

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 28 JANUARY, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET
CAMDEN – 8.00PM**

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

Staff: General Manager, Director Governance & Outcomes, Director Development & Environment, Director Works & Services, Manager Engineering, Manager Community Services, Manager Environment & Health, Senior Governance Officer, Acting Manager Outcomes (Senior Project Officer – Environmental Systems).

CONDOLENCES

The Mayor advised Council of the recent death of the former Mayor/President of Wollondilly Shire Council, Cr Frank McKay. The funeral will be held at 10.30am at Warragamba on Thursday 30th January, 2003.

All those present stood and observed one (1) minute silence as a mark of respect to Cr McKay.

GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Mr Terry Goldacre addressed Council in relation to Item 8.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Narellan Road/Camden By-pass Debris

Question: Could Council request the appropriate authority to clean dead branches lying along Narellan Road and Camden By-pass as the branches represent a danger.

Merino Reserve

Question: Is Council aware of the erosion taking place at Merino Reserve and that there are two levels now exist. Does Council have any plans for this area.

Answer: The Director Works & Services stated there are no current plans for this area. Council is aware of the problem resulting from two (2) midway subdivisions. Council can backhoe the area and re-grass the reserve. The matter will be investigated.

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Winn, seconded Cr Batros that confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 16 December, 2002, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

001/03

*THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.***

MAYORAL MINUTE

Management Exchange and Study Tour by General Manager

On 18 December 2002 the General Manager was notified by Local Government Managers Australia that she had been successful in being selected to represent Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) NSW Division on the 2003 Manager Exchange to California.

Ms Dudley discussed this matter with me and requested that she be permitted to take special leave to represent LGMA at the Annual Conference of the League of California Cities – City Managers’ Department to be held at the City of Monterey for 12 – 14 February 2003. She is required to present a paper on current issues for local government in Australia at this conference. As part of the exchange she will also be “home hosted” by a Californian Manager and undertake a study program on which she will be required to present a report which will be placed on the LGMA website and deliver it at LGMA and local government forums in due course.

The topic for her study program is “Creating sustainable large scale urban developments in partnership between local government, state government and developers”.

She also requested that approval be given for her to take additional special leave to undertake a more detailed study tour on this topic in conjunction with some annual leave. The proposed period of absence is a total of one month.

Due to the fact that Council had risen for the year and the requirement for Ms Dudley to formally accept the Californian Exchange and to make travel bookings, I gave approval for the Program, on the condition that a detailed itinerary relevant to Camden Council was provided. This has now been developed and a copy has been provided to all Councillors.

The proposed Study Tour was developed with the advice of senior Planning NSW staff and urban design consultants currently working on the Narellan Urban Improvement Program to ensure its relevance to current issues in Camden. Ms Dudley will visit a total of 15 major urban development projects in

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California, Florida, South Carolina and Maryland. On her return she will present a major report on these issues.

I have approved a combination of Annual Leave and Special Leave in accordance with Ms Dudley's contract to enable her to undertake the Study Tour. I have also approved financial support which is in respect of 7 days of the proposed Study Tour. This is expected to be a maximum of \$2,500 for accommodation, incidentals and car hire and is to be provided on the basis set out in the State Government's Personnel Handbook. It will be drawn from money already allocated in the General Manager's budget. LGMA and the Californian Managers are providing the major component of financial support including international airfares, transfers, insurance, conference registration and accommodation for 6 days in California.

I believe that the Program put forward is rigorous and relevant and will be of real benefit, not only to Ms Dudley personally, but to Camden Council staff and the community generally. With the major issues confronting us in relation to urban development in Narellan, Elderslie and Spring Farm and the forthcoming Structure Planning exercise for the proposed Bringelly release area, having the lessons of sustainable urban design available to Councillors and staff on a first hand basis can only be of value.

I recommend: That:

- (i) Council congratulate the General Manager on being selected for the LGMA California Manager Exchange Program
- (ii) Support Ms Dudley's undertaking the Exchange and Study Tour in accordance with the approval given by me
- (iii) Request that copies of the report be presented to Councillors following her return

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

- (i) Council congratulate the General Manager on being selected for the LGMA California Manager Exchange Program

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- (ii) *Support Ms Dudley's undertaking the Exchange and Study Tour in accordance with the approval given by me*
- (iii) *Request that copies of the report be presented to Councillors following her return*

002/03

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1. Investment Monies: Period Ended, 30th November, 2002

(Director Governance & Outcomes)

In accordance with clause 19 (3a & 3b) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 1993, a list of investments held by Council as at 30th November, 2002, is provided at **Tabled Document “BPA 1”**.

It is further certified that all investments have been made in accordance with section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the relevant regulations and Council’s investment policy.

Current investments of the General Fund both term and call are returning an average daily yield of 4.79% and during the month of November 2002, the average return on all investments both call and term was 4.90%.

Recommended: That,

- (i) Council note that the Principal Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Council’s Investment Policy.
- (ii) The list of investments as at 30th November, 2002 be noted.
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.90% for the month of November 2002, be noted.

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

- (i) Council note that the Principal Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Council’s Investment Policy.
- (ii) The list of investments as at 30th November, 2002 be noted.
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.90% for the month of November 2002, be noted.

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2. Sustainable Regions Program – Round 2
(File No. 4674) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of projects proposed to be submitted to the Sustainable Regions Advisory Committee for round 2 of funding and to offer Councillors the opportunity to suggest project ideas for Sustainable Regions funding.

Introduction

In September, 2001, the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services announced that Camden-Campbelltown region would be part of the Sustainable Regions Program.

The Sustainable Regions Program is a Federal Government initiative to help regions undergoing major economic, social or environmental change. The project will run for three years, with four million dollars of funding available each year.

Background

The first stage of the project was announced in May, 2002, with a Community Forum held to determine the priorities for the region. The priorities for the region were determined to be:

- Recognise and address the major social issues in the region;
- Improving regional employment opportunities for local people;
- Develop and support local industry and attract new sustainable, environmentally friendly industry;
- Identify and address youth needs;
- Education and training at all levels;
- Sustainability of natural and built resources; and
- Improved local and regional transport infrastructure networks for all users.

Early in June, 2002, expressions of interest were called for projects that would address the regional priorities and improve the sustainability of the region.

In November, 2002, the Minister announced that two projects were successful in receiving funding. One of those projects was for the development of the Camden Town Farm.

Further, an expression of interest submitted by Camden and Campbelltown Councils for a Regional Sustainability Indicators Project in the first round is still under consideration in a modified form and is likely to receive funding in conjunction with a CSIRO Regional Futures Planning Framework.

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A third announcement was recently made for another successful project, being a nano-technology research project by the University of Western Sydney, and further announcements are expected over the next few months.

Second Round Projects

The program is currently in its second year and the second round of funding submissions has commenced. Expressions of interest for projects that will improve the sustainability of the region must be submitted to the Advisory Committee before 7 February, 2003.

Council Officers propose to submit expressions of interest for the following projects:

- A Bushland Regeneration Project;
- A Travel Behaviour Change Program;
- Improvements to Mount Annan District Centre; and
- Improvements to Bicentennial Park

Council Officers will be working where appropriate with officers of Campbelltown Council and representatives from corporate or community organisations on these projects, in recognition of the regional nature of the projects. For example, the travel behaviour change project will be a joint project between Busways, Camden Council and Campbelltown Council.

A brief synopsis of each project is contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 2"**.

A number of other ideas for regional sustainability projects have been canvassed and, subject to more detailed investigation, will be developed into expressions of interest for the third round of submissions.

Councillors are welcome to submit ideas for projects that will improve the sustainability of the region and, subject to the amount of preparatory work required and the suitability of the project in terms of the Sustainable Regions project assessment criteria, expressions of interest will be developed for either this round of submissions or the next.

Conclusion

The Camden and Campbelltown Region is fortunate to be a part of the Sustainable Regions Program which provides a total of twelve million dollars over three years to fund projects that will improve the sustainability of the region.

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Council has so far been successful in receiving funding for one project and is likely to receive funding for another as a result of the first round of submissions.

The second round of submissions is currently open and will close on 7 February, 2003. A number of new project ideas are being developed into expressions of interest and are recommended for support.

Further ideas for projects are welcome and may be able to be submitted in this current round, or the third round of submissions.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council support the submission of expressions of interest for the projects referred to in the report to the Sustainable Regions Advisory Committee.
- (ii) Any further ideas for projects that will improve the sustainability of the region be referred to the General Manager.

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

- (i) *Council support the submission of expressions of interest for the projects referred to in the report to the Sustainable Regions Advisory Committee.*
- (ii) *Any further ideas for projects that will improve the sustainability of the region be referred to the General Manager.*

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3. Sustainability Indicators Project
(File 4598) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of actions taken to pursue the local sustainability indicators project and to seek Council's adoption of the proposed draft sustainability outcomes and indicators for the purposes of exhibition.

Introduction

A report was presented to the Ordinary Council meeting held on 22 April, 2002 proposing that community consultation be undertaken, particularly with the youth of Camden, to develop a set of sustainability indicators for Camden.

At that meeting, Council resolved to endorse the continuation of the sustainability indicators project and call for members of the community and school students to be involved. Further, the Mayor and Councillors Campbell and Batros were nominated to participate.

As a result of this resolution, Council contacted the Principal of Elizabeth Macarthur High School at Narellan, Mr Richard Leeman. From these discussions, and further discussions with the Head of the Geography Faculty at the School, Mrs Carolyn Callaghan, it was determined that one entire class of students be invited to participate in the project.

In this way, a relatively large group of local students could be educated about sustainability, propose their own set of desirable sustainability outcomes and be involved with other community members in workshops to develop the indicators.

In addition to the involvement of the students, an advertisement was placed in the local paper and letters sent to various community and commercial groups inviting participation in the workshops. All Councillors and Council Officers were also invited to participate.

To enable a wide variety of people to participate, four workshops were held in December 2002, at the culmination of the student's education program. Two of the workshops were held at the school during class time, and two at the Camden Civic Centre in the evenings.

The results of the workshops have been collated and are contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 3"**.

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School Project

The School Project commenced on 11 November, 2002 and comprised a total of 8, 1 hour lessons over a four week period. The class was comprised of approximately 25 Grade 9 Geography students.

During the lessons, the students were asked to consider sustainable actions in their homes, in the school yard, in workplaces and in the wider community.

The lessons culminated in the students determining what they thought Camden would look like if it was sustainable, and if it was not. In reaching this goal, various methods were used, from making collages using newspaper and magazine articles to taking photographs of specific examples in Camden.

The work of the students was heavily used in the Workshops, which they also took part in.

Indicator Workshops

Following the school project, four workshops were held to gain wider community input into the process. The workshops were designed to enable collaboration between the youth of Camden and its adult citizens so that as much of Camden's community was represented as possible.

