

**MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES & SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD 12 MAY, 2003, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET  
CAMDEN**

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

**Staff:** General Manager, Director Works & Services, Director Development & Environment, Director Governance & Outcomes, Manager Assets, Manager Engineering, Manager Corporate Services, Senior Project Officer – Environmental Systems, Team Leader - Revenue, Team Leader – Financial Services, Administration Officer.

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

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Winn, seconded Cr McFadden that leave of absence be granted to Cr Senise for this meeting.*

RS020/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**1. Investment Monies: Period Ended: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2003**  
(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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2003, is provided as **Tabled Document “RS 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 4.98% and during the month of March 2003, the average return on all investments both call and term was 4.95%.

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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2003 be noted.
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.95% for the month of March 2003 be noted.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn 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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2003 be noted.*
- (iii) The interest rate return of 4.95% for the month of March 2003 be noted.*

RS021/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**2. Camden Memorial Swimming Pool**  
(File 544) (Director, Works and Services)

**Background**

At the meeting of 8 April 2002, Council considered options for the redevelopment of the Camden Memorial Pool (CMP); in particular a request from the Camden Amateur Swimming Club to develop a 50 metre, 8 lane, heated, indoor pool at the existing Mitchell Street facility.

It was resolved that;

- (i) *Council approve the initiation of a viability study to examine the redevelopment of the 50m pool at the Camden Memorial Swimming Pool to provide an eight lane 50m heated and enclosed pool, with associated grandstand facilities.*
- (ii) *That Council authorise the expenditure of \$40,000 from the Camden Swimming Pool Reserve for the preparation of a viability study for a 50m pool.*

**Viability Study**

Through a competitive process Council engaged Stratcorp Consulting Pty Ltd (of Melbourne) to undertake a viability study into the redevelopment of the Camden Memorial Pool (CMP). Stratcorp Consulting are a recreation/sports planning, management and market research consultancy and have undertaken similar viability studies for various Councils.

The viability study was undertaken to;

- Assess the role that the CMP currently fulfils.
- Assess the current performance of the CMP.
- Identify the catchment market of the Pool (demographically and geographically).
- Assess industry trends and their impact on the future operation of the Pool.
- Identify “opportunities” and “threats” to the on-going viability of the CMP.
- Identify a recommended Strategy/Plan to upgrade the facility and an assessment of the capital costs and financial outcomes (operational) of the proposed improvements.

The objectives of the viability study were to;

- Compile and analyse existing information regarding leisure opportunities at the CMP and identify the Centre’s catchment area.

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- Assess the existing leisure facilities, programs and services at the CMP, and identify where they may be further developed or improved.
- Identify the distinctive population characteristics of the Camden catchment area.
- Identify any gaps or oversupply in service provision and outline strategies to address this.
- Ascertain the needs of existing and potential users of the CMP through a consultation process.
- Assess the impact any potential redevelopment will have on the operations of other regional aquatic and leisure facilities, including the Mount Annan Leisure Centre.
- Identify the optimum combination of facilities and services for the proposed redevelopment.
- Develop costings for the capital development and operational performance of the facility.

The viability study included;

- A review of the current situation at the CMP including facilities, programs and services, financial performance and attendances.
- Demographic profile for both the Camden LGA and for the CMP catchment area.
- A review of previous studies, reports and relevant documentation.
- Benchmarking against statistical data obtained from the Centre for Environmental and Recreation Management (CERM), in South Australia.
- Competitor analysis including aquatic leisure centres (Mount Annan, Wollondilly, Campbelltown, Eagle Vale and Macquarie Fields), public swimming pools, health and fitness centres, and swim schools.
- Extensive consultation which involved;
  - Random telephone surveys,
  - Field surveys in Camden and Narellan townships,
  - Patron surveys,
  - Meeting with Camden Amateur Swimming Club,
  - Consultation with stakeholders including the Camden Active Seniors, the South West Sydney Academy of Sport, Cumberland Amateur Swimming Club, Swimming NSW, and the Alan Thompson Elite Swimming School.
  - Meetings with the existing Managers from both CMP and MALC,
  - Schools (21 primary and secondary schools within the LGA),
  - Public notification calling for submissions, and
  - Council Officers.

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**Findings**

Stratcorp reports the key results of an initial review of the CMP indicated that;

- The CMP currently requires significant levels of subsidy from Camden Council each year; approximately \$100,000 per year.
- The CMP is currently attracting a low level of usage compared to other “like” facilities across Australia.
- The financial performance of the CMP is largely due to the increasing maintenance expenditure, the small catchment population and the high number of competitor facilities within the immediate area.

Stratcorp further reports key information identified through the research and consultation phase relevant to the viability study included;

- The population of the Camden municipality was expected to grow from 48,320 people to 70,000 people by 2013.
- That Camden is a population with a high proportion of young families (particularly in new development areas) and has a higher proportion of Australian-born residents when compared with the rest of NSW.
- The primary catchment area for the CMP covers suburbs of Camden, Camden South, Elderslie, Grasmere, Bickley Vale, Kirkham, Cawdor, Spring Farm and Ellis Lane, where an estimated 21,641 residents live.
- The majority of new release areas within the municipality are located closer to the Mount Annan Leisure Centre, which is a distinct advantage for this facility over the CMP.
- A high proportion of Camden residents who are using a community swimming facility are utilising the MALC (80% of telephone survey users and 71% of in-field survey users). Cross tabulations revealed that there appears to be no resistance for people living in the suburbs that comprise the primary catchment of the CMP in travelling the short distance to use the facilities and services at Mount Annan.
- There are five private Learn To Swim competitors and three private Health and Fitness competitors located within the catchment area of the CMP (5-8km). In addition to these facilities, the MALC is located within approximately 6.5km of the CMP and would provide direct competition to any redeveloped aquatic facilities at the CMP. There are also indoor aquatic and leisure facilities in the neighbouring municipalities of Campbelltown and Wollondilly, which will limit the extent of any secondary latent demand.

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**Development Options**

Consideration was given to several development options based on the scenario of indoor versus outdoor, 25 metre versus 50 metre, and heated versus unheated. Consideration was also given to the development of a health and fitness gymnasium, a hydrotherapy pool, changeroom upgrade, kiosk upgrade and to a “do nothing” option.

Based on the above highlighted findings, a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis was undertaken. Stratcorp identify the key issues that need to be addressed to enhance the community experience at the CMP as (in no particular order);

- Improve the entrance to the centre,
- Improving the changerooms and toilets,
- Increasing the size, layout and function of the kiosk area,
- Improving the carparking area of the facility,
- Improving the accessibility to some areas of the facility for aged and disabled users,
- Refurbishing the Centre’s appearance,
- Refurbishment/replacement of the 50 metre pool and converting it to an 8 lane pool,
- Consider heating of the 50 metre pool, and
- Improving shade and wind protection measures.

Consideration will need to be given to the impacts of refurbishment/replacement of the existing facilities with respect to the historical and cultural significance of the Camden Memorial Pool.

