and organisations to benefit from Council's support.

The Community Financial Assistance Policy proposes a larger pool of funds that will allow Council to allocate funds according to changing community needs and priorities. The draft policy also provides a level of flexibility, rather than being 'locked in' to a series of annual subsidies; allows for greater recognition of Council support and ensures Council is accountable and best placed to respond to the community.

Recommended: That Council determine a Community Financial Assistance Policy.

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MOTION

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Batros that

- (i) A category be established under the Cultural Development and the Arts category for designated cultural groups which provides a basic amount of recurrent funding for their annual use;*
- (ii) The designated Cultural Development and the Arts category include the groups previously listed as the groups receiving line items amounts in the Council's Annual Budget.*
- (iii) The designated groups within the Cultural Development and the Arts category for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council outlining their membership, functions attended, contribution to the community and detailing how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (iv) The designated groups within the Cultural Development and the Arts category be eligible to make submissions for additional funding through the Community Financial Assistance Policy;*
- (v) The Camden Art Prize Committee continue to receive its annual subsidy for Civic Centre Hire subject to the Committee's willingness to negotiate a reduction in the duration of the hire;*
- (vi) In the Sport and Recreation category, the South Western Academy of Sport be included to receive an ongoing annual grant but not be eligible to make a submission for additional funding and for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council detailing their membership, activities undertaken, contribution to the community and outline how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (vii) Under the Community Development category, the Camden Main Street Committee receive an ongoing annual grant for the Camden Light Up Festival and for the purposes of accountability be required to provide an annual statement to Council outlining how the funding was expended during the year;*
- (viii) The Community Financial Assistance Policy overall reflects yearly funding lines with yearly submissions in the \$251 - \$5,000 category; and*
- (ix) Submissions to Council be accepted at any time from groups who consider they may be entitled to be designated a Cultural Group for an annual recurrent funding amount.*
- (x) Council continue to fund the Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA) 355 Community Management Committee as a Committee of Council; and advise CIFA that they are not eligible as a Committee of*

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- Council to seek additional funding through the
Community Financial Assistance Program; and*
(xi) *Council allocate \$5000 to establish an emergency relief
fund as outlined in the draft Community Financial
Assistance Policy.*

073/03

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

*(Cr Anderson, Cr Corrigan, Cr Patterson and Cr McFadden voted
against the Motion).*

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therefore considered acceptable. The builder is known to Council and the quality of work is acceptable. Despite the low response rate, the process in calling for tenders has been followed and therefore complies with the provisions of the Local Government Act tendering requirements.

Sufficient funds have been made in the Waste Management Budget for the year 2002/03 for the additions.

Recommended: That

- (i) The tender submitted by Tri Steel Topbook Pty Ltd be accepted for the construction of a steelclad shed and truck washing bay at Council's waste depot with the total price being \$109,312 (including GST); and
- (ii) The seal of Council be affixed to any relevant documents.

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

- (i) *The tender submitted by Tri Steel Topbook Pty Ltd be accepted for the construction of a steelclad shed and truck washing bay at Council's waste depot with the total price being \$109,312 (including GST); and*
- (ii) *The seal of Council be affixed to any relevant documents.*

074/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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LATE ITEM – Notice of Business/Matter of Urgency

(Clause 13 – Code of Meeting Practice)

MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that the Late Item be dealt with at this meeting as a matter of urgency

075/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

9. Loan Borrowings 2002/2003

(TC/2685) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Council's 2002/2003 Budget, when adopted, made provisions of loan income of \$2,000,000 to be utilised for infrastructure time assets.

Council's Budget Review indicated a surplus of funds in the amount of \$467,444 for the financial year 2002/2003 and resolved to reduce loan borrowings from \$2,000,000 to \$1,530,000.

The National Bank has offered to advance Council loan funds of \$1,530,000 for the 2002/2003 financial year. The term of the offer is on a ten (10) year repayment basis at an interest rate of 5.226%.

Approval has been received from the Department of Local Government for the loan and the debit servicing cost of the loan has been provided in the current 2002/2003 adopted Budget and future years Budgets.

Recommended: That

- (i) *The offer of loan funds of \$1,530,000 from the National Bank for a period of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 5.226% 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 Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that

- (i) *The offer of loan funds of \$1,530,000 from the National Bank for a period of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 5.226% per annum be accepted.*
- (ii) *The seal of Council be authorised to be affixed to the necessary security documents.*

076/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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Delegated Committees

Resources and Services Committee – Held on 12th May, 2003 -
Item 5 part (iv)

(iv) *Council staff prepare a report on the financial implications of approaching the Minister of Local Government to seek approval to borrow \$2,000,000.00 for the construction of a 2 deck carpark in the Camden CBD. The report should also detail the financial implication to this year's Budget, investigate suitable locations and consider the changes to Camden CBD especially changes on the St Paul's site.*

The above recommendation is submitted for confirmation following deferment from the Council Meeting of 26th May, 2003 in order to seek clarification of the wording. The matter has now been clarified following discussions between the Councillor Patterson and the General Manager.

Development Committee – Held 26 May, 2003

Development Committee - Held 10 June, 2003

Resources & Services Committee – Held 10 June, 2003

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that Item 5 part (iv) of the Minutes of the Resources & Services Committee of the 12 May, 2003, Minutes of the Development Committee 26 May, 2003, Minutes of the Development Committee 10 June, 2003 and the Minutes of the Resources & Services Committee of the 10 June, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

077/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

Other Committees

Traffic Committee – Held 10 June, 2003

(Cr Campbell declared a pecuniary interest relating to Item 1 of the Traffic Committee Minutes held on 10 June, 2003, being a part owner of a business in Argyle Street, and the business subject of the report, took no part in discussion or voting on this matter and left the Chamber – the time being 10.25pm).