The workshops were attended by the students, fourteen (14) Council Officers, seven (7) community members and one (1) Councillor.

The participants in the workshop were given a brief presentation about sustainability and then asked to consider how they would measure whether Camden was becoming more or less sustainable. The participants were also asked to consider whether the sustainability outcomes developed by Council Officers and the students were appropriate.

Draft Sustainability Indicators

In other local government areas that have developed sustainability indicators, the consistent approach is, for each sustainability outcome, to use one key indicator as the prime measurement of sustainability, with other supporting indicators used as background information. In some cases the key indicator is a quantitative indicator (i.e. a statistic) and in other cases it is a qualitative indicator (i.e. a perception).

It became clear from the workshops that it would be worthwhile that each sustainability outcome be measured with

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two key indicators, where appropriate, one quantitative and one qualitative, so that statistics can be compared with perceptions to get a more holistic view of our progress towards or away from sustainability.

For example, for the outcome “people feel safe” the key indicators are proposed to be:

1. No. and types of crimes committed; and
2. Percentage of people who feel safe to walk at night.

A comparison between the raw statistics of crime and the perceptions of safety will give a more comprehensive view of whether more people feel safe in Camden as an indicator of sustainability.

The draft sustainability outcomes and indicators are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 4”**.

Where to from here?

Although the community involvement in the development of the sustainability indicators was worthwhile and productive, it is considered that wider public comment on the proposed draft indicators is necessary.

It is suggested that the draft sustainability outcomes and indicators as developed from the workshops be adopted by Council for the purposes of exhibition, and an exhibition period of 28 days be undertaken. The exhibition would commence in early February, seeking general community comment on the draft sustainability outcomes and indicators.

Following the close of submissions, a further report will be submitted to Council in respect of the submissions and recommending a final set of sustainability indicators for adoption.

Conclusion

To date, the development of sustainability indicators for Camden has occurred with input from the community, including students, staff members, the general public and Councillors.

Nevertheless, it is considered that further community input is necessary. At this point, it is considered that the outcomes of the workshop should be adopted by Council as a draft and publicly exhibited to seek written submissions.

Following the close of submissions, the indicators will be reported back to Council for adoption.

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Recommended: That:

- (i) Council note the actions taken to date with regards to community participation in the sustainability indicators project.
- (ii) Council adopt the draft sustainability outcomes and indicators as detailed in **Tabled Document “BPA 4”** for the purposes of exhibition.
- (iii) A further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Batros, seconded Cr Senise that:

- (i) Council note the actions taken to date with regards to community participation in the sustainability indicators project.
- (ii) Council adopt the draft sustainability outcomes and indicators as detailed in **Tabled Document “BPA 4”** for the purposes of exhibition.
- (iii) A further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

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4. AUSLINK – A National Land Transport Plan

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

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the Federal Government's proposed strategy for planning and funding of national land transport infrastructure (AUSLINK) and to seek Council's position on the AUSLINK Green Paper.

Introduction

The Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) has released a Green Paper called "AUSLINK – A National Land Transport Plan" (NLTP) and is seeking comment on the proposed strategy. The closing date for submissions on the Green Paper is 7 February, 2003.

The Green Paper in Brief

The fundamental aspects of the AUSLINK proposal are twofold, and summarised as follows:

- Development of an integrated national land transport plan; and
- Sharing the burden of funding regional and national land transport infrastructure between local, state and federal governments and the private sector.

The integrated NLTP is envisaged to identify those "*transport links of strategic national importance, such as rail and road connections between cities and to major ports and airports*". However, the Green Paper also refers to "*local roads of regional significance*" as being roads that will be identified in the plan. Potentially, roads such as The Northern Road, Camden Valley Way and Narellan Road would fall within this category.

By integration, it is meant that the current system of various funding programs such as the Black Spot Program or the Roads to Recovery Program will be accommodated within one funding arrangement. The funding aspect of the proposed strategy would change the burden of responsibility in the following manner:

	Current	Proposed
National Roads	Commonwealth (Cwth)	Cwth/State/Local
Arterial Roads	State/Cwth	Cwth/State/Local
Local Roads	State/Cwth/Local	Cwth/State/Local
DIRN (Rail)	Cwth/State	Cwth/State/Local
Branch Rail	State	Cwth/State/Local
Ports	State	Cwth/State/Local
Intermodal Terminals	State/Local	Cwth/State/Local

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The Green Paper states that AUSLINK will not affect any current projects funded by the Commonwealth, but there is no mention of whether the funding levels for existing programs, such as the Roads to Recovery Program, will continue, except to say that a review is under way.

The Green Paper states that the integrated land transport network will be more extensive than the existing National Highway System, and that, as the benefits of the integrated NLTP will accrue locally, regionally, intrastate and nationally, it is reasonable that all beneficiaries contribute to the network.

However, the Green Paper also states that “*additional investment would be sourced by enabling increased private sector participation*” and discusses various ‘user-pay’ options such as levies, tolls and other pricing mechanisms.

Beyond suggesting that everybody should share the burden of funding national and regional land transport infrastructure, there is no funding strategy proposed, nor the basis for one suggested. Considering that local government already contributes significantly to local road infrastructure, a proposal to shift a share of the burden of regional and national roads funding towards local government without detailing a funding strategy is of great concern.

It should be noted that the success of an ‘integrated’ system is dependant upon agreements being reached between the various levels of government, and potentially the private sector, regarding the share of responsibility for any individual project. It therefore needs to be considered what might happen to a strategically important project if such an agreement was not reached.

Throughout the Green Paper, there are various questions asked, presumably to target comments to specific areas. Detailed responses to these questions are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 5”**.

Implications for Local Government

The proposed NLTP strategy has implications for local government in terms of planning and budgeting.

In planning terms, the green paper states that “*the proposed regional element of Auslink would encourage local councils to cooperate on regional transport planning*”.

Rather than ‘encouraging cooperation’, it is considered that the strategy actually provides an opportunity for local authorities to actively participate in regional transport planning. At least

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in New South Wales, from Camden's recent experiences, there has been very little opportunity for local authorities to participate in regional transport planning. Council is not currently an equal partner in the planning of regional roads in its area.

In budgetary terms, the implications for local government are less clear. In particular, the local authority's share of responsibility for funding of roads that comprise the current National Highway System or Rail Infrastructure is not stated. Local Authorities currently assume no responsibility for such infrastructure and therefore have no burden of funding.

In fact the funding local authorities currently have for the local road network is insufficient and should be increased as part of any land transport plan. A plan that either decreases the funding for local road construction and maintenance or increases the burden on local government without appropriate funding would be completely unacceptable.

The Green Paper identifies a need for clear roles to be established for state, territory and local governments in the planning and development of the national network, however it does not provide any clarification of the roles. It is necessary that the roles of all levels of government be clarified in the development of a NLTP and that there be an equitable division of responsibilities between the levels of government.

The Green Paper states that Council's should allocate some of their existing funds from Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants towards upgrading and provision of the regional road network, suggesting that 15-20% of the Grants money should be earmarked for strategic regional priorities.

There is no mention in the Green Paper of how local authorities will be resourced to accommodate this proposed re-direction of funds, nor any mention of the implications for local authorities of there being potentially less money to spend on local road construction and maintenance. It is essential that there be adequate resources available to local government to ensure its capacity to deal with local road construction and maintenance is not diminished.

As stated above, local authorities already play a major role in local road infrastructure funding. Any shift in funding burden towards local government for regional and national roads is a completely unacceptable outcome of this process.

Other Implications

The Green Paper advocates providing Financial Assistance Grants directly to local authorities, rather than through State

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Governments. The likelihood of State Governments accepting this change is not addressed.

The NSW State Government has provided an indication of their reluctance to contribute to land transport infrastructure in the Sydney Metropolitan Area outside of their “Action for Transport 2010” plan. It has done this by refusing to contribute to the funding of off-ramps at the M5 at Ingleburn and by proposing a levy on developers to fund regional road infrastructure in Camden. The M5 situation highlights a potential concern that agreement between the three levels of government may not be reached on either priorities or on proposed funding contribution levels. The Green Paper must give consideration to such a circumstance.

The definition of a ‘local road of regional significance’ in the Green Paper suggests (presumably unintended) that a proposal must meet all of the 8 criteria. The criteria includes various regional functions that roads offer, such as commuter routes, access to railheads, access to major community facilities and access to remote communities. It is unlikely that any one road would fulfil all of these functions. A road that meets any one of these functions should be considered as a local road of regional significance.

However, if certain roads currently identified as State Roads do not fit the definition of a “local road of regional significance”, from where does funding come to maintain and upgrade such roads?

It is disappointing that the Green Paper does not highlight the need to improve public passenger transport infrastructure in Australian cities as a major priority for the NLTP. It is considered essential that the focus on land transport infrastructure be shifted from the private vehicle to public transport, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution generally, reduce the demand for infrastructure spending in the long term and reduce traffic congestion and its associated impacts.

The Green Paper highlights the need to increase freight transport by rail in order to reduce the number of heavy vehicles using the main highways and regional roads. However, it does not go far enough in detailing a plan to remove competition between road and rail modes that will actually make this happen.

Conclusion

The Green Paper for a National Land Transport Plan promotes a cooperative and shared responsibility approach to the planning and funding of regional and national land transport

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infrastructure, including road, rail, ports and intermodal terminals.

It also provides for an integrated approach, as opposed to the current situation of segregated responsibilities and the myriad of various funding schemes. Such an approach allows for an appropriate means to prioritise regional and national works according to need.

Council could argue that all of its regional transport priorities would meet the definition of 'local road of regional significance', and therefore could be funded through a federal, state and local agreement. There would also be opportunities to include the private sector in any funding agreement.

It is considered a positive step to engage all levels of government in the planning of regional and national land transport. However the share of funding that will be borne by the local authority must be equitable and within resource capacity. Further, the focus of the NLTP must be on public transport options for passengers and freight both within and between Australia's urban areas.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council advise the Department of Transport and Regional Planning that it supports the principles of integrating regional and national land transport planning as espoused in the Green Paper titled "AUSLINK National Land Transport Plan", subject to the following:
- (a) a significant increase in funding of road and rail transport infrastructure for planning, construction, upgrading and maintenance;
 - (b) the equitable division of responsibilities between the levels of government;
 - (c) adequate resources being available to local government to ensure its capacity to deal with local road construction and maintenance is not diminished;
 - (d) clarification of the roles of all levels of government in the development of the national land transport network;
 - (e) development of an equitable and sustainable funding strategy;
 - (f) priority be given to public transport infrastructure for passengers and freight both within and between Australia's urban areas;
 - (g) removal of competition barriers between road and rail transport modes;
 - (h) modification of the suggested definition of 'local roads of regional significance' so that each element of the

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definition is exclusive, by changing the final 'and' to an 'or';

- (i) there being no additional funding burden transferred to Councils;
- (j) consideration be given to the circumstance where agreements can not be reached on a particular project; and
- (k) consideration be given to the specific responses to the questions in the Green Paper as contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 5"** .

