

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 24 MARCH, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN - 8.00PM**

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

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

Apologies: An apology was received from Cr Fekete and Cr Senise from this meeting.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that leave of absence be granted to Cr Fekete and Cr Senise from this meeting.

030/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Helen McDowell addressed the Council in relation to Item 7.
Hamish Wilson addressed the Council in relation to Item 5.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public Questions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Anderson that confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

031/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

MAYORAL MINUTE - Resignation as Mayor of Camden

I would like to advise Councillors and the people of Camden that following my election as the State Member for the electorate of Camden I will be resigning as the Mayor of Camden at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council, that is on 28 April, 2003.

I do not believe it is appropriate for me to continue as Mayor while at the same time taking on my new role as an elected representative at the State level.

I have asked the General Manager to take the necessary steps for a Mayoral election to be held at that meeting.

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In the meantime I will continue to carry out all Mayoral obligations and honour the commitments which have been made.

Although I am resigning as Mayor, I will remain a Councillor and continue to serve the people of Camden in that capacity until the Council elections are held in September 2003. I will not be seeking re-election as a Councillor at that time.

MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr McFadden that the information be noted.

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1. Sale of Two Waste Management Collection Vehicles
(File TC 4685) (Director, Development & Environment Division)

Purpose of Report

To advise Council of submissions for the sale of two (2) waste management collection vehicles and to recommend awarding of the sale.

Background

Council recently called for tenders for the sale of 2 waste management collection vehicles previously utilised as part of Council's fleet of waste management vehicles. Waste management vehicles are replaced on a predetermined schedule and both of these vehicles have now been replaced and are therefore surplus to the needs of the service.

Both vehicles are 1997 model International Acco 2350G, with 250Hp, Alison automatic gearboxes, dual control and GVM 24 Tonne. Each has a 22m³ MacDonald Johnston side loader body.

Main Report

At the close of tender, Council received 3 complying submissions and 2 non-complying submissions (late arrival).

Company	Address	Tendered Price (for both vehicles) (incl. GST)
Fowels Auction Group*	25-29 Greenhills Ave Moorebank NSW 2170	\$120 000 - \$130 000 (Auction Estimate)
Wagga Trucks	7 Blaxland Road Wagga Wagga NSW 2650	\$139 589
W&P Truck and Machinery Sales	PO Box 450 Somerton VIC 3062	\$143 222
SITA Environmental Solutions	PO Box 436 Campbelltown NSW 2560	\$154 000
MacDonald Machinery Company Pty Ltd *	18 Hilton St Dandenong VIC 3175	\$134 750

** Non-conforming submission*

With the highest tendered price of \$154,000, SITA Environmental Solutions are the preferred tenderer for the sale of both waste management collection vehicles.

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Conclusion

Having assessed all complying submissions, it is recommended that the tender be awarded to SITA Environmental Solutions.

Recommended: That Council accept the tender submitted by SITA Environmental Solutions for the sale of two (2) waste management collection vehicles (Model: International Acco 2350G 22m³) with the total price being \$154,000 (including GST).

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Winn that Council accept the tender submitted by SITA Environmental Solutions for the sale of two (2) waste management collection vehicles (Model: International Acco 2350G 22m³) with the total price being \$154,000 (including GST).

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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2. Sydney Water Upgrade of Water Main in Argyle Street, Camden

(File 1947 and 3304) [Director Works and Services]

A meeting was held on Wednesday 5 March 2003 with members of Sydney Water, when their proposal to replace a water main on the southern side of Argyle Street between Murray Street and Hill Street, was discussed with Council officers.

The old 150mm diameter pipe was installed in 1928 and is to be replaced due to the number of breaks recorded by Sydney Water, that have occurred over the last few years.

Another main on the other side of Argyle Street, also laid in 1928, will not be replaced until the same level of problems are experienced.

Proposed Job

A new 150mm main will be laid within the footpath area, behind the kerblines. It will be connected to the existing main, pressure tested and chlorinated. Both mains will be in service for a short time. The service line connections to each property will be cut from the old main and installed to the new main, when all services have been connected, and when the old main has been disconnected, the restoration of the footpath paving will occur. The old main will remain beneath the footpath, will be decommissioned and capped off.