**Financial Implications**

Stratcorp report that the total estimated costs for the implementation of the proposed recommendations depend upon the findings of a detailed engineering analysis and condition report on the existing pool infrastructure at the CMP. It is currently not clear whether some of this infrastructure can be retained to reduce some of the costs associated with total replacement.

Replacement costs have been estimated for the following developments (assuming demolition costs and external works costs are included and the total replacement of existing infrastructure will be necessary);

- \$1,115,000 for a 25 metre, 8 lane, outdoor unheated pool
- \$1,265,000 for a 25 metre, 8 lane, outdoor heated pool
- \$1,737,000 for a 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor unheated pool
- \$1,987,000 for a 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor heated pool

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- \$5,407,000 for a 50 metre, 8 lane, indoor heated pool

In addition it is important to note that consultant's fees are currently estimated at around 10% of the construction costs.

With respect to the changerooms, reception, office and kiosk areas, the existing buildings could be refurbished or replaced. The following costs have been estimated;

- \$600,000 for new changerooms
- \$796,250 for new building entry, kiosk and administration
- \$320,800 for refurbishment of existing buildings.

Detailed financial operational models were prepared for consideration for two options (a) a 50 metre, 8 lane, indoor, heated pool and (b) a 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, unheated pool;

	<b>Capital Cost to Build</b>	<b>Level of Subsidy (Best Case)</b>	<b>Level of Subsidy (Realistic)</b>	<b>Level of Subsidy (Worst Case)</b>
<b>50m, 8 lane, indoor, heated pool</b>	\$5,407,000	\$2,687,696 Over 10yr period	\$2,885,684 Over 10yr period	\$3,080,352 Over 10yr period
<b>50m, 8 lane, outdoor, unheated pool</b>	\$1,737,000	\$1,104,790 Over 10yr period	\$1,168,735 Over 10yr period	\$1,231,861 Over 10yr period

If option (a) is chosen the annual cost to Council would increase to \$344,237 (year 1 worst case) as well as the usual loan repayment amounts.

If the second option (b) is adopted Council's level of current subsidy (\$119,833 year 1 realistic case) towards the pool would continue. The additional capital cost associated with heating the 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor pool is estimated to cost \$250,000 (ie. total \$1,987,000); and the associated annual operating deficit is estimated to increase by between \$45,000 to \$60,000 per year.

Whilst Stratcorp recognises that no option is self sustainable, if Council requires any re-development of the pool it is recommended that it be limited to refurbishment or a 50 metre, 8 lane outdoor unheated pool. The total cost for this development, excluding consultant's fees and cost escalation, is estimated to be \$2,057,800 (\$1,737,000 pool plus \$320,800 to refurbish building).

**Conclusion**

Stratcorp report that upon the consideration of the cost-benefit of the short-listed options, existing and future community

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needs, industry trends and the availability of aquatic leisure services (both public and private) within the catchment area, it is recommended that:

1. A major redevelopment of the Camden Memorial Pool not be undertaken at this time.
2. Camden Council undertake a detailed engineering analysis and condition report of the existing pool infrastructure at the Camden Memorial Pool.
3. Camden Council develop a 50 metre, 8 lane outdoor, unheated pool by refurbishing / replacing the existing 50 metre outdoor pool.
4. Camden Council refurbish and upgrade the changerooms, toilets, entrance, kiosk, shade and wind protection, disabled and aged access and car parking amenities at the Camden Memorial Pool.
5. Camden Council review the demand for indoor aquatic facilities in 10 years, when the Camden population has increased by 20,000 and there may be sufficient demand to justify the development of a second indoor aquatic facility in the municipality.
6. That the recommended strategic direction for aquatic service provision within Camden focus on the further development of the MALC as the major aquatic leisure venue in the municipality.

The recommendations are supported by findings within the Viability Report that clearly identify a limited catchment population, insufficient demand for another major aquatic facility within the area, poor economic performance (current and projected) of the CMP and high levels of local competition. In addition, the CMP is located within a flood plain which could result in significant flooding and damage, once in every 20 years.

The total estimated capital costs for the implementation of the proposed recommendations are dependant upon the findings of a detailed engineering analysis and condition report on the existing pool infrastructure at the Camden Memorial Pool, as it is currently not clear whether some of this infrastructure can be retained to reduce some of the costs associated with total replacement of the pool infrastructure. Assuming complete demolition and replacement of the current pool, the costs associated with the recommended development option (i.e. to develop a 50 metre, 8 lane, outdoor, unheated pool to replace the existing pool and also refurbishment of the existing changerooms, entrance, reception and kiosk areas) is \$2,057,800 (excluding consultant's fees and cost escalation).

Prior to receipt of this report, Council included an indicative \$1 million in the draft 2003/5 budgets.

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Subject to the findings of the engineering report, Council may have to consider borrowing up to \$2.3 million (plus loan repayments) in the 2004/5 budget.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Camden Memorial Pool Viability Study be accepted and the consultants be acknowledged for provision of a thoroughly researched, logical and practical report supplied to address the viability of options for developing the Camden Pool.
- (ii) Undertake a detailed engineering analysis and condition report of the existing pool infrastructure at the Camden Memorial Pool. That this report be funded from the Camden Pool Reserve fund.
- (iii) Subject to the findings of the engineering report Council consider refurbishment or reconstruction options.

**MOTION**

Moved Cr Fekete, seconded Cr Winn that

- (i) *Camden Memorial Pool Viability Study be accepted and the consultants be acknowledged for provision of a thoroughly researched, logical and practical report supplied to address the viability of options for developing the Camden Pool.*
- (ii) *Council undertake a detailed engineering analysis and condition report of the existing pool infrastructure at the Camden Memorial Pool. That this report be funded from the Camden Pool Reserve fund.*
- (iii) *Subject to the findings of the engineering report Council consider refurbishment or reconstruction options.*

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

*(Cr Campbell, Cr McFadden, Cr Winn, Cr Patterson and Cr Batros voted against the Motion).*

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**FURTHER MOTION**

*Moved Cr Patterson, seconded Cr Batros that Council staff prepare a report on the financial implications of approaching the Minister of Local Government to seek approval to borrow the necessary funds for the construction of a 50m, 8 lane, indoor heated pool. The report to also detail the financial implication to this year's Budget and other relevant issues in considering the redevelopment of the Camden Memorial Pool.*

RS022/03 THE FURTHER MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED**.  
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*(Cr Fekete voted against the Motion).*

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**3. Byron Road - 2002/2003 Construction Program**  
(Files 3277 and 3968) [Director Works and Services]

**Background**

At its meeting of 28 January 2003, Council considered a report seeking the re-allocation of funds within the existing 2002/2003 Construction Program; essentially focussing on the redistribution of the available funds associated with the proposed reopening of Byron Road.

To accommodate the reopening of Byron Road, the existing road pavement needs to be upgraded to meet rural road standards. In addition raised thresholds are proposed in an attempt to reduce the travel speeds of vehicles along this section of road.

The report noted the indefinite timeframe associated with the formal reopening process, hence proposed civil works along this section of Byron Road to accommodate the reopening were unlikely to commence this financial year.