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MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Senise that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee of the 10 June, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted with the exception of Item 1 to be referred back to the Traffic Committee for further discussions with Merchants to resolve the issues.

078/03

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

(Cr Campbell returned to the Chamber - the time being 10.38pm).

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NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Councillor Geoff Corrigan, give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council meeting of 23 June 2003.

“That the order of business at Council meetings be amended so that Declarations of Interest – Pecuniary or Other be made after apologies and before any public address”.

Signed: Geoff Corrigan

Note: This is common practice at all neighbouring Councils and I attach copies of Penrith and Wollondilly’s Order of Business for Councillors information (**Tabled Document “BPA 12”**). This simple process will allow the Mayor to be fully aware when someone has to leave the Chamber and will allow for a smoother flow of business.

The Notice of Motion was formally

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Patterson that the order of business at Council meetings be amended so that Declarations of Interest – Pecuniary or Other be made after apologies and before any public address.

079/03

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

(Cr Fekete voted against the Motion).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Advertising Contract

(TC/2867)

Cr Corrigan requested to be advised when the contract for Council advertising in the local press be tendered again.

The Director Governance & Outcomes advised the current contract has expired and the tender will be advertised as soon as possible.

Queen’s Birthday Honours List

(TC/4307)

Cr Corrigan asked has the Mayor written and congratulated Camden residents who were recently honoured in the Queen’s Birthday lists. Honoured being John Southwell and Sean Roach.

The Mayor stated this has not been completed at this stage.

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Camden Taxi Contract

(TC/4099)

Cr Corrigan wished to be advised at the progress by the Department of Transport in relation to the new Taxi contracts for Camden.

The Director Works & Services stated Council has written to the Department requesting the issue of new independent plates for Camden and is not aware, at this stage of a response.

Netball Courts – Kirkham Park

(PF1300.190)

Cr Corrigan drew attention to the recent written complaints concerning the line marking and general condition of the courts. Could Councillors be bought up-to-date.

The Director Works & Services advised the material used on the courts has moved due to the extreme weather conditions. The drain was replaced approximately two years ago. Council has received a letter from the users. A response has been sent on the 10th June, 2003 advising costs to repair the court surface. Linemarking is undertaken by the various sports groups. Sport and Recreation grants are available for improvements to these facilities.

Camden Band Festival

Cr Campbell drew attention to the 6th Camden Band Festival which was held last Friday at the Camden Civic Centre and was an outstanding success. Three local community bands appeared together with a band from the Appleton East High School in the United States. Several local organisers are to be congratulated for their involvement.

Onslow Park

(PF1500.100)

Cr Winn requested to be advised of the criteria for booking Onslow Park at Easter 2004.

The Director Works & Services stated any association should provide a written application setting out the dates and subject to availability Onslow Park can be booked.

Car Park – Argyle Living

(TC/3213)

Cr Winn requested Council to clean up the car park behind the Argyle Living Department Store.

The Director Works & Services stated the matter will be investigated and will be attended to.

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Council Logo

(TC/3281)

Cr Winn requested the Council coat of arms remain on the business paper without the logo. Has the logo been approved to be on the business paper.

The General Manager stated the logo had not been approved. The coat of arms does appear on the business paper, however a report will be submitted to Council on the matter.

Kings Bush Regeneration

(PF3150.190/1)

Cr Batros drew Councils attention to the excellent work being carried out in the Kings Bush area relating to removal of noxious weeds and the general regeneration of the area. In addition, the recent placing of table and chairs at Belgenny Oval have been well done together with the concrete path which assists people with disabilities. Could the commendation be passed onto Council staff.

The Director Works & Services stated Councils Parks & Gardens staff will be advised accordingly.

Council Car Park

(TC/3213)

Cr Batros drew attention to the resolution in Item 1 concerning the construction of a car park and the contrary resolution in Item 2 with no further Motion moved regarding projection of funds. What is the next step in the process.

The Director Governance & Outcomes stated a revised copy of the Capital Works Program for the next five (5) years will be provided to Councillors.

Kirkham Park – User Meeting

(PF1300.190)

Cr Batros suggested it would be appropriate to have a further meeting of the users of Kirkham Park to discuss new issues. The last meeting was held quite a length of time ago. Could the Netball Association be included in such a meeting.

The Director Works & Services stated it has been some time since the last meeting, but no longer than 1 year. A further meeting will be organised.

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 23 JUNE, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN – 8.00PM**

Catherine Field Community Hall

(PF1475.680/2)

Cr Fekete requested the large African Olive tree growing in front of the Catherine Field Community Hall be inspected and removed.

The Director Works & Services stated the matter will be investigated.

Footpath – Currans Hill Area

(TC/841)

Cr McFadden referred to a previous Question Without Notice requesting investigation of paths in Currans Hill which do not lead anywhere. The map supplied to Cr McFadden was returned to Council with a further request that the destination of footpaths in the Currans Hill be investigated and a report provided.

Disabled Parking – Harrington Park Public School

(PF6840.700)

Cr Senise wished to be updated on the disabled parking situation outside Harrington Park Public School.

The Manager Engineering advised that the matter will be referred to the Traffic Committee for further investigation.

Council Website

(TC/4264)

Cr Senise drew attention to Council's website and the availability of the current Minutes and noted the archive Minutes would take some time to be updated. Cr Senise drew Councillors attention to the availability of Minutes from Councils staff on CD.

The Meeting closed at 11.07pm