Sydney Water advises that work is anticipated to start in mid April (after the Camden Show); the job is programmed to take 8 to 10 weeks to complete. A trench, between 800mm to 1000mm deep will be excavated between the old water main and Integral cables behind the kerb. It will be 400mm wide, however the pavers will be removed (and replaced) over a greater width, to eliminate paver and trench movement. Concern was expressed by Council, about rotation of the kerblines due to these works.

All works will be undertaken by Sydney Water staff. All services will be located and known in advance of the work.

It is projected that about four lengths (22m) of pipe will be laid each day. The work site will be made good each evening and protection for the public will be installed.

Provision will be made for pedestrian activity between the works and the shop fronts, reducing the affect on abutting businesses. Access to all businesses will be maintained. As noted temporary restoration of the footpath will be arranged,

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until all service connections have been completed, at this time the pavers will be restored.

Environmental controls will be undertaken by Sydney Water. All excess material will be swept and cleaned up.

A full Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be required for the project. The TCP will be referred to Council's Traffic Engineer for assessment and consideration of the construction zone (e.g. 30m of parking will be required to be secluded each day); and to ensure pedestrian safety.

The public relations/consultation will be carried out by Sydney Water to determine the hours of operation of the job (possibly night work). Consultation will include:

Discussion with Camden Chamber of Commerce
"Face to face" meeting with shop and business occupants

Letters to shop and business occupants

Notice in local papers

All emergency service providers will be notified of the proposed work and the construction period.

Recommended: That

- (i) the information be noted.
- (ii) Council ensure that consultation has been undertaken between shop owners and Sydney Water.

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

- (i) *the information be noted.*
- (ii) *Council ensure that consultation has been undertaken between shop owners and Sydney Water.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**3. Belgenny Reserve Boat Launching Facility
Embellishment**

(File 3555) [Director Works and Services]

Background

In 1999, Council completed the construction of the boat launching facility at Belgenny Reserve, Camden with financial assistance from the Department of Land and Water Conservation. The works were carried out with a total project budget of \$68,000. The project was aimed at improving access to the Nepean River for the SES and other emergency services vessels.

In 2001, following further joint funding from Council and DLWC totalling \$27,800 Council successfully completed Stage 2 of the project, which comprised improvements to the carpark within Belgenny Reserve adjacent to the boat launching facility.

Financial Assistance

The Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Hon John Aquilina MP, has recently offered Council a further \$15,000 financial assistance towards the embellishment of the area surrounding the boat launching facility; with funding offered on a 1:1 basis.

Financial assistance is provided by the DLWC under the New South Wales Government's 2002/2003 Waterways Program. As identified within previous reports, the principal objectives of the program "*are to better manage our public waterways to ensure sustainability of their natural values and to improve the recreational amenity of the waterways and their foreshores*".

The proposed embellishment works totalling \$30,000 will be employed to construct a BBQ, shelter, facilities, picnic tables, bins and undertake additional landscaping. This will encourage utilisation of the adjacent river foreshores and reserves, as well as promote utilisation of the Nepean River Cycleway and Belgenny Reserve.

Recommended: That

- (i) The Department of Land and Water Conservation be advised that Council accepts the offer of \$15,000 financial assistance (1:1) under the 2002/2003 Waterways Program.
- (ii) An allocation of \$15,000 be made available from within the current budget to balance DLWC funding towards the improvement of carpark adjacent the Belgenny

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Reserve boat launching facility. (Source of funding:
A.8522.200)

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

- (i) The Department of Land and Water Conservation be advised that Council accepts the offer of \$15,000 financial assistance (1:1) under the 2002/2003 Waterways Program.*
- (ii) An allocation of \$15,000 be made available from within the current budget to balance DLWC funding towards the improvement of carpark adjacent the Belgenny Reserve boat launching facility. (Source of funding: A.8522.200)*

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4. Zone Service Level Agreement Between Camden Council and NSW Rural Fire Service
(File 584) [Director Works and Services]

Background

Subsequent to the transfer of Rural Fire Service staff to State Government employment on 1 July 2001, a District Service Level Agreement was developed and agreed to between Camden Council and the RFS.

The RFS has since embarked on a program to develop Zones across the State by the consolidation of numerous Districts, with staff resources being better utilised in the management of core streams of business management, operations, community safety, and learning and development.