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

- (i) *Council advise the Department of Transport and Regional Planning that it supports the principles of integrating regional and national land transport planning as espoused in the Green Paper titled "AUSLINK National Land Transport Plan", subject to the following:*
 - (a) *a significant increase in funding of road and rail transport infrastructure for planning, construction, upgrading and maintenance;*
 - (b) *the equitable division of responsibilities between the levels of government;*
 - (c) *adequate resources being available to local government to ensure its capacity to deal with local road construction and maintenance is not diminished;*
 - (d) *clarification of the roles of all levels of government in the development of the national land transport network;*
 - (e) *development of an equitable and sustainable funding strategy;*
 - (f) *priority be given to public transport infrastructure for passengers and freight both within and between Australia's urban areas;*
 - (g) *removal of competition barriers between road and rail transport modes;*
 - (h) *modification of the suggested definition of 'local roads of regional significance' so that each element of the definition is exclusive, by changing the final 'and' to an 'or';*
 - (i) *there being no additional funding burden transferred to Councils;*
 - (j) *consideration be given to the circumstance where agreements can not be reached on a particular project; and*
 - (k) *consideration be given to the specific responses to the questions in the Green Paper as contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 5"** .*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

(Cr Senise voted against the Motion).

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5. Various Regional Planning Issues
(1981/3; 3969/2; 2492/5) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Introduction

A number of Regional Planning matters were reported to Council late in 2002. Further information is to hand in respect of these matters; whilst additional matters of a regional nature have also emerged. All are reflective of the renewed focus upon regional planning as providing an important context for local planning initiatives. The need for a regional focus was highlighted in Council's Structure Plan and Municipal Strategy deliberations and more recently in the context of new urban release area planning and accessibility.

A Co-ordinated Approach to Regional Planning and Strategy Development

The number of bodies actively embracing/embarking on regional planning/strategy development poses a compelling need that such initiatives are well co-ordinated. The risk of a number of disparate initiatives that lead to variable conclusions, and repetitive resourcing by Council and others must be avoided at all costs.

Key Regional Planning Initiatives

The key regional planning matters currently before Council and/or requiring Council decision making include:

- (1) Western Sydney Regional Forum.
- (2) WSROC Regional Planning Framework.
- (3) Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board – Full Employment 2020 Strategy - A Strategic Planning and Transport Vision and Directions Statement for Greater Western Sydney.
- (4) South Western Sydney Regional Strategy.
- (5) Campbelltown City Council – Regional Plan Proposal.

A brief account of each matter is provided below, whilst a more detailed exposition is contained in the attached Tabled Documents, referenced below.

Western Sydney Regional Forum (PlanFIRST)

The Western Sydney Regional Forum represents the mechanism by which a regional strategy is to be prepared for Western Sydney.

WSROC and MACROC have recently been approached seeking their support to regional strategy development and inviting nominations for membership of the Forum.

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Council has also been invited to submit nominations to assist in the ultimate selection of five (5) Councillors who will represent the interests of local government within Western Sydney on the Forum.

It is unlikely that MACROC Councils will gain more than one (1) representative. Accordingly, it is recommended that Council support the nomination of Councillor Steven Chaytor of Campbelltown City Council as representing the interests of Campbelltown and Camden Councils. Further, Councillor Chaytor is the current Chair of MACROC. In so doing Council should also express to Government its extreme disappointment that only five (5) Councillors will represent the diverse interests of local government in Western Sydney and concerns as to the minority voice MACROC Councils may have.

More detailed information in respect of Regional Forums and membership thereof is contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 6”**.

WSROC Regional Vision and Planning Framework Project

Council in December 2002 considered a report in respect of an invitation by WSROC to participate in the relatively recently commissioned regional vision and planning framework project. Council resolved to offer qualified support to participation; such qualification being coming to an understanding of the terms and conditions of participation.

The terms and conditions of participation are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding which Council would need to sign. Such Memorandum together with other information in respect of the project is reproduced as **Tabled Document “BPA 7”**.

The salient points of interest to Council include:

- (1) A monetary contribution this financial year of \$16,500 and a contribution next financial year of \$2,475. (It should be noted that this years commitment can be funded from the vote for planning consultants).
- (2) A Councillor and alternate to represent Council on the Advisory Committee. Such Committee is proposed to meet on 13 February 2003, at 6.30pm at Blacktown City Council and there is likely to be three further meetings in 2003 following this meeting. Both the nominated representative and alternate may attend the meetings. (It should be noted that it would be desirable that such “team” of Councillors also represent Council on the South Western Sydney Regional Strategy project discussed below).

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- (3) A senior planning staff member to represent the General Manager on the Steering Committee and a support planning staff resource.

What is the difference between the WSROC project and the PlanFIRST Regional Forum/Strategy exercise? The WSROC project will culminate in the preparation of a regional outline plan/strategy which provides a “skeleton” for the region’s future which is “fleshed out” with local content. The local content will importantly not be lost, but will be represented in a coherent regional context.

The PlanFIRST Regional Forum/Strategy exercise is structured to provide less opportunities for local input and influence on a regional strategy.

Much of the work undertaken by WSROC is, however, likely to inform the PlanFIRST Regional Strategy and is unlikely to be wasted or duplicated.

Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board
(GSWEDEB) – Full Employment 2020 Strategy (A Strategic
Planning and Transport Vision and Directions Statement for
Greater Western Sydney

The subject strategy was recently released by the GWSEDB and details a vision, objectives and recommendations for a more sustainable Western Sydney. Included are elements of a Regional Structure Plan or Strategy. The more significant components of such strategy have recently gained significant metropolitan media exposure and are being touted as a defacto Regional Strategy.

Despite much good work the Strategy tends to lack rigour and was prepared with very limited local government consultation. Further, some of Council’s comments are not reflected in the Strategy. Indeed there are some elements which are clearly at odds with Council’s adopted policy position. Typical areas which are inconsistent with Council’s policy position as espoused to date include:

- The concept of significant green corridors is supported, however, sprawling to the Cataract/Nepean/Hawkesbury Rivers is not considered sustainable.
- The promotion of Liverpool as a centre and “down playing” of Campbelltown is of concern.
- A lack of understanding of the emerging freight focus in the Camden LGA.
- Promotion of a Campbelltown/Camden rail link as part of a Western Sydney Orbital Rail Network is inconsistent with current regional transport planning. The prospect of a Glenfield/Leppington (and potentially beyond) link has

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some merit and prospect should comprehensive transit orientated development occur in such location.

In the light of the method of its compilation and policy positions which are inconsistent with Council it would only be possible to offer qualified support for elements of the Strategy.

(Refer to **Tabled Document “BPA 8”** for further comments in respect of the Strategy. A copy of the Strategy has been **forwarded to Councillors as a separate handout.**)

South West Sydney Regional Strategy

The Bringelly future urban release investigation area has been more accurately and informally titled a South West Sydney Region investigation area. The investigation area is likely to be more extensive than the “Bringelly Blob” depicted differently on different maps to date and more accurately reflect greater South Western Sydney.

The investigation/planning for such area is scheduled by PlanningNSW to occur in a very intensive fashion in 2003. As such it is likely to lead the preparation of the broader PlanFIRST Regional Strategy. It is, however, likely to be informed and rely heavily on the quite comprehensive WSROC Regional Investigation/Strategy work.

Council will have significant input into its preparation. Accordingly for purposes of consistency and efficiency it is recommended that the Councillors and lead staff nominated in respect of the WSROC project represent Council in respect of the South Western Sydney Strategy project.

Campbelltown City Council – Regional Plan Proposal

Campbelltown City Council have recently advised of their Council’s support for the preparation of a Regional Plan prepared pursuant to current planning legislation. They have resolved to approach Camden, Liverpool and Wollondilly Councils to support such an initiative. (Refer to **Tabled Document “BPA 9”**).

The need for a Regional Strategy is acknowledged and supported for South Western Sydney. It is unlikely, however, that PlanningNSW will support the preparation of such a Strategy given the impending South Western Sydney Investigations/Strategy preparation and broader Regional Forum/Strategy work proposed and current WSROC Regional Framework work. Indeed it is these three (3) vehicles/exercises which should be structured in such a way as to ensure the Liverpool/Campbelltown/Camden (and to a somewhat lesser

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extent Wollondilly) relationships are comprehensively canvassed. Further repetition must be avoided at all costs.

In the light of the foregoing Council should support Campbelltown City Council's concern for a South Western Sydney Regional Plan but not support the preparation of a Regional Plan as proposed, and reinforce the need for all PlanningNSW and WSROC regional planning auspiced work to prepare a comprehensive strategy that clearly acknowledges the structural relationships of Camden / Campbelltown / Liverpool (and the northern part of Wollondilly Shire).

Conclusion

There is significant regional planning/strategy energy emerging. The need and importance of regional planning/strategy development is critical to providing a framework for local planning and more sustainable outcomes. Clearly, the effectiveness of local strategies cannot be realised by stopping at local government boundaries. Natural systems, infrastructure networks and higher order centres likewise clearly have an influence that extends beyond local government boundaries.

It is fundamentally important, however, that regional investigations/planning/strategy development is undertaken in a rigorous, consultative, representative and non-repetitive fashion. Council should avail itself of opportunities to be involved and indeed become involved so as to champion its cause on behalf of the community and environment.

We should not, however, lose sight of the resource implications of contributing to regional planning/strategy development.

Specific recommendations in respect of regional planning/strategy work undertaken to date, currently in train or proposed are detailed below.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council note the specific nature of regional planning/strategy development recently undertaken and that which is currently in train and proposed.
- (ii) Council acknowledge the need to be involved in regional planning/strategy development and the attendant resource implications of such involvement.
- (iii) Council champion a position that such regional planning/strategy development be rigorous, consultative, representative and non-repetitive.