The recommendation sought the re-allocation of funds associated with the reopening of Byron Road, towards two projects to be completed within this financial year, and further recommended an allocation for the subject reopening to be included within future budgets. Council subsequently resolved;

*“that further consideration of this matter be deferred for further discussion with Leppington Section 355 Committee.”*

**Consultation**

Council’s Manager Engineering attended the Leppington Section 355 Committee held on Thursday 27 February 2003, to discuss the above mentioned Council report of 28 January, 2003. The contents of the report were discussed with representatives from the Leppington 355 Committee and the Leppington Progress Association.

Following this meeting, Council received correspondence from both groups; a full copy of the submissions from both the 355 Committee and the Progress Association were provided **to the Councillors separately.**

The Leppington 355 Committee was *“dismayed and disappointed to hear of Council’s recommendation to not utilise the allocated funding ... for the reconstruction of Byron Road”*. The committee further state *“it is imperative that this work commence immediately in particular the traffic calming devices to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the reserve*

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*especially on weekends of the Soccer season ... The informal parking area is inadequate for the amount of visitors to the oval and without any pedestrian proof fencing of pedestrian crossings. Players from visiting soccer clubs are unaware of the dangers associated with a public road passing through the reserve in close proximity to the amenities area and often assume that Byron Road is just part of the car park”.*

The Leppington Progress Association (LPA) provided comment stating they were “*in disbelief at the recommendation regarding the reallocation of funds allocated to the reconstruction of Byron Road*” and to “*put everything on hold for an indefinite period is unacceptable*”. The LPA did however acknowledge that “*The proposal to reallocate funds to the next financial year, as work can not be completed this financial year, is understandable and acceptable*”.

**Formal Reopening Process**

The formal reopening process is nearing completion; a public meeting was held on 12 March 2003 and a report was presented to Council’s meeting held 14 April 2003.

It is anticipated to take between 4-6 weeks to gain Ministerial approval to the reopening of this section of Byron Road; a further week is required for gazettal of the opening of the road.

As the timeframe associated with the remaining actions required to formally dedicate this section of Byron Road as public road is now definitive, construction can be programmed to commence once the land is formally gazetted as public road.

Council may note the design of the project is complete and work can commence following gazettal of the opening of the road.

**Recommended:** That Council

- (i) Revote the current level of funding to the 2003/2004 Construction Program for the reconstruction of the section of Byron Road through Pat Kontista Reserve, Leppington.
- (ii) Commence civil works associated with reopening of Byron Road in July 2003 providing the formal rededication process is complete.
- (iii) Notify both the Leppington 355 Committee and the Leppington Progress Association of Council’s decision.

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

- (i) Revote the current level of funding to the 2003/2004  
Construction Program for the reconstruction of the section  
of Byron Road through Pat Kontista Reserve, Leppington.*
- (ii) Commence civil works associated with reopening of  
Byron Road in July 2003 providing the formal  
rededication process is complete.*
- (iii) Notify both the Leppington 355 Committee and the  
Leppington Progress Association of Council's decision.*

RS023/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**4. Budget Review as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003**

(Director – Governance & Outcomes)

**Purpose of Report**

To inform Council of the necessary adjustments to the 2002/03 Budget since the adoption of the December Budget Review. These adjustments include those that

- Council has already authorised in a previous Council meeting, and
- Senior management have proposed and require Council's determination for budget inclusion

**Summary of Budget Review**

The March Review of the 2002/03 Budget has identified a further gain to Council's Working Funds of \$178,334.

The revised forecast of Accumulated Working Funds at the end of the financial year (30/06/2003) now stands at \$1,178,334. This represents a \$178,334 surplus above Council's minimum Working Funds level of \$1,000,000.

**Chief Financial Officer's Comments**

A thorough review of Council's budget was undertaken in the March Review with a distinct focus on identifying expenditure savings and revenue gains. The product of this exercise is a pleasing \$178,334 surplus.

In addition, a process of reviewing significant capital projects was undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of the Draft 2003/04 Budget. In addition to the \$771,506 in projects identified for Revote in the December Budget Review a further \$738,900 in projects have been earmarked for Revote. This now brings Council's total Revote value to \$1,510,406.

The following table is a summary of budget adjustments up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003.

**NOTE:** All figures reflected in this report are expressed in terms of their impact on Council's budget. In other words,

1. **INCOME: Increases** are expressed as positive figures.  
**Reductions** are expressed as (negative figures).
2. **EXPENDITURE: Increases** are expressed as (negative figures). **Reductions** are expressed as positive figures.

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Description	Income	Expenditure	Impact on Council's Working Funds
2002/03 Adopted Original Budget	47,816,205	(48,227,132)	<b>(410,927)</b>
Variations up to the December Review (as adopted by Council)	4,255,442	(5,063,316)	<b>(807,874)</b>
<b>2002/03 March Review adjustments:</b>			
<b>NOTE 1: Authorised Variations</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>NOTE 2: Proposed Variations</b>	45,277	133,057	<b>178,334</b>
<b>NOTE 3: Contra Adjustments</b>	(1,206,957)	1,206,957	<b>0</b>
<b>NOTE 4: Expenditure Revotes</b>	(630,000)	630,000	<b>0</b>
<b>Total of March Review adjustments</b>	<b>(1,791,680)</b>	<b>1,970,014</b>	<b>178,334</b>
<b>Revised 2002/03 Budget as per March Review</b>	<b>50,279,967</b>	<b>51,320,434</b>	<b>(1,040,467)</b>
ADD: Balance brought forward from 30/06/02			2,218,801
<b>EQUALS: Estimated Working Funds as at 30/06/03</b>			<b>1,178,334</b>
LESS: Minimum Desired Level of Working Funds			1,000,000
<b>EQUALS: Surplus funds available for allocation</b>			<b>178,334</b>

**NOTE 1 – AUTHORISED VARIATIONS**

This section deals with the budget variations that Council has authorised since the December Budget Review was adopted.

Council has not authorised any budget variations since the adoption of the December Budget Review.

**NOTE 2 – PROPOSED VARIATIONS**

This section deals with proposed budget variations submitted by senior management for Council to consider.

These proposed adjustments are primarily based on **actual** income and expenditure trends to date or **forecast** variations to the budget based on information at hand.

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The following table highlights significant proposed budget variations (greater than \$10,000) submitted by senior management and/or recommended for inclusion by the Finance Department. **(Refer to Tabled Document “RS 2“ for detailed information)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Impact on Council's Working Funds</b>
Compliance Certificate Income	(50,000)		(50,000)
Tree Removal Applications	(40,000)		(40,000)
Civic Centre operations		44,181	44,181
Organisational Salaries		33,835	33,835
Staff Vehicle Contributions	12,300		12,300
Rates Income	29,432		29,432
Interest on Investment Income	17,395		17,395
Waste Depot Rental Charge	41,000		41,000
IT Equipment and Supplies		21,500	21,500
Bitumen Resealing Program		15,522	15,522
Bus Shelters Contribution	19,300		19,300
Section 355 Committee Mgmt	29,200	(21,150)	8,050
Cawdor Road Safety Audit	(13,350)	26,700	13,350
Miscellaneous Variations		12,469	12,469
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED VARIATIONS</b>	<b>45,277</b>	<b>133,057</b>	<b>178,334</b>

**NOTE 3 – CONTRA ADJUSTMENTS**

This section deals with all offsetting adjustments between income and expenditure or a transfer of funds between allocations. These adjustments have NO impact on Council's Working Funds as both movements of income and expenditure are of equal value.