Following a consultative process with RFS volunteers and Council staff, agreement was reached to support the Zoning process to incorporate the Districts of Campbelltown, Camden and Liverpool into a Zone. Both Campbelltown and Liverpool Councils have agreed to support the Zoning process.

Camden Council resolved on the 14th October 2002 to:

Formally support the zoning of the Camden Council Area of the Rural Fire Service (RS085/02)

To complete this process, and facilitate operations and management as a Zone, it is now necessary for the three Councils to agree on a Zone Service Level Agreement (SLA).

A Zone SLA has been developed for signature/adoption by the three Councils, based around the SLA which currently exists for each Council District.

Changes

Basically the current SLA has been expanded to cover the three Councils in the Zone. In all cases excepting the following the wording of the Camden Council document has been utilised in the new Zone agreement.

Zone Service Level Agreement

Page 3 – “Recitals” part C – confirms the agreement of the three Councils and the Commissioner to operate and manage the District as a Zone, giving effect to the Zone Service Level Agreement.

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Page 5 – “Liaison Committee” part 4.1 – Identifies participants of an expanded Liaison Committee to facilitate the functions of that Committee within the Zone.

Page 7 – “Administrative, accounting and maintenance services” part 8.2 – Is an agreement by the constituent Councils to meet any costs-sharing arrangements that might be detailed in Schedule 5 in relation to said services.

No cost-sharing arrangements are in place, with each constituent Council submitting individual bids and estimates.

Schedule 2

One editorial change in this Schedule negates any joint or shared contributions of constituent Councils in relation to use of premises, so that current funding arrangements are maintained.

Schedule 3

Part 4 pages 3 and 4 – expand upon current services provided to Councils by the inclusion of a maintenance agreement for fire trails (Camden LGA does not currently have any fire trails in existence).

Schedule 5

Changes effect reorganisation or expansion of existing services provided under the current District agreement.

Upcoming Review and Changes

It should be noted that further changes will be made to Service Level Agreements as a result of business planning processes, including outcomes of the RFS Service Delivery Model, and recent legislative changes, such as bush fire hazard reduction processes and issue of Section 66 notices.

It is intended that these changes be incorporated into the completed Zone Service Level Agreement once ratified by the three Councils and the NSW RFS. Any changes are more readily achieved to a single document instead of the separate documents.

Comment

The changes made to the District SLA to form the Zone SLA, presented for signature, are acceptable.

The document will be effective as of 1 April 2003, and run for three years with an annual review.

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Recommended: That

- (i) The Zone SLA between NSW Rural Fire Service and the Councils of Camden, Campbelltown and Liverpool be approved and ratified.
- (ii) The seal of Council be affixed to the Zone Service Level Agreement.

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

- (i) *The Zone SLA between NSW Rural Fire Service and the Councils of Camden, Campbelltown and Liverpool be approved and ratified.*
- (ii) *The seal of Council be affixed to the Zone Service Level Agreement.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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5. Camden Carparking Strategy
(File 4157)(Director Works and Services)

Background

At its meeting of 24 July 2000, Council considered a report regarding the “*Revised Camden Town Centre Carparking Strategy*”. This report noted;

“The removal of the “Youth Cottage” situated on the corner of Oxley/Mitchell Streets would provide an opportunity for further parking, particularly if integrated with a rationalisation of the existing surface level carpark.

Some 33 additional spaces could be provided for a mixture of patrons and long-stay parkers.”

and the report further notes:

“Any action involving removal of the cottage would require sensitive liaison with local youth and a commitment by Council to provide access to another facility in the town centre precinct within a reasonable time frame.”

Current Situation

Camden Local Youth Group

Following negotiations with the President of the Camden Local Youth Group (CLYG) Management Committee, the Youth Group has relocated to the Mount Annan Community Cottage, Welling Drive Mount Annan. Whilst it is not a purpose built youth facility, the cottage provides an improved venue over that currently provided.