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- (iv) Council nominate a Councillor and alternate to represent it on the WSROC Regional Planning Advisory Committee and that such nominations for purposes of continuity extend into other regional planning/strategy development for South Western Sydney generally.
- (v) Council enter into the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of the WSROC Regional Planning Framework project, subject to separate reporting occurring to Council and MACROC.
- (vi) Council support the nomination of MACROC Chair Councillor Steven Chaytor as representing Campbelltown and Camden Councils on the proposed Western Sydney Regional Forum and that appropriate briefing and reporting protocols be established with Councillor Chaytor.
- (vii) Council in supporting Councillor Chaytor's nomination referred to in (vi) above express to PlanningNSW its extreme disappointment at the limited level of local government representation on the proposed Western Sydney Regional Forum.
- (viii) Council communicate to Campbelltown City Council its support for a regional strategy which focuses upon Camden/Campbelltown/Liverpool (and potentially northern Wollondilly) local government areas. That Council further communicate it does not, however, support the preparation of a separate Regional Plan but believes that all PlanningNSW and WSROC auspiced regional planning exercises for Western Sydney should reinforce a focus upon the Structural relationships of Camden/Campbelltown/Liverpool (and northern parts of Wollondilly Shire).
- (ix) Council note the GWSEDB Full Employment 2020 Strategy but record the following policy position concerns:

 - (a) Development to the proposed Green Corridor is not considered to be sustainable.
 - (b) The increased focus on Liverpool and "down playing" of regional role of Campbelltown.
 - (c) The lack of understanding of the emerging freight focus of Camden.
 - (d) Promotion of Campbelltown/Camden rail link in a manner which is inconsistent with current regional transport planning.
- (x) Council formally communicate its views on the document to the GWSEDB.

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Resolved on the Motion Cr Winn, seconded Cr Anderson that

- (i) Council note the specific nature of regional planning/ strategy development recently undertaken and that which is currently in train and proposed.*
- (ii) Council acknowledge the need to be involved in regional planning/ strategy development and the attendant resource implications of such involvement.*
- (iii) Council champion a position that such regional planning/ strategy development be rigorous, consultative, representative and non-repetitive.*
- (iv) Councillor Winn be appointed as Council's representative with Councillor Campbell as the alternate on the WSROC Regional Planning Advisory Committee and that such nominations for purposes of continuity extend into other regional planning/ strategy development for South Western Sydney generally.*
- (v) Council enter into the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of the WSROC Regional Planning Framework project, subject to separate reporting occurring to Council and MACROC.*
- (vi) Council support the nomination of MACROC Chair Councillor Steven Chaytor as representing Campbelltown and Camden Councils on the proposed Western Sydney Regional Forum and that appropriate briefing and reporting protocols be established with Councillor Chaytor.*
- (vii) Council in supporting Councillor Chaytor's nomination referred to in (vi) above express to PlanningNSW its extreme disappointment at the limited level of local government representation on the proposed Western Sydney Regional Forum.*
- (viii) Council communicate to Campbelltown City Council its support for a regional strategy which focuses upon Camden/ Campbelltown/ Liverpool (and potentially northern Wollondilly) local government areas. That Council further communicate it does not, however, support the preparation of a separate Regional Plan but believes that all PlanningNSW and WSROC auspiced regional planning exercises for Western Sydney should reinforce a focus upon the Structural relationships of Camden/ Campbelltown/ Liverpool (and northern parts of Wollondilly Shire).*
- (ix) Council note the GWSEDB Full Employment 2020 Strategy but record the following policy position concerns:*

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- (e) Development to the proposed Green Corridor is not considered to be sustainable.*
- (f) The increased focus on Liverpool and “down playing” of regional role of Campbelltown.*
- (g) The lack of understanding of the emerging freight focus of Camden.*
- (h) Promotion of Campbelltown/Camden rail link in a manner which is inconsistent with current regional transport planning.*

- (xi) Council formally communicate its views on the document to the GWSEDB.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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6. Camden Bowling Club

(File 1500.220) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Despite extensive public consultation and debate and significant work by all parties, the agreement for the re-assignment of the Camden Bowling Club lease has faltered.

On 16 December, 2002 Council resolved to re-assign the lease from the Western Suburbs Leagues Club to Temujin Hotels subject to a range of conditions. However, over recent weeks, the commercial arrangements between the Leagues Club and the hotel group have not been agreed and the hotel group has formally withdrawn from the proposal. There has been no suggestion that Council's conditions have been the cause or subject of the dispute.

Council officers have endeavoured to broker a return to the negotiating table and while the Leagues Club has signified its willingness to continue and the negotiability of all conditions, Temujin has no wish to continue. Under the circumstances, Wests has indicated that it will close the Club on 31 January, 2003.

Discussions are continuing with the members and committees of the Mens' and Ladies' Bowling Clubs with a view to seeking alternative partners or solutions and an update report will be provided to Councillors at the meeting together with an appropriate recommendation.

Recommended: That Council be provided with further information.

(The Director Governance & Outcomes provided the following additional information).

ADDENDUM REPORT – CAMDEN BOWLING CLUB

Efforts to have Temujin Hotels return to the negotiating table have been unsuccessful. The company does not wish to be further involved in the transfer of the Bowling Club lease.

Western Suburbs Leagues Club remains willing to participate in a negotiated outcome for the Bowling Club site, however has indicated that if no other potential result is apparent it will close the club on 31 January, 2003.

Over recent days a possible alternative has emerged that involves a number of local sporting clubs and preliminary meetings have been held to gauge support for a new community-based licensed club on the premises. While these discussions are at a very preliminary stage, there is some hope that the club, in a revised form, might continue to operate.

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As owner of the site, Council has been represented at the first meeting and staff were impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the participants though no-one holds any misapprehensions about the difficulties faced in resurrecting a club on the site.

It is proposed to support this movement while it scopes the tasks ahead and to participate as is appropriate for the owner of the leased site. A meeting of this small group is scheduled with the management of Western Suburbs Leagues Club for further discussions and the outcome will be reported to Council at the earliest opportunity.

In the meantime, it is necessary for Council to consider arrangements that may be necessary in the event that the proposed “rescue” does not succeed. The Bowling Clubs (Camden Mens’ & Camden Ladies’) have only sufficient funds to maintain the greens for another three months. The clubs are prepared to do this however, if no suitable proposal comes to fruition, there is little benefit in the expenditure of substantial funds for this short time with no real prospect of longer term viability. In the event that Wests closes the club and leaves the site, the bowling clubs have requested that Council permit them to occupy the building as a clubroom in the interim period until Council can call for expressions of interest to occupy the site.

(Cr Patterson declared an interest in this matter as the Manager of the Merino Tavern in the Camden CBD, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 8.25pm)

(Cr Corrigan declared an Conflict of Interest in this matter as the four (4) hoteliers supported a fund raiser during 2002, and took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 8.25pm).

CHAIRMANSHIP OF MEETING

Cr Corrigan vacated the Chair and the Deputy Mayor, Cr Anderson assumed the Chair.

Recommended: that

- (i) Council support moves for a community-based sporting club, pending a full and detailed proposal being developed.
- (ii) in the event of Western Suburbs closing the site, Council support the continued access by the Bowling Clubs to

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club house facilities pending further determination of the future of the site.

MOTION

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) Council support moves for a community-based sporting club, pending a full and detailed proposal being developed.*
- (ii) in the event of Western Suburbs closing the site, Council support the continued access by the Bowling Clubs to club house facilities pending further determination of the future of the site.*
- (iii) Council request the Western Leagues Club Board provide the Secretary/Manager, Mr T Matthew's explanation of how there interim agreement was formulated and that this be communicated in writing to Council before 31st January, 2003. If the letter is forthcoming it be immediately forwarded to Temujin Hotels (Canley Vale) Pty Ltd.*

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

(Cr McFadden & Cr Anderson voted against the Motion).

(Cr Corrigan and Cr Patterson returned to the Chamber – the time being 8.40pm)

CHAIRMANSHIP OF MEETING

Cr Corrigan resumed Chairmanship of the Meeting.

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7. 2002/2003 Construction Program
(File 3968) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the reallocation of funds within the existing 2002/2003 Construction Program.

Background

Council's 2000/2001 Construction Budget included an allocation of \$108,000 for the construction of carparking facilities within Pat Kontista Reserve, Leppington. At its meeting of 12 June 2001, Council resolved to reopen that section of Byron Road which extends through Pat Kontista Reserve; accordingly it was resolved to redirect the available funds to the 2001/2002 budget for the reconstruction of that segment of Byron Road. The available funds were subsequently revoted into the current 2002/2003 budget.

The formal process associated with the reopening of the road has continued. With the State Governments announcement of the Bringelly Release area and the consideration of a rail line through Leppington/Bringelly, investigations to satisfy these planning issues extend across Camdens northern suburbs. It is therefore appropriate for Council to wait for data and information relating to the Bringelly and South Creek growth areas, prior to investing heavily in asset reconstruction in this area.

Byron Road

Given the indefinite timeframe it is unlikely that the civil works, required upon reopening, will be undertaken on Byron Road within the current financial year. It is therefore considered appropriate to redirect funds as described below and seek future funding for the Byron Road works when confirmed timeframes are able to be established and the formal reopening process has been fully undertaken.

Waterworth Drive Service Road

A paved service road off, and parallel to, Waterworth Drive services numbers 130 to 144 Waterworth Drive, Mount Annan. Over the past couple of years the pavers and concrete base course along this section of road have begun to fail and maintenance of this roadway is becoming costly. The cost to restore the paved road surface is estimated to be \$90,980.

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Fairwater Drive Paved Threshold

Similarly, the paved threshold in front of the Community Centre on Fairwater Drive, Harrington Park, has begun to fail. Maintenance of this threshold has commenced and unless addressed will continue to escalate with the deterioration of the pavers.

It is proposed to reconstruct this section of Fairwater Drive with a more structurally sound pavement given the volume of traffic which utilises this road and pedestrians which cross at this threshold. Council proposes to remove the pavers and reconstruct the road surface in traditional bitumenous material; several other suitable options were investigated as an alternative to plain black bitumen. Through negotiations, Harpak have offered to fund the additional costs associated with the upgrading of the road surface from traditional black bitumen, to a coloured bitumen surface; designed to maintain a contrasting surface treatment at this location. Estimated cost of traditional black bitumen surface is \$17,020, and the same area in coloured bitumen is estimated to cost \$25,190. Harpak have offered to fund the difference in reconstruction works between plain and coloured bitumen to the sum of \$8,170.

Conclusion

As the allocated funding (\$108,000) for the reconstruction of Byron Road will not be utilised this financial year, it is considered appropriate to redirect the available funds towards other projects.

It is proposed to reallocate the available funding of \$108,000 towards:

Project	Allocation
Waterworth Drive Service Road Reconstruction	\$90,980
Fairwater Drive Paved Threshold Reconstruction	\$17,020*
Total	\$108,000

* Budgetary allocation to be supplemented by Harpak funding of \$8,170.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Reallocate the available \$108,000 assigned for the reconstruction of Byron Road towards;
 - (a) \$90,980 - Waterworth Drive Service Road Reconstruction, and
 - (b) \$17,020 - Fairwater Drive Paved Threshold Reconstruction.