The total value of contra adjustments amounts to \$1,206,957 (decrease to both income and expenditure), the breakdown of which follows: (major items only). **(Refer to Tabled Document “RS 2“ for detailed information)**

Harrington Park Lake Acquisition/Construction (S94)	\$1,117,780
Family Day Care Salaries (Grant)	\$33,123
Baldwin Close Open Space/Water Quality (S94)	\$37,500

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**NOTE 4 – EXPENDITURE REVOTES**

To assist Council in framing a realistic and accurate 2003/04 Budget, Managers and Directors were encouraged to identify any programmed works/projects that will NOT commence or be completed by June 30 2003.

The following table summarises the suggested revotes as submitted by Managers and Directors for the March Budget Review.

**NOTE:** The 'Council Funds' total of \$108,900 will, if approved, be transferred to the 'Expenditure Revote' Reserve in the 2002/03 Budget and then released from this Reserve in the 2003/04 Budget for the purposes of completing the works next financial year. This process does NOT alter Council's Working Funds balance.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Revote</b>	<b>Council Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>
The Old Oaks Road Realignment (Land Acquisition) - Section 94 funds	100,000	0	100,000
Cross Creek Drainage (Channelisation) - Section 94 funds	160,000	0	160,000
Pat Kontista Reserve Carpark - Council funds	108,900	108,900	0
Liquidamber Clubrooms - Section 94 funds	220,000	0	220,000
Park Embellishment - Section 94 funds	150,000	0	150,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE REVOTES</b>	<b>738,900</b>	<b>108,900</b>	<b>630,000</b>

Recommended: That

- (i) Council approves the necessary budget adjustments as identified in the categories of 'Proposed Variations', 'Contra Adjustments' and 'Expenditure Revotes' of this report.
- (ii) Council approves the proposal to transfer surplus funds of \$178,334 to the Capital Works Reserve.

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

- (i) Council approves the necessary budget adjustments as identified in the categories of 'Proposed Variations', 'Contra Adjustments' and 'Expenditure Revotes' of this report.*
- (ii) Council approves the proposal to transfer surplus funds of \$178,334 to the Capital Works Reserve.*

RS024/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**5. 2003/04 Draft Management Plan & Budget**

(Director Governance and Outcomes)

**Purpose Of Report**

To seek Council's consideration of the 2003/04 Draft Budget and seek approval to publicly exhibit the Draft Management Plan & Budget in accordance with requirements under s402 of the Local Government Act (1993).

**Introduction**

Following a budget workshop with Councillors and staff on 22/4/03 and in accordance with the Management Plan timetable, the 2003/04 Draft Management Plan & Budget is now in a position to be formally presented to Council.

If approved, the Management Plan and Budget will be advertised and placed on public exhibition for a period of 30 days commencing Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and closing Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

**Accompanying Documents**

The following documents accompany this report

- Budget Strategy – Appendix 1 (**Tabled Document “RS 3”**)
- Capital Works Program – Appendix 2 (**Tabled Document “RS 4”**)
- High Priority Project Listing (the ‘A’ List) – Appendix 3 (**Tabled Document “RS 5”**)
- Medium Priority Project Listing (the ‘B’ List) – Appendix 4 (**Tabled Document “RS 6”**)

In addition, the 2003/04 Draft Management Plan and Budget will be circulated as a separate document to Council.

**2003/04 Budget Features**

Features of the 2003/2004 Draft Budget include:

- ◆ A total budget of \$60,233,375
- ◆ A projected surplus before new initiatives of \$989,305
- ◆ Proposed new initiatives of \$782,906 (net cost)
- ◆ A projected surplus after new initiatives of \$206,399
- ◆ A 3.6% general rate increase (as per the recent ministerial announcement)
- ◆ A significant Capital Works Program of \$29,500,000 over the 4 four years
- ◆ No new loan borrowings above the standard recurrent level of \$1,500,000

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- ◆ No compromises or adverse affectation to existing programs and services
- ◆ Sufficient resources to ensure that the short term outcomes of the 2003/2004 Budget Strategy/Management Plan are achieved
- ◆ Capacity building for the achievement of the longer term outcomes of Camden 2025.

**Gross Expenditure**

The following table highlights the funds dedicated to each of the five strategic themes:

Strategic Theme	\$	%
Sustainable Urban Growth	5,012,314	8.3%
Accessibility	15,843,975	26.3%
Environmental Systems	11,316,513	18.8%
Economic & Community Development	15,530,104	25.8%
Governance	12,530,469	20.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,233,375</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Gross Income**

The primary sources of income are:

Source of Income	\$	%
Rates & Extra Charges (incl Waste)	21,313,718	35.3%
Fees & Charges	3,527,308	5.8%
Grants & Contributions	15,719,180	26.0%
Loan Funds	1,500,000	2.5%
Reserves Utilised	3,505,547	5.8%
Interest on Investments	1,827,473	3.0%
Depreciation (Non-Cash Income)	5,819,534	9.6%
Other Revenue	7,227,014	12.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,439,774</b>	<b>100%</b>

**RECURRENT BUDGET COMMENTARY**

**Rates & Associated Income**

2003/04 gross rates income has been estimated based on the approved 3.6% rate increase. In addition, a 3.20% increase (approximately 550 new assessments) has been allowed for to cover anticipated growth in the rate base.

Each 1% variation in rate income has a \$180,000 impact on the budget.

Income from interest charges on outstanding rates has been based on the maximum allowable interest rate of 9.0%.

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	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Gross Rates Income	16,933,868	18,127,887	1,194,019
Interest Charges etc	165,000	167,000	2,000
Sub Total	<b>17,098,868</b>	<b>18,171,498</b>	<b>1,196,019</b>
LESS: Pensioner Rebates	(157,500)	(164,250)	(6,750)
<b>NET RATES INCOME</b>	<b>16,941,368</b>	<b>18,007,248</b>	<b>1,189,269</b>

**Domestic Waste Charges**

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, the expenses of providing the Domestic Waste Service must be met from Domestic Waste income – in other words, there must be no subsidy from Council’s Working Funds

In 2003/04, the total cost of the Domestic Waste Service is estimated at \$4,898,325 funded by:

Domestic Waste Charges	\$ 4,262,011
Less: Pensioner Rebate Subsidy	\$ (74,909)
Add: Operational Grants & Subsidies	\$ 83,969
Add: Sale Of Assets	\$ 50,000
Add: Transfer from DWM Reserve	\$ 577,254
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$ 4,898,325</b>

The Domestic Waste charges represent an increase in fees of 5.75% on the adopted 2002/03 Domestic Waste charge.