The Youth Group will have exclusive access to the rear room of the cottage and use of the office. The venue provides a much better environment than the former cottage in Oxley Street Camden, both in terms of location as well as physically amenity. The new location is situated in an area where there is a high youth population and is complementary to the youth room provided at the Mount Annan Leisure Centre and other programs in the area. The Youth Group will continue to provide outreach services as well as a drop in program at the Centre. Programs will be delivered to the young people of Camden Township and surrounding districts through the Camden RSL Youth Club venue.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) also utilise the cottage each Friday evening. Council officers have discussed the need to relocate

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with the Group's Secretary and the various options available to assist them in relocating. AA have indicated that they are amenable to relocating to the Civic Centre undercroft, especially if Council would consider waiving the hire for three months so as to assist them assess their situation before making permanent arrangements. It is proposed that the fee for the training room in the undercroft be waived for a period of 3 months. The current fee is \$33 per Friday evening (at \$11 per hour). Over a period of 13 weeks the total fee proposed to be waived is \$429.

Financial Consideration

The cost of construction of an on grade sealed carpark facility on this site is estimated to cost \$62,000. An indicative budgetary estimate for the demolition of the existing youth cottage is approximately \$30,000; final costings will be subject to confirmation of building materials contained on the site and appropriate methods of disposal.

The preferred option to fund these works is to access the Camden Car Parking Reserve.

Conclusion

With the relocation of the local community groups which had utilised the Oxley/Mitchell Street facility to suitable alternate accommodation it is recommended that the "youth cottage" and ancillary structures be removed from the site and an at grade formal carpark be constructed to complement the existing surface level carpark abutting the site.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Authorise the removal of the "youth cottage" and ancillary structures located at the intersection of the Oxley/Mitchell Streets, Camden and construct a formalised at grade carpark on the site to complement the existing abutting surface level carpark in accordance with the Revised Camden Town Centre Carparking Strategy.
- (ii) Fund the removal of the structure and the construction of a surface level carpark at the Oxley/Mitchell Streets site at a cost of \$92,000 from the Camden Carparking Reserve Parking.

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- (iii) waive the hire for the training room in the undercroft for a period of 3 months to assist Alcoholics Anonymous in their relocation from the Oxley Street Cottage

(The Mayor advised the Meeting that this Item has been withdrawn).

6. Review of Camden Family Day Care and Children and Families Strategic Plan

(File 3311) [Director, Works and Services]

Purpose

The report advises Councillors of the key findings from the recent review of Council's Family Day Care Scheme.

The consultant's report on the review of Family Day Care has been provided separately to Councillors.

Background

Current Role of Family Day Care

Family Day Care provides home-based care to over 280 families each week, through a system of carers who are registered with the scheme. Family Day Care is primarily funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and licensed by the New South Wales Department of Community Services.

Family Day Care provides a flexible form of childcare for families catering for children between 6 weeks and 12 years of age, offering a variety of care options including long day care, occasional care, emergency short-term care, before and after school care and vacation care.

Family Day Care does not provide direct childcare, rather under the family day care model, and it provides administrative co ordination to support the operations of the Scheme in the local government area (LGA). This includes: recruitment, training, support and supervision of the carers providing care; placement of children with carers and / or advice to parents seeking childcare in Camden and surrounding LGA's; administration of the childcare benefit; and extensive record keeping to comply with the regulatory requirements surrounding childcare.

Discussion

Review process

Consultants, The Clarinda Group, were engaged to undertake a review of Council's Family Day Care scheme to ensure that the program is effectively positioned to respond to the current and future needs of children and their families in Camden.

The review process included extensive discussions with the Family Day Care team; analysis of works being undertaken by Family Day Care; analysis of extensive documentation relating

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to the day to day operations of Family Day Care; discussions with senior Council staff; workshop for staff, internal and external stakeholders; and conducting a survey of parents with children enrolled and carers registered with the scheme.

Key findings of the review

In the conduct of the review a number of issues emerged about the direction, roles and activities of Family Day Care.

The key areas are outlined below:

1. Demand for childcare in the LGA

There is currently a waiting list of 33 families seeking care for their children. In addition there are 23 families (or 41 children) who will be requiring care in the next few months.

It is likely that this demand will continue given that:

- 60% of new arrivals in the community are under 40 years of age, meaning that they are more likely to have young children; and
- 40 - 45% of the population is under the age of 25 years of age.

Given these indications it is anticipated that there will be continued and increased demand for childcare services in the LGA. The market within the Camden LGA has not yet matured and as a result there is little choice for families. For example, there is currently no not-for-profit long day care centre operating in the LGA. Not only does choice provide families with different needs (and different views about what constitutes quality childcare) it also makes the market more competitive.