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- (ii) Accept the supplementary funding from Harpak of \$8,170 towards the reconstruction of the paved threshold on Fairwater Drive, Harrington Park.
- (iii) Refer an allocation for the reconstruction of Byron Road through Pat Kontista Reserve to future budgets when the development of Bringelly/South Creek release areas have been resolved.
- (iv) Notify the Leppington Oval 355 Committee, together with the Leppington Progress Association, of Council's resolution.

MOTION

Moved Cr Fekete, seconded Cr Senise that further consideration of this matter be deferred for further discussion with Leppington Section 355 Committee.

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

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8. Harrington Park Water Quality And Flood Management System

(File 3638) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of Report

This report relates to follow up discussions requested by Council at its meeting of 26 August 2002 to consider possible alternative works for the Harrington Park Water Quality Management system – Stage 1.

The discussions were held between Council, Harpak and each party's consultants to review and discuss the options to provide the best water quality management system on Narellan Creek at The Northern Road, Harrington Park. Council seeks to provide a system which is the best for the environment and for the community.

The report reviews the results of these discussions and proposes a preferred course of action which is to adopt the concept design to carry out limited work in water body 3A and construct water body 4. The works will ensure suitable water quality entering the Narellan Creek and Nepean River, from the Harrington Park catchment, based on the economic comparison of the alternate proposal with the original mediated solution.

Background

Council currently has adopted an extensive water quality and flood management system to be located on Narellan Creek within Harrington Park. The scale and nature of the works were negotiated through the mediation process with Harrington Park developers, DLWC, EPA and Council. These works are proposed to maintain the water quality of Narellan Creek and ensure the impact of this development on the Nepean River is not significant.

At Council's meeting of 26 August 2002, a number of alternate proposals were tabled inclusive of an investigation by Harpak Development, Council's consultation process, cost reviews and Council's preferred option.

Council resolved at that meeting (motion 093/02) to enter into further discussions with Harpak and their consultants to consider the various options and the implications of these choices.

Plan **Tabled Document "BPA 10"** details the water body numbering within Harrington Park as defined at the time of arbitration of the original system and includes the additional option of proposed Water Body 4.

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Nature and Results of Discussions with Harpak

Council officers met with Harpak, their consultants and Council's design consultants on 20th September 2002 to further discuss the project. The purpose of the meeting was to compare various assumptions, design differences and exceptions, and conclusions drawn by both the consultants for their revised Harrington Park water quality systems; as well as the likely outcomes of the various treatment stage options.

Issues that were discussed included:

- Implications to water quality in Water Body 3 and Narellan Creek downstream of any additional wetland (Water Body 4);
- Options for improvement of water quality in Water Body 3, such as aerators, bubblers, fountain, etc;
- Minimum works necessary in Water Body 3;
- The size and scope of an additional wetland (Option 4) and its associated capital cost;
- Land requirements;
- Offers to carry out work/share costs/land offer.

Discussions highlighted the following:

Water Body 3A

- Previous decisions, and the 'mediated' solution provided works within Lake 3A for the purpose of ensuring water of a suitable standard were delivered into Narellan Creek west of The Northern Road.
- Changing the mediated solution (reducing macrophyte planting) introduces an increased risk of algal bloom in the existing water body 3A.
By reducing the overall coverage of macrophytes in water body 3A (at the outlet of existing stormwater pipes and at the creek entrance to the water body there is a likelihood of elevated nutrient and sediment loading, which will manifest itself through algal bloom and increased turbidity.
- Remedial measures to oxygenate the water body, to reduce the incidence of algal bloom can be promoted which will provide mixing and/or circulation of deep water in the water body. This mixing can be achieved through the use of fountains, underwater impellers or air diffusers (bubblers).
- Macrophytes must be planted/retained to a width of 3m around the shelf at the entire shore line of the water body to protect against erosion of the shore line, deny access to the water (for the young, non-swimmer and ensure the community are discouraged from swimming in the water of varying quality).

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- Macrophytes must be planted to a defined width at each of the four entrance to the stormwater system and the Narellan Creek into this water body.
- State Government approval, through DLWC and EPA, would be necessary for the reduced work in tandem with approval for the new water body 4 works; as these government bodies signed off on the original arbitrated solution. Works could not commence on the reduced standard of works without receipt of a government concurrence to these works and the changed concept for achieving suitable water quality in the river system.
- Changing the mediated solution, may mean the government bodies enforce stricter criteria over the whole, as yet unconstructed system, requiring a total revisit of the water quality system in Harrington Park. A total Environmental Assessment submission may be required for the system.

Water Body/Wetland 4

To offer reduced areas of macrophytes within Water Body 3A, a new water body (no. 4) would be introduced, on land owned by Dandaloo west of The Northern Road, immediately downstream of Harrington Park off line to the creek. Water Body 4 would offset/complement/make up for the effects of the reduced area of the macrophytes in Water Body 3A. The consultants discussion, both theoretical and using practical examples covered:

- The overall sizing of the viable water body/wetland required to produce water quality of a suitable standard in approximately 3.5ha. This is inclusive of 1.5ha of macrophyte wetland and the remainder as buffer zones both to Narellan Creek at this point itself and any abutting future uses. (This area requirement replaces the area of macrophytes deleted from the negotiated solution in Water Body 3A).
- An additional area of 0.75ha will be required for the provision of the Narellan Industrial Area to be considered in the design.
- Excavated material to create the water body/wetland can be utilised within the Harpak development.
- The macrophytes within the water body/wetland 4 would be designed to produce water quality downstream of the water body/wetland which was anticipated to be achieved by the system as originally mediated.
- The additional water body/wetland 4 would be considered as a new and separate construction/water quality control system; requiring the necessary State and Local Government approvals. This process would include preliminary investigation, design and Environmental Impact Assessments. There would be delays and possible

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challenges prior to receiving/granting approval to this development.

- Flood flows inundating water body 4 would both bypass this new wetland and transport some of the captured material.

Physical Provision of the Works (Water Bodies 3A and 4)

- Harpak has offered to contribute an amount to the capital cost, investigation and design of the amended works in water bodies 3A and 4.
- Harpak offered the (3.5ha) land component for the development of water body/wetland 4 at no cost to Council. This offer also included any additional land requirement if treatment of the stormwater runoff from the Narellan Industrial Estate is included in the design of the proposed wetland (4). (The offer was made such that should the industrial area be designed/constructed at a later time, then the land requirements would have to be negotiated at that time).

Time Delays and EIS Requirements

Beyond the discussions held in September, several issues were required to be investigated, not the least being to gauge the requirements of the government bodies to approve changes to the arbitrated result.

As some research has already been carried out by both consultants there may be some time savings. It is however considered that the approval process from the State Government (through DLWC and EPA) may be protracted.

As noted above it would be inappropriate to commence scaled back work on Water Body 3A, without gaining approval of the State bodies to the overall (3A and 4) concept, and their satisfaction that the system proposed will produce the desired outcome of suitable water quality being delivered into Narellan Creek.

The State bodies must also grant approval to the proposed off-stream construction of Water Body 4 prior to any work commencing. This process will include the necessary preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed concept. Processing, consultation and approval for the mooted changes will therefore necessarily take time. It is anticipated that the timeframe to achieve approval to the scaled down works in Water Body 3 and the water body/wetland 4 project would take between 9-12 months.

The preparation of an Environmental Assessment and other support documentation, officer time and community consultation is envisaged to cost in the order of \$200,000.

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Options to reduce the risk of Algal Bloom in Water Body 3A

Whilst Water Body 4 will provide overall water quality benefits to the downstream output of the (Harrington Park/New Release Areas) catchment the limited works proposed in Water Body 3A will not be sufficient to address the water quality issues within this water body.

Water Body 3A will require remedial action to prevent the increased risk of algal blooms. There are a number of options which could be employed to mitigate, to an extent, these issues; by supplementing the recirculating system with mixing alternatives.

A number of options, currently employed in similar water body scenarios across Sydney, have been investigated:

A fountain would tend to mix water in a localised area of the lake. Its size and cost would be dependent on its design and location. It has the opportunity to form an integral component of the lake as well as being a public art feature.

Bubblers, or air diffusers, are simple in design and easy to install and operate. They involve passing air through small holes in flexible pipes laid along the base of the lake. The pipes rise to a predetermined height when filled with air. The equipment is simple, inexpensive, and has a very low running cost and would not be visible when operating. A bubbler system exists at Campbelltown Golf Course, at Glen Alpine on a comparable sized lake area. The capital cost of that system was approximately \$30,000, with operating cost in the order of \$1,000 per year.

An impellor option would consist of low energy turbines suspended from a small float within the water body to provide a mixing regime. Impellors are sized for the particular application. Similar systems have been used in Penrith Lakes and Manly dam. A disadvantage is if debris is caught on the impellor. The system has a capital cost of approximately \$25,000 and associated recurrent costs are in the order of \$1,000 - \$1,500 per year.

The final recommendation of the most appropriate system would require further detailed investigation related specifically to water body 3A, although bubbler aeration is favoured.

Financial Considerations

Consideration of the concept as laid out above, has numerous additional cost implications which have been investigated. The

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following table compares these costs against the original mediated concept/solution.

Item	Original Mediated Design	Revised Design incl Water Body Wetland 4*
Capital Cost Water Body 3A-3D	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
Capital Cost Water Body/Wetland 4	-	\$803,000
Capital Cost Aeration System in 3A	-	\$30,000
Preliminary Investigation	-	\$70,000
Environmental Assessment and Approval	-	\$60,000
Detailed Design	-	\$70,000
	\$1,000,000	\$1,833,000
Annual Recurrent Costs		
Recurrent Maintenance Lake 3A-3D	\$90,000 p.a.	\$90,000 p.a.
Recurrent maintenance Lake 4	-	\$50,000 p.a.
Recurrent Maintenance Aeration System	-	\$1,000 p.a.
	\$90,000 p.a.	\$141,000 p.a.
<p>Note the tabulated costs exclude any land acquisition component.</p> <p>* The costs defined for revised design providing limited work in Water Body 3A and introducing Water Body/Wetland 4 includes provision for Narellan Industrial Area.</p>		

As part of the discussions Harpak indicated they are willing to contribute to the following items:

- the cost of additional investigation and design fees of Water Body/Wetland 4. (50:50 basis - \$70,000 each to Council and Harpak).
- Provision of land to accommodate Water Body/Wetland 4 (gratis to Council).
- Design and installation of mixing/aeration facility in Water Body 3A (full cost subject to scale of works - \$30,000).

Harpak provided these offers subject to detailed estimates and negotiations.

Final Comparisons

The tabulated figures clearly indicate the variation in the capital cost of provision of these water quality systems.

Original mediated design	\$1,000,000
Full cost of Revised Design	\$1,833,000

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The costing variations effects:

- scaling down the works in 3A does not produce significant financial savings .
- works in water bodies 3B to 3D are still required.
- the cost of construction of water body/wetland 4 at \$803,000 (plus design, EIS and investigation at \$200,000), is a new element which has no Council budget.
- Council's support budget for the water quality system for the Narellan Industrial area was \$300,000. This figure is not currently in the 2002/03 Budget. The figure would offset, but not cover, the construction of water body/wetland 4.