**Special Purpose Grants**

The total value of specific purpose grants can vary significantly in any given year, depending on the level of capital works undertaken or specific projects anticipated. Income from grants is generally totally offset (ie Contra) by expenditure required to undertake the works.

Major grants in the 2003/04 Draft Budget include:

<b>Grant / Subsidy</b>	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>
RTA Road Maintenance Grant	70,040	72,141
RTA Infrastructure Grant	54,000	76,000
RTA Roads to Recovery Grant	183,217	247,521
Family Day Care Operational Grant	195,000	195,000
Family Day Care Special Needs Grant	350,000	350,000
Library Per Capita Subsidy	87,957	88,000
Community Development Grants	51,070	36,623

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Children Services Grant	42,087	43,350
Bushfire Subsidy	112,538	137,225
Bushfire Equipment Subsidy	227,888	194,058
Urban Improvement Grant	95,000	85,000
Community Road Safety Program (RTA)	66,500	52,900

**Loan Funds**

The 2003/04 Draft Budget includes additional loan borrowings of \$1,500,000 for the upgrade of existing assets (primarily, the Roads Construction Program). The following table highlights Council's declining dependency on loans.

	<b>2000/01</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>
New Loans Borrowed	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,500,000
Debt Per Capita	\$203	\$201	\$185	\$173

**Financial Assistance Grants**

These are federal 'untied' grants distributed through the various states' local government Grants Commissions. There are two components to this grant – the 'Roads' component, which is based on road types and lengths within the local government area, and the 'Equalisation' component, which is distributed according to a methodology taking into account 'Revenue Raising Capacity' and 'Expenditure Disabilities'.

The following table highlights a comparison of budget estimates for both components:

	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Equalisation Component	1,522,244	1,703,926	11.94%
Roads Component	466,456	524,782	12.50%
<b>FAG TOTAL</b>	<b>1,988,700</b>	<b>2,228,708</b>	<b>12.07%</b>

**Interest on Investments**

Interest on the investment of surplus funds provides Council with a significant revenue source; however, some of the interest is restricted to Section 94 and similar trust funds. It is the net interest to Council's 'General Revenue' that directly assists the budget.

Income from interest on investments (General Revenue portion) is expected to increase by \$119,868 in 2003/04. This is based on the assumption that interest rates will remain relatively

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stable (5.0%) over the next 12 month period.

The following table highlights a comparison of estimated interest on investments between the 2002/03 and 2003/04 Budgets:

	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Gross Interest Earned	1,385,826	1,827,473	441,647
Less: Section 94	(1,053,221)	(1,375,000)	(321,779)
<b>Net Benefit to Working Funds</b>	<b>332,605</b>	<b>452,473</b>	<b>119,868</b>

### **Fees and Charges**

The following table is a summary of major income allocations/programs that charge a fee for service (excluding Domestic Waste).

<b>Description</b>	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>Increase Or (Decrease)</b>	<b>% Variation</b>
Approvals Income	1,666,520	1,829,005	162,485	9.7%
Dog & Animal Control Income	35,365	36,887	1,522	4.3%
Commercial Waste Income	318,807	360,654	41,847	13.1%
Civic Centre Income	407,337	483,340	76,003	18.7%
Library Fees	34,110	32,805	(1,305)	(3.8%)
Community Facilities Income	213,032	258,614	45,582	21.4%
Swimming Pool Income	24,090	27,618	3,528	14.6%
Park Hire Fees	30,000	31,500	1,500	5.0%
Road Restoration Fees	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
Legal & Statutory Income	19,150	19,609	459	2.4%
Lease & Rental Income	46,886	53,470	6,584	14.0%
Section 603 Certificate Income	85,000	88,000	3,000	3.6%

### **Salaries & Councillors Fees**

Salary estimates in this draft are at the full requirement expected for 2003/04 and reflect full salaries cost should all vacancies current or occurring during the year be filled in the period. Salary estimates for 2003/04 were constructed using the following parameters:

- Current salary rates were used as the basis for the projection.
- An equivalent annualised increase of 3.25% effective for the entire period was applied to allow for the next Award increment payable in October 2003.

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- Existing staff establishments were used, allowing for current vacancies to be filled.
- An allowance of 2% for 'Performance Management System' increments.

Organisational salaries are estimated at \$9,592,859, representing an increase of \$770,000 (7.8%) over the 2002/03 figure. It is important to note that this figure includes

- Provision for five new full-time positions and additional hours for a further three positions
- An Award increase of 3.25% for all staff, and
- An allowance for staff progression under the Performance Management System.

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal recently announced an increase of up to 3.5% for Councillors and an increase of up to 7% for the Mayor. A separate report will be furnished for Council on this matter and any necessary adjustments to the 2003/04 Budget will be funded from the forecast budget surplus.

#### **Superannuation**

Council has benefited significantly from a reduction in the contribution rate required by the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. Expenditure savings of approximately \$500,000 has been achieved in recent years as a result of our strong employer funding position and investment returns within the superannuation scheme itself.

Council has not received notification that this position has changed since 30 June 2002 and, as such, it would seem reasonable to assume that the LGSS will not call for a contribution from Council in the next twelve months.

#### **Debt Servicing Costs**

The repayment of external loans (interest plus principal) is a significant budget outlay. The following table sets out comparative repayment costs for 2002/03 & 2003/04.

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	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Interest	634,697	613,126	21,571
Principal Repayments	1,458,916	1,207,655	251,261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,093,613</b>	<b>1,820,781</b>	<b>272,832</b>

**Cost/Benefit of Additional Loan Borrowings**

It is important to note that the Draft Budget includes additional loans of \$1,500,000. This loan is used to fund the upgrade of Council's existing assets.

The following table is provided to highlight the impact of loan borrowings to fund new capital works or upgrade existing assets. Please note that loans cannot be raised to fund works of an operating nature (ie maintenance).

	<b>EXAMPLE A</b>	<b>EXAMPLE B</b>	<b>EXAMPLE C</b>
Additional Loan Borrowing	<b>300,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
Less: Principal Repayment	(\$21,588)	(\$35,980)	(\$71,960)
Less: Interest	(\$20,625)	(\$34,375)	(\$68,750)
<b>Equals: Net Benefit to Working Funds</b>	<b>\$257,787</b>	<b>\$429,645</b>	<b>\$859,290</b>

Figures are based on a 7.0% fixed interest rate over a 10 year period

**Government & Statutory Charges**

A number of fees are levied upon local government by various state government bodies. The following table highlights the major government and statutory charges payable:

	<b>2002/03 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>2003/04 Draft Budget</b>	<b>Variation</b>	<b>%</b>
Board of Fire Commission	\$44,314	\$51,284	(\$6,970)	15.8%
Bushfire Council	\$84,869	\$90,657	(\$5,788)	6.9%
Department of Planning	\$28,377	\$28,377	0	0.0%
Street Lighting Charges	\$390,000	\$440,000	(\$50,000)	12.9%
Valuer General	\$66,500	\$70,000	(\$3,500)	5.3%

**Internal Reserve Funds**

Reserves are cash funds identified for specific purposes. Where they are held as a result of Council's policies, they are regarded as "Internal Reserves".