To address these issues it is recommended that Council develop a strategy to encourage a diverse childcare market in the LGA over the medium to long term.

2. Links between Camden Family Day Care and the strategic vision of Council

The review has highlighted the need to develop a business plan that articulates the linkages between the Family Day Care scheme and Council's vision of the future and also to take advantage of the networks and information that are generated as a result of the day-to-day operations of the Family Day Care Program.

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3. Management of the risks associated with the operation of the Family Day Care Scheme and Quality Assurance

Whilst Family Day Care Schemes are licensed through the NSW Department of Community Services, these regulations set out the minimum standards to which Family Day Care schemes must operate. To ensure the provision of quality services the Commonwealth Government have introduced the Quality Assurance (QA) system to improve the standards in the childcare industry. The quality assurance system focuses on interactions; the physical environment, children's opportunities; health, hygienic, safety and well being; carers and staff; and management and administration.

Council's Family Day Care scheme is currently working through the process and will be assessed by an independent reviewer in 2003.

4. Location of the Family Day Care Service

At present the Family Day Care scheme is located in the centre of Camden proper. This means that it is separate from internal staff that it should have closest links to and other programs where there could be synergies created (eg the toy library). In addition, the majority of carers supported by the Family Day Care Scheme live in the suburbs of Narellan, Elderslie, Currans Hills and Mount Annan. It has therefore been recommended that consideration be given to moving the Family Day Care Co ordination Unit to premises near the Narellan Administration building so that a multipurpose facility can be developed for the benefit of the community.

Opportunities to achieve this have been explored through the Narellan Urban Improvement Program.

Future Directions

As a result of the issues identified in the review of the Family Day Care program the following future directions are proposed for the Family Day Care Scheme as well as Children and Family Services in the Local Government Area.

1. Preparation of a Children and Family Services Strategic Plan

The review highlighted the need to develop a more strategic approach to the provision of children and family services in the LGA. The Community Project Officer (Children and Families) will be developing a Children and Family Services Strategic Plan.

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Through the development of the Children and Family Strategic Plan Council will have an indication of the needs, issues and priorities for the coming 5 plus years. The strategies developed through this process will be incorporated into the revised Community Plan, which will commence this year. The plan will include strategies that will be implemented by Council as well as other agencies. These will include the provision and access to childcare, child specific facilities, resources; and general services for parents and carers.

It is anticipated that the plan will be developed over a six (6) month period and will involve the:

- formation of a community advisory group to provide advice, guidance and facilitate communication between Council, service providers and the community;
- conduct of research and broad community consultation (eg surveys, focus groups, workshops and forums);
- analysis of issues, trends, gaps and duplications; and
- development of a plan with a range of strategies and actions to respond to the identified needs and issues.

2. Preparation of a Business / Operational plan for the Camden Family Day Care Scheme

Whilst the review highlighted that the scheme was well regarded, the need to develop a Business and Operational plan will ensure that the Family Day Care scheme is effectively positioned to respond to the current and future needs of the local community. This will include articulating the links between Family Day Care and Camden 2025; focussing on risk management; and meeting the requirements for the National Quality Assurance Accreditation.

Conclusion

As our community changes, the development of a Children and Family Services Strategic Plan and Camden Family Day Care Business/Operational Plan, will ensure that Council is well positioned to respond to the needs of families through the facilitation of appropriate services and programs.

Recommended: That the report is noted and a Councillor representative is nominated to the Children and Families Strategic Plan, Community Advisory Group (CAG).

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Resolved on the Motion of Cr Anderson, seconded Cr Patterson that the report is noted and a Councillor representative is nominated to the Children and Families Strategic Plan, Community Advisory Group (CAG).

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Patterson, seconded Cr McFadden that Cr Anderson be appointed as Councillor representative to the Children and Families Strategic Plan, Community Advisory Group (CAG).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Batros that Cr Campbell be appointed as Councillor representative to the Children and Families Strategic Plan, Community Advisory Group (CAG).

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THE FURTHER MOTION AS MOVED BY CR PATTERSON ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED.**

(Cr Campbell, Cr Winn and Cr Batros voted against the Further Motion).

(As the Further Motion as moved by Cr Patterson was carried, the Further Motion as moved by Cr Winn, was not voted on).