The cost of these additional works exceed Council's budget for the project (\$1,500,000 through CP3).

In summary, should Council wish to proceed with the waterbody/wetland 4 option it will cost Council an additional \$833,000 which would be funded in the following manner:

• Section 94 CP3	\$500,000
• Harpak	\$100,000
• Council Budget	<u>\$233,000</u>
	\$833,000

In balancing figure of \$233,000 required to be provided by Council is in fact less than the noted figure of \$300,000 previously budgeted to, in part, provide for the Narellan Industrial area. As noted above (under Water body/wetland 4) "an area of 0.75 ha. will be required for the provision of the Narellan Industrial Area to be considered in the design". Therefore, although not in Council's current budget, by providing the additional funds the project will satisfy the dual aims of providing satisfactory water quality for the Narellan Creek catchment upstream of The Northern Road and the Narellan Industrial Area input into this creek.

Conclusion

Following discussions with representatives for Harpak and Council it was recommended that reducing the surface area of macrophytes in Water Body 3A and the construction of Water Body/Wetland 4 provides an acceptable technical solution to providing suitable water quality treatment for Narellan Creek comparable with the original mediated design. The consultants concur that this concept for development will theoretically and technically provide an end result in the same order as was to be achieved previously.

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The economic analysis of this option leads to the conclusion that the additional costs of this amended proposal can be supported by Council. The sum can be provided by Council on the basis of providing water quality for the Narellan Industrial Area, which was previously only part funded by Council.

It must be noted that in adopting the proposal, which greatly modifies the original mediated water quality solution for the Narellan Creek at Harrington Park particularly for water body 3, it is anticipated that there will be additional delay in achieving State Government approvals to the modified (or even entire) water quality system, based on tighter controls. These delays are difficult to quantify.

It is consequently recommended that Council proceed with the modified solution to provide the best water quality management system to the Harrington Park/New Release Areas Catchment Stage 1 (water bodies 3A to 3D) works as conceptually proposed.

(Cr Anderson left the Meeting – the time being 8.55pm).

Recommended: That:

- i) Council approve in principle the modified water quality system (affecting water bodies 3A and 4) for discussion purposes with the State Government bodies.
- ii) Request Department Land and Water Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority to approve the modified design for the water quality system to supplement the mediated agreement by the construction of Lake 4.
- iii) Design and construction of the modified water quality system proceed, if approved by the State Government bodies.

Resolved on the Motion Cr Batros, seconded Cr Winn that:

- i) Council approve in principle the modified water quality system (affecting water bodies 3A and 4) for discussion purposes with the State Government bodies.*
- ii) Request Department Land and Water Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority to approve the modified design for the water quality system to supplement the mediated agreement by the construction of Lake 4.*

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- iii) *Design and construction of the modified water quality system proceed, if approved by the State Government bodies.*

010/03 *THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.***

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9. Camden Plans Of Management

(File 4666) [Director of Works and Services]

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council an identified program for the development of Plans of Management for Community Land as required under Section 36 of the Local Government Act (1993).

Background

All public land must be classified as either “community” or “operational” land. Camden Council has classified its public land. Classification as community land which reflects the importance of the land to the community because of its use or special features and generally, it is land intended for public access and use, or it is intended to preserve the qualities of the land. Council by resolution has previously classified community land.

Community land:

- cannot be sold,
- cannot be leased, licensed or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years,
- must have a plan of management prepared for it.

Community land must be categorised as one or more of the following

- (a) a natural area;
- (b) a sportsground;
- (c) a park;
- (d) an area of cultural significance;
- (e) general community use

Council was required under the Local Government Act (1993) (“the Act”) to have all Plans of Management completed by 1996 and have reviewed its plans by 31 December 2000 to determine whether they comply with the core objectives for each community land category.

Camden Council currently has approximately 464.89 hectares of land in 157 reserves that are classified as “Community Land”.

Implications to prepare Specific Areas Plan of Management

The Public Land Management Practice Note 1 (Revised May 2000) prepared by the Department of Local Government advises that “Generic plans will be entirely appropriate in many cases, for example in dealing with children’s playgrounds or

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other pieces of land that contain similar facilities with similar management issues.” “Natural areas may not be so appropriate for generic plans, given that there may be issues unique to each piece of land, based on the character of the land, surrounding development, community expectations and so on. This does not prevent council from including common clauses or paragraphs in specific plans of management.”

Amendments to the Local Government Act, from 1 January 1999, require Specific Areas POM to be prepared for certain pieces of community land, namely:

- Land declared to be “critical habitat” or directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the TSC Act)
- Land declared by Council to contain “significant natural features’
- Land declared by Council to contain an “area of cultural significance”

At present there is no community land declared as “critical habitat”, “significant natural features” or an “area of cultural significance” within Camden Council. However most of the vegetation remnants on community land are Endangered Ecological Communities (EECS) under the Threatened Species Conservation Act and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is presently finalising a Draft Recovery Plan of EECs in the Cumberland Plain.

Council at some time in the future will be required to develop Specific Areas POMs as the Recovery Plan is adopted. If a Generic POM applies to community land and there is no Specific Areas POM, upon the adoption of a Recovery Plan by the State Government, the Generic Plan that applies to the land ceases to apply once land is affected by threatened species laws. A new Specific Areas POM must be prepared that complies with the requirements.

By identifying a program of preparing Specific Areas POMs Council will be able to efficiently deliver POMs and amend these plans when necessary. Consequently they will not have to prepare entirely different POMs which may apply to different parcels of community land because the existing Poms have been automatically revoked as a result of the adoption of a Recovery Plan. This approach can also complement Council’s Place Based Management philosophy.

Current POMs for Community Land in Camden

To date the following Plans of Management on “Community Land” have been prepared for Camden in accordance with the Local Government Act (1993).

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Generic Plans of Management

- Camden Riparian Areas

A major action in respect of the implementation of The Camden Riparian Areas Plan of Management is to “Prepare Specific Area Plans of Management for all land falling under this plan”. The Lake Annan Specific Area Plan of Management is the first of these POMs. The Camden Riparian Areas (Generic) POM has provided a sound basis for the preparation of Specific Areas POMs in that it has provided common management requirements to be included in a Specific Areas POM.

Specific Areas Plans of Management (5 reserves in total)

- Kings Bush Reserve Plan of Management (adopted)
- Sickles Creek Reserve Plan of Management (adopted)
- Macarthur Park Plan of Management (adopted)
- Lake Annan Specific Area Plan of Management (draft awaiting exhibition)
- Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management (draft nearing completion and soon to be reported to Council for exhibition purposes).

The area covered by the above Specific Areas POMs is 76.5 hectares, which represents approximately 16.5% of Camden’s “Community Land”. There are a total of 157 named reserves in Camden of varying size and land use. As noted to date 5 reserves have had Specific Areas POMs prepared.

In effect the balance (83.5%) of “Community Land” or 152 reserves do not have Specific Area POMs prepared, either in the case of a Specific Areas POM applying to a single reserve or a swathe of reserves with common characteristics. As a result of not having a POM in place these reserves have not been categorised.

It is not intended that a POM be prepared for every reserve as this would prove unwieldy and a financial burden to Council in Council staff time and associated costs. Rather it is proposed that Council adopt an identified program of preparing a defined number of POMs which meet and anticipate legislative requirements, and which will be achieved within an identified budget.

Direction for Preparation of Required POMs

A strong component of Camden Council’s current land use planning is on a ‘place’ basis. In respect of preparing Specific Areas POMs for ‘Natural Areas’ it is considered that other land categories such as “Parks, Sportsgrounds, or General Community Use” could be done on a ‘place’ basis, which are synonymous with ‘specific areas’. As there are multiple

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categories Council will need to clearly identify where each category applies on a map of the land / site.

Furthermore through identifying a program for the preparation of Specific Areas / 'Place' Based POMs means the costs per POM should average \$10,000. It is proposed that a large proportion of the preparation of the POMs will be done in-house. Taking into account there are 10 Specific Areas / Place Based POMs proposed to be prepared (as per **Tabled Document "BPA 11"**), this should represent an overall cost of \$100,000 over 3 years for 83.5% of community land and 152 reserves.

The preparation of existing Specific Areas POMs covering 16.5% of community land and covering 5 reserves has cost approximately \$76,000 to date, within the last two year period. The Camden Riparian Areas POM (generic) and the Lake Annan Specific Area POM were done from a grant under PlanningNSW's Metropolitan Greenspace Program. It is anticipated that it would be extremely difficult to prepare any further POMs under a grant program.

A strong advantage of having a comprehensive coverage of POMs is that a POM usually is one of the main supporting documents for obtaining the various grants which are available for carrying out recreation, facility and environmental rehabilitation works on public lands. It is anticipated that POMs will be reviewed on a 5 year basis.

Financial Considerations

It is anticipated that the cost over 3 years will be:

2003/04 - \$40,000
2004/05 - \$30,000
2005/06 - \$30,000

The Natural Resources Officer will coordinate the program and this funding would utilise part-time external specialists to operate with Council staff on specific aspects of the plan where needed.

Conclusion

By identifying a program of preparing Specific Areas / 'Place' Based POMs, Council will deliver POMs which provide certainty to overall cost savings, meet the up to date requirements of the Local Government Act, but also provide an identified program to the community which is synonymous with Council's current planning practice of 'place' management.

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Recommended: That:

- (i) Council adopt the proposed program of preparing Specific Areas Plans of Management for Council's Community Land.
- (ii) The program be referred for consideration to the 2003/04 Budget Process and future budget processes.

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

- (i) *Council adopt the proposed program of preparing Specific Areas Plans of Management for Council's Community Land.*
- (ii) *The program be referred for consideration to the 2003/04 Budget Process and future budget processes.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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10. Upgrading of Air-conditioning System for the Camden Civic Centre

(File 2904)(Director, Works and Services)

Purpose of report

To seek Council approval to allocate funds to upgrade the air-conditioning plant in Camden Civic Centre.

Background

The current air-conditioning plant incorporates a water cooling tower, a system which is now less popular because of the risk of Legionnaire's Disease outbreaks. It has been planned for some time to replace the old system with air-cooled condensers however there have been competing higher priority items to be attended to whilst the current air-conditioning system is still functioning.

Recently it was necessary to patch a leak in the water cooling tower. The structure is manufactured in sheet metal and permanently contains water. After more than 20 years of service, rust has now begun to affect the integrity of this steel structure.