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These funds can be used to partially offset Project Bids. It should be noted that these reserves are, in essence, a once-off income source. The depletion of these reserves over time will make the task of balancing deficit budgets even more difficult in the future.

The following table reflects the reserve movements necessary to fund works included in the 2003/04 Draft Budget:

<b>INTERNAL RESERVES</b>	<b>Opening Bal 01/07/03</b>	<b>Transfer to Reserve</b>	<b>Transfer from Reserve</b>	<b>Closing Bal 30/06/04</b>
Employee Leave Entitlements	729,035	259,654	251,543	737,146
Loan Repayment Sinking Fund	51,739	5,897	0	57,636
Cemetery Improvements	97,435	10,453	28,872	79,016
Parks & Gardens Mtce	12,783	0	0	12,783
Information Technology	240,125	12,006	110,000	142,131
Camden Swimming Pool	342,171	47,109	389,280	0
Camden Parking	55,330	2,767	0	58,097
Capital Works Reserve	1,603,892	0	828,720	775,172
Council's S94 Development	560,743	200,000	128,919	631,824
Expenditure Revotes	280,000		280,000	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,973,253</b>	<b>537,886</b>	<b>2,017,334</b>	<b>2,493,805</b>

### **Domestic Waste Management**

As previously mentioned, the Domestic Waste Charge is forecast to increase by 5.75%. The reason for the increase is primarily due to a significant rise in disposal fees (particularly recycling, where costs have risen from \$15 per tonne to \$50 per tonne). This increase has been somewhat tempered by a rationalisation of other costs such as casual labour and general operating expenses.

Despite the proposed 5.75% increase, Camden Council still rates among the most cost effective domestic waste service providers in NSW.

### **NEW INITIATIVES PROPOSED**

Council's recurrent expenditure position is aided by several factors in sustaining the level of funding available to maintain and improve operations and services:

- ◆ Rate revenue has increased by \$1,200,000
- ◆ Untied grants revenue has increased by \$240,000
- ◆ Interest on investments (General Fund) has improved by \$120,000
- ◆ Loan repayments have decreased by \$270,000
- ◆ Superannuation costs have decreased by \$500,000

In all, revenues have increased by more than \$2 million on last year. However, an allowance of 3% for inflationary factors in a recurrent budget of more than \$30 million quickly consumes over \$1 million of that additional revenue. The balance of that

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additional revenue is available for allocation to new initiatives. These new initiatives are contained within the "A List".

The initiatives proposed within the "A List" fall into two major categories – those items of a capital nature (generally defined as one off, assets) and those items of a recurrent (or expense) nature. The capital items are discussed in the next section under the heading of the Capital Works Program.

The recurrent new initiatives are listed as the first 28 items on the "A List". They are derived from several sources. Firstly, they are works or resources required to minimise the exposure of the organisation or its community to risk. Secondly, they may be additional resources, including staffing, required to maintain services in a growth environment. Finally, they may be developed to extend Council services into new areas or to improve the standard of a service already provided by Council.

The additional listing provided comprises those items considered for inclusion but unable to be accommodated due to priority or budgetary constraints.

#### **CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM**

The Camden Council management plan for the period July, 2003 to June, 2007 proposes the largest capital works program in the history of the Council.

More than \$29.5 million is to be spent over the next four years on major road works, recreation and community facilities, car parking and streetscape facilities and drainage and water quality projects.

The program proposes \$6.2 million be spent in 2003/2004 and over \$12.3 million the following year. This level of expenditure is unprecedented in Camden and represents a significant investment in infrastructure and facilities for the present and future population of the growing local government area.

#### **Roadworks**

With \$11.6 million allocated for major road construction, reconstruction and resealing, the Camden roads program will continue the fine tradition of the high quality Council road network in Camden. A further \$7.7 million will be spent on road maintenance over the lifetime of the program.

The Council has also been instrumental in securing a further \$30 million worth of road and transport improvements from the State Government over the next four years. The elimination of the roundabouts on Narellan Road and their replacement with traffic signals together with bus priority provisions is a major

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coup for the Council and will be a boon to residents tired of the gridlock on Narellan Road.

**Recreation Facilities**

Three new tennis/multi-purpose courts, two new sportsground amenities buildings, netball courts, new sportsfields and the long awaited skate park are included in the \$4 million recreation program. In addition, there is an outdoor pool for the Mt Annan Leisure Centre and a major redevelopment for the Camden Memorial Pool including renovation of the existing 50 metre pool and refurbished amenities (whether the Camden Pool project requires additional loan funding will be determined following a detailed analysis of the pool's condition).

**Community Facilities**

A substantial building program is the cornerstone of the \$6.6 million community facilities agenda. New libraries at Narellan and Mt Annan together with the redevelopment of the Camden Library and a major investment in youth facilities demonstrate Council's commitment to the social, educational and cultural development of its population. Further evidence of this comes with the announcement of a Family Community Centre to be built at Narellan to house services and facilities with a particular focus on supporting families.

**Carparking & Streetscape Improvements**

The commercial centres of the Camden area have certainly not been forgotten with the development of new car parks in both Narellan (Doncaster Avenue) and Camden (Oxley Street) to accommodate growing parking needs. Also on the agenda is the detailed design of a decked parking facility in the Camden CBD. A total of \$1.5 million will be spent over four years on parking and commercial centre streetscaping.

**Drainage & Water Quality Infrastructure**

In order to improve both the quality of water in the Nepean River and its tributaries a program of \$5.6 million has been developed to better manage water ways throughout Camden. Multi million dollar improvements to the Harrington Park lakes system have been scheduled with additional lakes, pollutant traps and other drainage facilities being constructed to ensure the highest possible levels of water quality.

**Funding**

The total program of \$29,503,591 is funded from a variety of sources including general rate revenue, developer contributions and loans and represents a major commitment of resources to

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building the future for Camden. This level of investment also provides great opportunities for flow on expenditure within the Camden local government area. Camden Council will inject well over \$200 million into the local and regional economies over the next four years and this Capital Works Program is a significant component of that total expenditure.

It is particularly pleasing to note that the entire \$6.2 million program for 2003/2004 will be accomplished without borrowing any more than the Council's annual loan funding of \$1.5 million and without any increase in rates above the CPI increase permitted by the Minister for Local Government.

A series of prudent decisions over the past 2 years in "reserving" surplus funds at quarterly reviews has lead to the accumulation of a "capital works reserve" of sufficient size to fund several major projects – notably the Camden Pool refurbishment, skate park and Camden Library redevelopment – without the need to borrow further funds. Lower levels of reliance on loan funds means more recurrent funding being available for the delivery of Council's expansionary programs.