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7. Draft Camden Library Services Strategic Plan: ‘Vibrant Places – People Spaces’

(File 1326/5) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose

This report advises Council of the comments received during the public exhibition period of the draft Camden Council’s Library Services Strategic Plan: Vibrant Places – People Spaces.

Background

Council at its meeting held on 16 December 2002, resolved that:

The draft Camden Council Library Services Strategic Plan: “Vibrant Places – People Spaces” be finalised following a six week period of public exhibition commencing mid January to take into consideration the December/January holiday period; and presented to a Council meeting.

Discussion

1. Public Exhibition Period

The draft Camden Council’s Library Services Strategic Plan: ‘Vibrant Places – People Spaces’ was placed on public exhibition from 13 January until 28 February 2003.

The public exhibition period was advertised through the local media including Camden Wollondilly Advertiser and the District Reporter. In addition, community information session times were advertised on C91.3FM.

All potential partners involved in the development of the Plan were sent letters and a copy of the plan requesting written comment on the plan and inviting them to attend the community information sessions.

The draft Plan was displayed at both library services, with copies made available. All schools in the local government area were provided with the draft plan and asked for their feedback. Three community information sessions were held to provide an overview of the plan and key strategies and a brief comment sheet was provided to assist individuals or groups who wished to make comments on the draft.

Library staff provided patrons visiting the library or attending the January school holiday programs information about the draft Plan and encouraged people to provide comment.

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2. Summary of comments received during the public exhibition period

Following the public exhibition period a total of fifty-one (51) responses were received, of these:

- 47 responses were received from individuals; and
- 4 from local schools and organisations.

Respondents ranged in age from 14 to 79 years of age, from a range of suburbs within the local government area (LGA) and adjoining areas.

Overall there was general support for the strategic directions of the Libraries, especially in relation to Narellan and Mount Annan. From the 47 responses received from individuals, there were only 3 that would be considered negative.

Tabled Document "BPA 1" provides a table of all comments received from individuals. Copies of the original submissions have been circulated to Councillors separately.

A number of suggestions were made in relation to the future furnishing and operation of the libraries. These included:

- maintaining and/or developing linkages with local schools and other organisations;
- increased computer technology;
- increased information about the libraries collection;
- suggestions for future choice of furnishings and fittings at the libraries;
- providing child care during internet classes;
- extensions of programs or new programs such as chess, bridge, story time for primary aged children; and
- suggestions for further resources for the libraries such as University level textbooks, journals and fax machines.

These suggestions, where possible, will be incorporated into the current operations of the library as well as the future. There were also a number of comments praising the current library service and the professionalism of the staff.

Submissions by local schools and community organisations

Submissions were received from five (5) local organisations. A summary of the submissions is contained below copies of the original submissions have been circulated to Councillors separately.

Camden Historical Society

The Society *'commended Council for its strategic planning process'* and believes that the plan is a *'good reflection of the*

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wishes of the community, given the known restrictions on finances available'. The Society also welcomes the proposed partnership with Council and the Camden Area Family History Society.

The Society also raised that there are a number of more practical and operational issues that will need to be addressed during the redevelopment of the Camden Library precinct including signage, security and allocation of space and access.

The Historical Society also expressed that they desire to retain their long-term objective to develop the whole of the existing site as a heritage / museum of state significance, however recognised that the proposal in the draft plan was an *'appropriate response to the pressing needs to upgrade the Camden Library facilities'*.

Camden Area Family History Society Inc. (CAFHS)

The CAFHS wrote to Council on 14 February raising concerns in relation to the draft Plan, specifically concerns over the space provisions and the level of consultations. The Manager, Library Services attended a meeting with the Family History Association on Tuesday 4 March 2003, to discuss their concerns. Following this meeting we have received written advice from the Society that they have *"decided that we are willing to move to the new research centre at Camden as proposed in the strategic plan"*.

The Society has also provided further information about their requirements, which will be taken into consideration in the redevelopment of the Camden Library.

Jumbunna Children's Support Worker from the Camden Area Resource Centre, Magdalene Catholic High School – Teacher Librarian and St Paul's Primary School – Teacher Librarian

These organisations commended the strategies outlined in the draft Plan and stated that they felt that the plan was relevant and meet the needs of the community.