Concerns

It is necessary to drain the water from the system each time patching occurs inside the water cooling tower and some time elapses before the sealing compound sets and the system can again be filled with water. During the setting time no air-conditioning is available to the building, creating disruption to the use of the facility.

As the rust problem worsens, the water cooling tower will need to be rebuilt or replaced and this would be the opportune time to replace the water-cooled system with an air-cooled system. The time required to obtain a replacement unit can range from weeks/months for a suitable new air-cooled system, of adequate size to cater for the needs of the Civic Centre as it is not a readily available stock item. Complete failure of this unit will require the Civic Centre to be shut for an extended period of up to 18 weeks.

Conclusion

Whilst the current system is still serviceable it is recommended that Council order new air-cooled condensers immediately as delivery could be in the vicinity of 18 weeks,. Following delivery of the air-cooled condensers the Centre Manager can program the change-over at a convenient time therefore causing minimal disruption the Centre's functioning.

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Recommended: That the water cooling tower of the air-conditioning plant in Camden Civic Centre be replaced with an air-cooled condenser system at a cost of \$60,000. Source of funds, costing be submitted as part of the December 2002 Budget Review.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Fekete, seconded Cr Winn that the water cooling tower of the air-conditioning plant in Camden Civic Centre be replaced with an air-cooled condenser system at a cost of \$60,000. Source of funds, costing be submitted as part of the December 2002 Budget Review.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**11. Department of Community Services Funding
Agreements**

(File: 1323) [Director Works and Services]

(A) Children and Family Community Project Officer

Purpose

Council is advised that it is required to sign the Department of Community Service funding agreement in relation to the provision of funding for the Children and Family Community Project Officer position.

Discussion

The New South Wales Department of Community Services provides funding to Council for the position of Children and Family Community Project Officer. This position provides the children and family services sector with resources, timely dissemination of information, training opportunities, funding submission assistance as well as ongoing support and advocacy.

Prior to receiving funding for the 2002 – 2003 financial year Council is required to enter into the funding agreement with the Department of Community Services.

The funding agreement is for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, it is anticipated that Council will receive \$48,747.

(B) Community Project Officer

Purpose

Council is advised that it is required to sign the Department of Community Service funding agreement in relation to the provision of funding for the Community Project Officer position.

Discussion

The Department of Community Services provides partial funding to Council for the ongoing position of Community Project Officer. This position provides opportunities to the community that contribute to the development of capacity and social capital within identified local communities.

Prior to receiving funding for the 2002 to 2003 financial year Council is required to enter into the funding agreement with the Department of Community Services.

The funding agreement is for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, it is anticipated that Council will receive \$10,859.

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Recommended: That

- (i) Council enters into agreements with the Department of Community Services for the provision of funds for:
 - (a) the Children and Family Community Project Officer position;
 - (b) the Community Project Officer position
- (ii) The Common Seal be affixed to the required documents.

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

- (i) *Council enters into agreements with the Department of Community Services for the provision of funds for:*
 - (a) *the Children and Family Community Project Officer position;*
 - (b) *the Community Project Officer position*
- (ii) *The Common Seal be affixed to the required documents.*

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*THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.***

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12. Youth Strategic Plan

(File 86/7) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

This report advises Council of the preparation of the Youth Strategic Plan and seeks a Councillor representative to participate on the Community Advisory Group.

Discussion

Young people make up a significant proportion of our community. In 1996, there were **6,235** 12-24 year olds, compared to **7872** 12-24 year olds in 2001. Young people currently represent 26 % of Camden's population. This trend will continue with Camden's growth over the next 10 years. In this context it is important that young people are actively engaged in community life with appropriate opportunities provided.

Youth services and recreational opportunities make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of young people in our community. They provide a means of support, education and skill development and socialisation. Youth services create a sense of belonging for young people.

Through the development of the Youth 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.

Process

The Youth Strategic Plan will be developed over the next 6 months in the following stages:

- Stage 1: Establish Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Stage 2: Information gathering - demographics, trends, statistics etc, as well as local based research-focus groups, surveys and community forums, issues and concerns, what is happening and where would we like to be, services activities and actions needed.
- Stage 3: Analysis of data - issue identification and prioritisation, developing working parties.
- Stage 4: Strategy development - working parties to develop priority issues for the plan-issue, action required,

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key players/resources, timeframe to be entered into plan.

Stage 5: Development of Draft Plan and any supporting papers

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

A Community Advisory Group will be established to provide advice and guidance throughout the process of developing the strategic plan. Membership of the CAG will be through an invitation process as well as an advertised expression of interest process.

Membership of the CAG will be representative of government, non-government and community representatives, including young people living in the local government area.

The CAG will provide advice and direction for developing the plan, work in partnership to identify issues and needs and be actively involved in working parties to develop strategies for the plan. The group will consist of government, non-government and community representatives who service or live in the Camden LGA.

Conclusion

The Youth Strategic Plan will provide a clear vision and direction for Council to assist in facilitating adequate youth service provision in the next 5 years and collaboratively respond to the needs of young people in Camden.

Recommended: That a Councillor representative be nominated for a position on the Community Advisory Group.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Winn that Councillor Patterson be nominated as Council's representative on the Community Advisory Group.

014/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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13. Camden Council Community Financial Assistance Policy

(File 3130/10) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

This report presents Council with a revised financial assistance policy to guide the provision of donations, sponsorship, grants and subsidies to local groups.

Background

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, the draft financial assistance policy has been developed. This policy aims to cover all financial assistance provided by Council to community organisations, that is donations, sponsorship, grants and subsidies.

Current situation

Council currently provides financial assistance in a variety of ways to a range of local community groups. Financial assistance is provided in the form of donations, sponsorship, grants and subsidies. The current method of providing financial assistance varies resulting in inconsistencies and inequitable access to available funds.

Council has allocated **\$69,846** in the 2002/2003 financial year to provide financial assistance to local groups. This amount includes \$19,637 that has been traditionally provided to 4 groups and \$30,409 that is available through an open application process. The funds available through an open application process are provided through the existing Community Financial Assistance Program (job number 1925.200) and the Community Support pool (job number 1925.201).

Several groups have been funded on an annual basis, resulting in the expectation that financial support is automatic. In this situation applications have been made in the form of a letter to Council requesting payment of an 'annual donation'. Presently there is no requirement to establish a need or to account for the money received. Such groups include Camden Art Prize, Camden Pipe Band, Camden District Band and Camden Rugby Band. This process is incongruous with Council's existing

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Community Financial Assistance Program which requires applicants to comply with set criteria, apply within a set timeframe and be accountable for the acquittal of funds.

During the 2001/2002 Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP) 27 organisations applied for funding which totalled \$38,535. Funds available through this program totalled \$10,000. This has resulted in enforcing an upper limit of \$1500, thus reducing opportunities to develop any significant projects for the area.

Discussion

A draft policy to ensure a consistent and open approach to the provision of financial assistance has been developed. This policy has been developed after a review of current arrangements, research into other models of financial assistance provided by Councils and consideration of Council's strategic vision 2025. Details of financial assistance programs provided by other Councils are outlined in **Tabled Document "BPA 12"**.

Camden 2025 (4.2.1) commits to:

*"support and recognise local community organisations" and
"encourage community participation and celebration to develop a sense of identity and belonging"*

Council has a key role in the promotion of social sustainability and community well-being. This can be enhanced through providing opportunities for its residents to participate in the life of the community and creating opportunities that allow people to build connections within the community thus creating a sense of belonging and strengthening social capital.

The development of a holistic and strategically focussed financial assistance policy will contribute to promoting social sustainability. Through a focussed policy Council will be able to form partnerships with local organisations to work together to meet identified needs.

Draft Financial Assistance Policy

Council provides financial assistance to groups, not as a key funding body, but rather as a means of achieving better outcomes for the community.

The revised policy will ensure:

- Funding provided by Council is consistent with the vision and strategic directions outlined in Camden 2025;

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- Fair and equitable access to financial assistance provided by Council;
- A clear and open process for the distribution of funds;
- Funding provided by Council promotes community wellbeing, social sustainability and directly benefits the Camden community;
- Council is recognised for its support and commitment to the Camden community; and
- A consistent approach to all financial assistance offered by Council, with no delineation between sponsorship, subsidises, grants and donations.

The policy and associated procedures are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 13”**.

Key features of the new policy are:

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;
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

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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). **Tabled Document "BPA 12" – Appendix 1**

Financial Implications

The 2002/2003 budget provides a total of **\$69,846** for the provision of financial assistance. Set out below are the amounts that would be 'pooled' into the one Community Funding Program:-

RECIPIENT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	JOB NUMBER
Camden International Friendship Assoc – Section 355 Committee	Recurrent	\$5000	A0931.205
Camden Art Prize Hall Subsidy	Recurrent subsidy	\$14637	A1886.205
Pipe Band	Recurrent subsidy	\$1500	A1886.209
District Band	Recurrent subsidy	\$1500	A1886.210
Camden Rugby Band	Recurrent subsidy	\$2000	A1886.211
Music & Performing Arts Hall Cultural Projects Subsidy	Subsidy Civic Centre fee relief	\$4800	A1886.212
SW Sydney Academy of Sport	Recurrent Sponsorship	\$5000	A1925.207
Community Financial Assistance	Grant/s	\$14650	A1925.200
Community Support Program	Grant/s	\$15759	A1925.201
Camden Main Street Committee		\$5,000	
TOTAL		\$69,846	

Under the revised policy it is proposed that **\$5,000** would be set aside as an emergency response fund. A panel of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager would have the delegation to allocate these funds.

It is proposed that the balance of these funds be pooled and be allocated to community groups in the following manner:

- 1: **POOL 1** - \$5,000 to be made available for funding requests of less than \$250 accepted throughout the year.

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- 2: **POOL 2** - The remainder would be divided equally and allocated via two funding rounds in March and September of each year. **Tabled Document “BPA 12” – Appendix 1**

Monies not allocated in the September round will be added to the March funding round. A total of **\$69,846** would be allocated in each budget for financial assistance (and increased annually in line with CPI increases or at the discretion of Council).

Transition arrangements

There will be a period of transition once the policy is adopted, as some groups who have automatically received funding in the past will be required to go through an open application process. Training will be offered to these groups to assist them in this process.

In addition, they will be provided with information about other funding sources available to them such as the Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme and the Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (CDSE - clubs funding).

The only group that currently receive a subsidy greater than \$5,000 is the Camden Art Prize (CAP). The CAP which receive around \$15,000 per year in the form of Civic Centre Hire Relief. In recognition of the impact that the proposed policy will have, three options which were developed at the workshop and are presented to Council for their consideration.

- Option 1:** Funding to be reduced by \$5,000 increments over a 3 year period after which an annual application for funding must be made.
- Option 2:** The 2002/03 budget allocation be retained, after which time, the CAP would be required to submit an application under the revised policy.
- Option 3:** Retain the current arrangement, which is an annual subsidy of \$15,000.