**Budget Workshop**

At the recent budget workshop a number of Councillors expressed interest in promoting several projects from the 'B' list (medium priority) to the 'A' list (high priority). These projects are as follows:

Onslow Toilets	\$35,000
Macarthur Park Irrigation	\$60,000
New Community Bus (22 Seater)	\$45,000
Floor Scrubber (Pavement Cleaner)	\$4,500
Let's Connect	\$7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$152,000</b>

Given that a surplus of \$206,3999 exists in the Draft 2003/04 Budget, these projects can be readily accommodated. The inclusion of the new 22 seater community bus is subject to the presentation of material (advantages and disadvantages) to Council justifying the merits of such a purchase.

**CONCLUSION**

The 2003/04 Draft Budget is in many ways a landmark budget as Council embarks on an aggressive capital works program over the next 4 years. In doing so, prudent financial management has been exercised with no additional loan borrowings above the standard recurrent loan borrowings of \$1,500,000 for the next 3 years.

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

A budget surplus of \$206,399 and the preservation of \$1,000,000 in accumulated working funds has also been achieved, all this without compromising existing services and the advancement of Council's strategic plan: Camden 2025.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council endorse the 2003/04 Draft Budget and Management Plan for the purpose of placing the necessary information on exhibition for public comment.
- (ii) Council approve a 3.6% increase in rates as per the maximum increase approved by the Minister for Local Government.
- (iii) \$107,000 of the \$206,399 surplus be allocated to fund the following projects identified by Council during the Budget Workshop as high priority projects:

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

- (iv) Consideration of funding being allocated for the larger community bus be subject to Council's consideration of a further report.
- (v) A separate report be furnished for Council to determine the appropriate increase to Councillor fees and the Mayor allowance, and the 2003/04 Budget be amended to reflect the resolution.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Batros that*

- (i) Council endorse the 2003/04 Draft Budget and Management Plan for the purpose of placing the necessary information on exhibition for public comment.*
- (ii) Council approve a 3.6% increase in rates as per the maximum increase approved by the Minister for Local Government.*
- (iii) \$107,000 of the \$206,399 surplus be allocated to fund the following projects identified by Council during the Budget Workshop as high priority projects:*

<i>Onslow Toilets</i>	<i>\$35,000</i>
<i>Macarthur Park Irrigation</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>
<i>Floor Scrubber (Pavement Cleaner)</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>
<i>Let's Connect</i>	<i>\$7,500</i>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$107,000</i></b>

- (iv) Consideration of funding being allocated for the larger community bus be subject to Council's consideration of a further report.*
- (v) A separate report be furnished for Council to determine the appropriate increase to Councillor fees and the Mayor allowance, and the 2003/04 Budget be amended to reflect the resolution.*
- (vi) Council staff prepare a report on the financial implications of approaching the Minister of Local Government to seek approval to borrow \$2,000,000.00 for the construction of a 2 deck carpark in the Camden CBD. The report should also detail the financial implication to this year's Budget, investigate suitable locations and consider the changes to Camden CBD especially changes on the St Paul's site.*

RS025/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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*(Cr Fekete voted against the Motion).*

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**6. Management Plan Review – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2003**

(3568/2) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Council prepares the Management Plan annually together with the Annual Budget, which sets strategies and actions for the next 3 years.

The Local Government Act requires quarterly reports be submitted to Council showing progress to date on strategies and actions within the Management Plan, falling due within each quarter.

The current Management Plan details Strategies, Actions and Performance Targets as either “Ongoing” or due to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. These projects are currently on target to be completed within the timeframes indicated.

Attached is a list of the various Strategies and Actions as contained in the 2002-2003 Management Plan for the information of Councillors.

**SUSTAINABLE URBAN GROWTH**

- Consult with stakeholders to identify needs and conduct developer forums to promote best practice • Ongoing
- Continue to provide comprehensive planning for urban release areas • Ongoing
- Complete the development of a single, user friendly, place based planning instrument • By June, 2003
- Improve the quality of approved developments ‘on the ground’ through the revision of development control processes and policies and the provision of heritage and urban design advisory services • Ongoing
- Commence the revitalisation of the Narellan central business district and resolve issues of community identity through the Urban Improvement Program • By June, 2003
- Increase monitoring and enforcement of development application conditions of consent • By June, 2003
- Actively participate in the investigation of new urban development areas proposed in the Bringelly sector. • By June, 2003
- Maximise the amount and quality of • By June,

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infrastrucutre provided by developers 2003

- Protect ridgelines
- Ongoing

**ACCESSIBILITY**

- Ensure that Camden's accessibility needs are recognised at the regional and metropolitan levels through lobbying and representation
- Ongoing
- Continue to implement the pavement management system to ensure the appropriate standards of road and drainage maintenance and construction
- Ongoing
- Determine, by agreement with the State Government, the exact proposals and timing for the resolution of the Narellan Road / Camden Bypass / Camden Valley Way / Northern Road connections and alignments
- By June, 2003
- Secure a clear and detailed commitment to appropriate, convenient and accessible public transport in Camden by the State Government
- By June, 2003
- Realise improved opportunities for public transport services and utilisation
- Ongoing
- Improve pedestrian mobility and accessibility
- By June, 2003
- Minimise Council's liability against claims related to public infrastructure
- Ongoing
- Improve the presentation of public spaces and facilities
- By June, 2003
- Effectively manage the transition of parking enforcement from State Government to Council
- By June, 2003

**ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS**

- Adopt a comprehensive approach to environmental management
- Ongoing
- Promote sustainable communities through implementation of Local Agenda 21
- Ongoing
- Implement environmental education
- Ongoing

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- program
- Undertake supplementary tree planting and vegetation management strategies • Ongoing
- Implement an environmental monitoring program to improve environmental standards • By June, 2003
- Implement a policy for the conservation of known threatened ecological communities • By June, 2003
- Develop a strategy to afford increased protection to threatened species • By June, 2003
- Improve the carrying out of Council's own operations in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner • By June, 2003
- Ensure that there is no nett loss of remnant vegetation • Ongoing
- Enhance management strategies for all natural, public areas in Council control • By June, 2003
- Update the Significant Tree Register • By June, 2003

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Provide and review annual financial assistance, community support, donations and cultural grants to groups and individuals for the purpose of exercising community valued functions • Ongoing
- Provide rate relief to appropriate job generating new industries • Ongoing
- Participate in regional economic development and marketing projects • Ongoing
- Upgrade the Civic Centre asset by undertaking a program of refurbishment • By June, 2003
- Continue the development and implementation of the Town Farm project • By June, 2003

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- Update and reprint the Camden Visitors Guide and distribute for the promotion of Camden as a destination • By June, 2003
- Develop and implement new strategies for ensuring the integrating of new communities into existing ones and rural Camden • By June, 2003
- Promote a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of living in rural areas to improve 'good neighbour' behaviour • Ongoing
- Improve social capital, community safety, community access to information and cultural opportunities • By June, 2003
- Increase recreation and tourism opportunities by capitalising on Camden's 'working country town' focus • By June, 2003
- Reduce graffiti and vandalism through the implementation of the Graffiti Action Plan • By June, 2003
- Plan for the future of Camden Swimming Pool • By June, 2003
- Improve access to visitor information services by the employment of a permanent centre co-ordinator • By June, 2003

**GOVERNANCE**

- Review all assets and processes to maximise opportunities and efficiencies, including the investigation of alternate forms of revenue • Ongoing
- Continue to implement and reinforce the Equal Employment Opportunity policy • Ongoing
- Identify all future costs prior to project commitment, in particular, recurrent costs • Ongoing
- Monitor community satisfaction with service and strategy through the development and implementation of community feedback mechanisms • By June, 2003
- Implement new corporate information systems to meet Council's internal needs and the needs of the community for access • By June, 2003

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to information

- Develop a strategy for the improvement of community input to decision making • By June, 2003
- Continue the development of performance indicators for monitoring Council's performance and reporting it to the community • By June, 2003
- Plan for the accommodation of Council's services and staff as a result of growth • By June, 2003

Recommended: That the information be noted.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that the information be noted.