Comment from the New South Wales State Library

There has been ongoing consultation and discussion with the NSW State Library, both through their representative on the Community Advisory Group as well as meetings with their consultants. During this process the State Library have indicated strong support for the proposed directions of Council's Library services, providing the following comment on the draft plan:

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“From the point of view of planning for future services the document is thorough and shows good vision, especially in light of Camden's young population, its current/expected population growth, and the high percentage of commuters in the LGA. The plan should assist Council to build on the success the library has had to date in designing services around the needs of young people and families in particular.

I enjoyed being a part of the community consultation phase. A number of the findings in Narelle Wheatland's report concerning community expectations of public libraries have wider application across NSW. “

Tabled document “BPA 2”.

The State Library has also indicated support to work closely with Council on funding opportunities to support future programs.

Key issues raised through the public exhibition period

Outlined below are the key concerns and questions that were raised during the consultation period by 3 individuals, and responses to these.

a) Has there been enough consultation?

A broad range of consultation and research was undertaken over the past 15 months. This has included:

- Establishment of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to provide advice on the development of the Camden Library Service Strategic Plan. The Advisory group consisted of State Library New South Wales representatives, a Department of Education representative, community representatives, a community organisation representative, an academic representative; and council staff. Membership to the CAG was advertised through the local press.
- a) A range of consultation strategies including user and non-user surveys; focus groups; meetings with potential partners; and workshops. Details of the strategies are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”**.

In addition, extensive research was undertaken into the changing demography of Camden, trends in the delivery of library services and examining examples of best practice both nationally and internationally as referred by the NSW State Library.

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b) Will partners retain their independence or be 'taken over by Council'?

Through community consultation, there was the desire from the community to have the library services co located with other facilities. Co location in no way implies that Council will 'take over' organisations. There are many benefits in partnership arrangements as can be seen by the current arrangements between Camden Library and the Museum and other community initiatives such as the Macarthur Youth Commitment.

Partnership arrangement provides an opportunity to foster co-operative arrangements that will allow for improved services and facilities to our community. Such arrangements are being considered for the café and the provision of youth services.

c) Level of emphasis on recreation and leisure aspect of libraries role

One of the recurring themes from the consultation period was the recognition from the community of the varying role that Libraries play. The Camden community has identified that libraries play an important role in their recreation and leisure needs and this will mean different things for different people. However, through providing programs and opportunities in the libraries that appeal to a range of people, the other functions of the library can be promoted.

d) Ability to provide sufficient space for a variety of activities

Concerns were raised in relation to the amount of space provided as well as the impact of competing activities. For example, outdoor performance space impacting on people who may be studying in the library. These types of issues will be addressed during the design phase to ensure that the various functions of the library are not compromised. There are various examples in Queensland and Victoria as well as overseas where libraries are successfully co located with other functions such as recreation centres and outdoor performance spaces and plazas.

e) That the heritage focus of Camden will limit access to technology

There was a concern that the Camden Library's focus on the heritage and supporting the 'working country town' character would limit the availability of technology. This is not the case. The draft Plan states that "*Camden Library will retain its heritage facade, however, behind this facade will be a library service with cutting edge technology*". All of Council's libraries will have access to the same technology, however at Camden

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the library will have a more traditional style and fit out furniture to complement the heritage focus.

Conclusion

The Library Services Strategic Plan: 'Vibrant Places – People Spaces' is an exciting initiative that sets the directions for Council's Library Services over the next seven (7) years. Overall the comments from the community during its development as well as from the formal period of public exhibition indicate strong support for the direction of the plan. Whilst there were some concerns raised these can be addressed during the design and implementation phase.

The Plan will ensure that our libraries are positioned to respond effectively to current and future needs of the community. Our libraries will be vibrant places – people spaces reflecting the people and the culture of Camden.

Recommended: That Council adopt the Camden Library Services Strategic Plan: 'Vibrant Places – People Spaces'.

MOTION

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) *the Camden Library Services Strategic Plan - 'Vibrant Places – People Spaces' – adopted for Narellan and Mount Annan;*
- (ii) *the Strategic Plan be revised for Camden by investigating an alternate site for a new Library facility that will genuinely met the Library needs of Camden and its district in the 21st Century;*
- (iii) *investigate the potential of converting the current historic library site into a museum, heritage and family history centre.*

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

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

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FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Anderson that Council adopt the Camden Library Services Strategic Plan: 'Vibrant Places – People Spaces'.