Options 1 and 3 would reduce the pool available to other local organisations.

Consultation

During the 2001/2002 Community Financial Assistance Program, groups were consulted about their previous experiences with the program and asked to provide feedback about the current system. Comments from this review are contained in **Tabled Document “BPA 14”**.

These comments have been taken into account when developing the new policy. In addition, groups applying for

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their annual subsidy, such as the Rugby Band, have been advised that a review of the program would be undertaken. They have expressed interest in making comment about any proposed changes.

It is proposed the draft financial assistance policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 21 days to seek feedback.

Communication Strategy

It is proposed that once the policy is adopted all groups listed in the community directory will be provided written information on the new policy and procedures for applying. Information will also be provided through local media and via Council's website.

In addition, information sessions will be held to explain the changes and revised application process, with training offered in application and submission writing to groups where requested.

Conclusion

The new financial assistance policy will provide a more strategic and holistic approach to the provision of Council funds to community organisations. The policy will assist Council in achieving its strategic vision Camden 2025 by ensuring funds are provided on a merit based system with clear criteria based on identified local needs.

Recommended: 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.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr Patterson 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.*

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- (ii) *Council reserve its decision on funding for any individual organisations until all public submissions are received and reported back to Council.*

015/03 *THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.***

14. Offer of funding from the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts for a Cultural Development Officer
(File TC/603) [Director Works and Services]

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the offer of funding for a Cultural Development Officer and seeks consideration of the appointment of a Cultural Development Officer under the Western Sydney Arts Strategy.

Background

The New South Wales Ministry for the Arts is interesting in pursuing partnerships with western Sydney Councils and as such has offered Council funding towards an arts and cultural development Officer.

Funding Agreement

The NSW Ministry for the Arts provides the Western Sydney Arts incentive fund to:

- enhance the current social and cultural priorities of Western Sydney councils;
- encourage Western Sydney councils to develop and implement cultural planning;
- foster innovation and initiatives which reflect the unique cultural identity of the different areas of the region;
- promote the employment of local artists/arts workers;
- create opportunities for artists to interact and work with the community on arts projects;
- promote the development of audiences for the arts in Western Sydney;
- promote regional sharing of arts activities and resources in Western Sydney.

The offer to Council from the Ministry, is in the form of a three year agreement. The Ministry will fund the employment of the Cultural Development Officer on the following basis:

Year 1:	50% of the costs of employment of the officer and program
Year 2:	40% of the costs of employment of the officer and program
Year 3:	30% of the costs of employment of the officer and program

Comment

This position would have responsibility for the oversight, coordination and management of arts programs and services across the organisation. The position will provide a significant

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opportunity for Council to implement a cultural program for the Camden community, work with existing groups to strengthen their programs and seek further funding; initiate and undertake community cultural development projects; co-ordinate public art works funded through Section 94 developer contributions.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) accept the grant from the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts for a 3 year period; and
- (ii) allocate 50% funding, being Council's contribution, be from savings in the current budget as identified in the December 2002.

(The General Manager stated this report is withdrawn).

DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Development Committee Meeting – Held 16 December 2002

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Batros, seconded Cr Winn that the Minutes of the Development Committee of the 16 December, 2002, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

016/03

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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NOTICE OF MOTION OF RECISSION

We, the undersigned Councillors, hereby give notice of our intention to move that Minute No. DC133/02 relating to Item 3 of the Development Committee – Application for the Retention of an Existing Front Fence at 52 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange – of the 16th December, 2002, be rescinded.

Signed: Cr Bev Batros

Signed: Cr Eva Campbell

Signed: Cr Sylvia Fekete

(EXTRACT OF MINUTE NUMBER DC133/02)

(i) *The application for retention of a front fence erected at No 52 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange being Lot 304 in DP 875500 be refused on the following grounds:*

[a] *The fence is inconsistent with the objectives outlined in Development Control Plan No 121 – Smeaton Grange Industrial Area.*

[b] *The fence is inconsistent with clause 3.11 of Development Control Plan No 121 - Smeaton Grange Industrial Area, which requires fencing to be erected behind the landscaping.*

[c] *The fence is inconsistent with the existing and proposed streetscape along Topham Road envisaged by Development Control Plan No 121.*

(ii) *That a Notice of Intention to serve an Order be served on the owner of No 52 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange requiring the demolition of the unauthorised front fence.*

Should the above Motion of Recission be carried, it is our intention to move the following further motion:-

- (i) DA No. 1427/2002 be approved.
- (ii) An awareness raising campaign be undertaken in Smeaton Grange to ensure standards are understood and complied with.
- (iii) Landscaping conditions of consent for previous Development Applications be enforced where practicable.

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- (iv) New Development Applications be assessed before construction stage to alert applicants to the need to correctly position fencing and meet landscape requirements.
- (v) The DCP be reviewed to assess and set future standards of fencing.

NOTICE OF MOTION OF RECISSION

The Notice of Motion of Recission was formally

Moved Cr Batros, seconded Cr Campbell that Council Resolution Minute Number DC133/02 relating to the “Application for the Retention of an Existing Front Fence at 52 Topham Road, Smeaton Grange”, be rescinded.

017/03

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

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

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Batros, seconded Cr Campbell that

- (i) *DA No. 1427/2002 be approved.*
- (ii) *An awareness raising campaign be undertaken in Smeaton Grange to ensure standards are understood and complied with.*
- (iii) *Landscaping conditions of consent for previous Development Applications be enforced where practicable.*
- (iv) *New Development Applications be assessed before construction stage to alert applicants to the need to correctly position fencing and meet landscape requirements.*
- (v) *The DCP be reviewed to assess and set future standards of fencing.*

018/03

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

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

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NOTICE OF MOTION OF RECISSION

We, the undersigned Councillors, hereby give notice of our intention to move that part (vii) of Minute No. DC144/02 relating to Item 14 of the Development Committee – Elderslie Release Area (Infill) Local Environmental Study (LES) Draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Draft Master Plan – of the 16th December, 2002, be rescinded.

Signed: Cr Geoff Corrigan

Signed: Cr Chris Patterson

Signed: Cr Noel McFadden

Signed: Cr Fred Anderson

(EXTRACT OF PART VII OF MINUTE NUMBER DC144/02)

(vii) Council resolve to include a reservation in the DCP and Masterplan between the Elderslie Release Area and existing suburb of Elderslie which is of sufficient width to facilitate the provision of a low volume road connection to Southdown Road, Merino Drive and Coopworth Drive. The such road connection not be made, but the reserve be utilised to facilitate pedestrian and cycle movements between the estates. That such reservation have gates installed to prevent vehicular access with the exception of emergency vehicles. That no road based connection between the estates be permitted without full consultation with the residents of Elderslie and the (affected part of) the Elderslie Release Area.

POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Campbell stated that she has become aware because of her residence at 11 Southdown Road, Elderslie, although representing Central Ward, which includes Elderslie, may preclude her from taking part in the Elderslie Infill Planning matter. While no pecuniary or conflict of interest has been established, until advice has been received from the Department of Local Government, Cr Campbell will not take part in discussion or voting on this matter.

(Cr Campbell took no part in discussion or voting on this matter and left the Chamber – the time being 9.43pm).

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NOTICE OF MOTION OF RECISSION

The Notice of Motion of Recission was formally

Moved Cr Patterson, seconded Cr McFadden1 that part (vii) of Council Resolution Minute Number DC144/02 relating to the “Elderslie Release Area (Infill) Local Environmental Study (LES) Draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Draft Masterplan”, be rescinded.

019/03

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

(Cr Batros and Cr Senise voted against the Motion).

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QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Metropolitan Library Association AGM

(TC/1326)

Cr Senise drew Council's attention to the AGM of the Library Association in three weeks time and indicated an inability to attend. Could another Councillor, the alternate, Cr Campbell attend?

The Mayor requested Cr Senise advise Cr Campbell of the date of the meeting.

Traffic Committee Minutes

(TC/1220)

Cr Senise drew attention to the Minutes of Traffic Committee where fatalities reported as a one (1) line item. Is there benefits to be gained in presenting more details of these incidents.

The Director Works & Services stated the point raised is valid although some information from the Police may be priviledged. However, we will see if the information can be expanded.

Cr Senise also requested the information relate to serious accidents as well.

The Director Works & Services stated both matters will be investigated.

Camden Valley Way – Rubbish

(TC/3288)

Cr Fekete thanked Council's staff for removing the building rubble along Camden Valley Way during the Christmas holidays.

Landcom – Waste Services Proposal

(TC/3840)

Cr Batros requested an update on the Landcom – Waste Services proposal in Jack's Gully. A meeting of the Community Consultative Committee is to be held next week.

The Director Development & Environment stated Waste Services had forwarded another draft to Council indicating a three (3) way agreement between Waste Services, Landcom and Council. Council has responded in that only Landcom and Waste Services need to be parties. Council, as the consented authority should be separate due to probity issues and contractual arrangements. Council has suggested once a solution has been reached between the parties it be communicated to Council. The only solution in accordance to Council's resolution to protect the facility with closure not an option.

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Argyle Street – Pavers

(TC/1947)

Cr Winn requested pavers adjacent to her shop be repaired as they are dangerous. The matter has been attended to previously but due to further subsidence the matter is dangerous.

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

Draft Camden Library Services Strategic Plan

(TC/591)

Cr Campbell requested information on when the Draft Policy is on public exhibition and when submissions can be accepted.

The Manager Community Services stated the plan is currently on public exhibition, Council has held three (3) information sessions across the Libraries. In addition staff have spoken to patrons to make sure people are aware of the exhibition and to encourage feedback. Letters and a Draft Plan have been sent to local schools which will be waiting for when school resumes. The public exhibition closes around 14-15 February, 2003.

Cr Campbell stated it was understood the exhibition would be from mid January to take into account the annual holidays and Christmas/New Year period. The exhibition would go through to the end of February. An addition a notice in the Library indicates submission closed on 31st January, 2003.

The Manager Community Services stated the exhibition closes 14-15 February, 2003 and a check will be made on such notices.

Cr Campbell requested an extension of time for the schools as it is a busy time on resumption of the school term.

The Mayor the actions are the resolutions of Council.

The General Manager stated the exact wording of the Minutes of Council resolution indicate the public exhibition be for a six (6) week period commencing mid January to take into account the December/January holiday period. The General Manager stated Council resolution will be implemented and the Community will be advised accordingly.

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Pedestrian Crossing – Currans Hill

(TC/3690)

The Mayor requested the pedestrian crossing on Tramway Drive and Currans Hill Drive be referred to the Traffic Committee as to the appropriateness of safety of pedestrians accessing the Primary School.

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

The Meeting closed 10.05pm.