039/03

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

(Cr Campbell, Cr Winn and Cr Batros voted against the Further Motion).

Delegated Committees

Development Committee – Held 24 February 2003

Development Committee – Held 10 March 2003

Resources & Services Committee – Held 10 March 2003

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Patterson that the Minutes of the Development Committee of the 24 February, 2003, and 10 March 2003, and the Minutes of the Resources & Services Committee of the 10 March, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

040/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

Other Committees

Traffic Committee – Held 10 March 2003

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Patterson, seconded Cr McFadden that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee of the 10 March, 2003, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

041/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Youth Cottage

(TC/1468)

Cr Batros requested CRAG and other interested groups be advised of the plans to remove the Youth Cottage.

The General Manager stated this would be done prior to a report being submitted to Council.

Tree Plantings

(TC/4670)

Cr Batros requested Council look at recent tree plantings and check if plastic covers are to be removed, some of the trees are now older.

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The Director of Works and Services stated this would be investigated.

Bus Shelter – South Camden

(TC/630)

Cr Winn requested to be advised when would the Bus Shelter be erected in Wire Lane opposite Crookston Drive.

The Director of Works and Services stated the Bus Shelter referred to is located in Wollondilly Shire Council area and Council is not responsible for the construction.

Water Tank Policy

(TC/3281)

Cr Winn requested to be advised when Council would adopt a Water Tank Policy.

The Director of Development and Environment stated Council has adopted a policy for Harrington Park. The Policy will also be implemented in Spring Farm and the Elderslie Release areas. The introduction of a policy will also be taken into account in the review of DCP 58.

Steam Cleaning of footpath

(TC/3281)

Cr Winn asked to be advised when the Footpath Sweeping machine will be purchased. In the meantime, could Council steam clean the footpath in front of the Commonwealth Bank.

The Director of Works and Services stated there is no Budget item for the purchase of a Sweeping machine. The steam cleaning adjacent to the Commonwealth Bank will be programmed.

Weirs

(TC/3281)

Cr Winn requested any further information on the Weirs from Sydney Water.

The Director of Development and Environment advised the final report has not been received yet. When it has, a report will be provided to Council.

Youth Group – Relocation

(TC/1468)

Cr Campbell requested to be advised when were Councillors notified of the Youth Group move to Mount Annan.

The Manager Community Services stated advice was provided in the recent Councillors newsletter.

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Cr Campbell requested a copy of the newsletter and also asked what happened to the groups who were permanently using the centre at Mount Annan.

The Manager Community Services stated approximately 3 groups were using the centre and agreed to a relocation. One group to the front room of the centre, another to Birriwa Community Centre and the Family Day Care also moved to the front room of the Mount Annan centre.

Youth Cottage

(TC/1468)

Cr Anderson requested the Historical Society be advised of the bulldozing of the Youth Cottage prior to it occurring, so the Society can retrieve anything of value from the building.

The Director of Works and Services stated this could be done and Council is currently carrying out an assessment of the building.

Sustainable Regions Funding

(TC/3281)

Cr Anderson advised Council of the recent funding allocation to Tourism Macarthur and was aware of only 3 groups receiving funding under this scheme, of less than \$8 million.

The General Manager advised a 4th grant has been allocated to the University of Western Sydney and to a number of businesses, particularly in relation to viticulture. The amount to date allocated is up to \$2 million, with the full amount up to \$12 million. There is currently a funding round at the moment. Council is making a submission for Bicentennial Park and the other for Sustainable Indicators, in conjunction with Campbelltown Council.

NRMA Road Safety Grants

(TC/3536)

Cr Anderson drew attention to the Local Government Association Circular stating the availability of Road Safety Grants targeting older road users. Is it worth Council applying.

The Director of Works and Services stated the Road Safety Officer would investigate these grants.

Grants Officer

(TC/3281)

Cr Winn asked if Council has a full time employee applying for Grants.

The General Manager stated Council does not have such an employee. The range of expertise to apply for grants covers the whole ambit of Council activities. Where grants are advertised,

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staff responsible for the programme considers the grant details to determine if it can supplement Council work. Staff also consider the focus of our programmes and the availability of matching funds.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.