RS026/03 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.  
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**7. Councillor Representation**

(719/5)(Director Governance & Outcomes)

Councillor Corrigan has been Council's representative on the Migrant Resource Committee for the past several years with Councillor McFadden as the alternate.

He has also been delegate to the Board of Macarthur Group Training Ltd with the Director, Governance & Outcomes as the alternate.

Councillor Corrigan has now resigned from these Committees due to other commitments and it is necessary for Council to nominate replacements.

The Migrant Resource Committee meets monthly and considers allocation of migrant services throughout the Macarthur Region. Macarthur Group Training meets monthly at 7.30am and Council's delegate will be required to undertake Director/Board training and have a detailed understanding of the Corporations Law as it applies to company Directors' roles and responsibilities. The Director, Governance & Outcomes has this experience as a Director of another community based company. He has indicated a willingness to be Council's delegate.

Recommended: That Council nominate a representative on the Migrant Resource Committee and Macarthur Group Training Ltd.

**MOTION**

Moved Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr McFadden that

- (i) Council nominate Greg Wright, Director Governance & Outcomes as the delegate to the Board of Macarthur Group Training Ltd.
- (ii) No Councillor representative to the Migrant Resource Committee could be nominated at this point in time due to work commitments and this situation will be continually reviewed.
- (iii) The Migrant Resource Committee be contacted to request the possibility of reviewing the meeting time.

RS027/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**8. Review of Code of Conduct (Policy 5.3)**  
(938/26)(Director Governance and Outcomes)

Councils are required to prepare a Code of Conduct under Section 440 of the Local Government Act, 1993 to be observed by Councillors, staff and all delegates to Committees. Such Codes are to be reviewed regularly in order to maintain the currency and a clear understanding of the standards required in the conduct of Council's affairs and performance of professional activities.

The Code of Conduct is a key document in setting out the overall standards Council would like its members and staff to observe.

The review of the Code has been carried out in the light of recent Department of Local Government Circulars, the publication of several ICAC reports dealing with preventing the misuse of Council resources and the introduction of Council's own policies dealing with staff behaviour. It is felt, many of these principles and modifications suggested in these items, should be incorporated into the Code as soon as possible. In addition, as a result of a reference to the Pecuniary Interest Tribunal, the Department of Local Government had suggested a review of Councils Code of Conduct.

The Department of Local Government was forwarded a copy of the Code and has made certain comments. Those comments or enhancements, where applicable, have been included in the amended document. The comments relate mainly to Sections 4.5, 5.2, 5.4 and 8. The Section dealing with "Reporting Corrupt Conduct" and "Internal Reporting Procedures" was split into two areas and dealt with separately on the recommendation of the Department.

The current Code of Conduct was reviewed in August, 2000, along with the review of all Policies as required under the Local Government Act following the 1999 Council Election. With the Council Elections postponed to March, 2004, is it also timely to incorporate these changes into the Code at this time.

The reviewed Code forms **Table Document "RS 7"** with the changes highlighted in bold and italics.

The main amendments focus on the following areas:

- Section 5.1 – Equitable treatment of People and Situations
- Section 5.2 – Gifts, Bribes and Benefits
- Section 5.3 – Use of Council Resources
- Section 5.4 – Use of Council Information
- Section 5.5 – Evaluation of Tenders
- Section 6 – Interaction between Councillors and Staff

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- Section 7 – Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Section 11 – Breaches of the Code

An additional Section has been added throughout the document to cross-reference the topic to relevant legislation and Council Policies.

The revised Code is submitted for the information of Councillors and it is recommended it be adopted for immediate implementation.

The reviewed Code, once adopted, will be promoted through staff induction programs, relevant employee relations training workshops and to all Council Committees where members of the community are active. It will also be available on Council's internal Intranet computer network.

Recommended: That the Code of Conduct as reviewed be adopted and incorporated into Council Policy Manual.

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Fekete that the Code of Conduct as reviewed be adopted and incorporated into Council Policy Manual.*

RS028/03  
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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**9. Delegation of Authority – Signing of documents as Landowner**

(TC/2757)(Director Governance & Outcomes)

From time to time, Council receives various documents requiring signature as owner or part owner of the land, which may be the subject of a Development Application or the subject of other applications or requests.

An example of such a Development Application would include an application for footpath trading in Argyle Street, where Council as the owner of the land comprising the footpath is required to sign the application as part of the lodgement process. A similar application requiring signature would be the construction of amenities buildings on Council owned community land. These applications made be lodged by Council or by a third party.

Council's signature on the documents is required as a procedural matter and in no way implies development consent or approval of any application. Any application lodged is assessed in accordance with normal development approval process.

In the past, the Director of Governance and Outcomes and Senior Governance Officer as the Public Officer has been signing these documents in such situations. However, it has come to notice formal delegations do not appear to have been granted by Council. While it is felt, this is not a major oversight at this point, the matter should be clarified with suitable delegations to prevent any future uncertainty.

Council is permitted to delegate any of the functions of Council, with certain exceptions under Section 377 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Recommended: That Council delegate to the General Manager under Section 377 of the Local Government Act, 1993, authority to sign all documents on behalf of Council as landowner to enable lodgement for formal applications to Council.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Winn that Council delegate to the General Manager under Section 377 of the Local Government Act, 1993, authority to sign all documents on behalf of Council as landowner to enable lodgement for formal applications to Council.

RS029/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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***(Cr Corrigan left the Chamber – the time being 7.12pm)***

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**10. Draft Natural Assets Policy**  
(File 4451)(Director Governance & Outcomes)

**Purpose of this report**

The draft natural assets policy was submitted to Council for adoption at the Resources and Services Committee Meeting on the 10 February 2003. Council resolved to defer consideration of the draft natural assets policy until further consultation was undertaken with those who had made submissions.

This report seeks to advise Council of the additional consultation undertaken and the resultant amendments to the policy. The final draft of the policy is submitted for adoption (**Tabled Document "RS 8"**).

**Consultation**

To address the requirement for further consultation an information session on the content of the policy was held at the Camden Civic Centre on Thursday 20 February 2003. All individuals or organisations that had made submissions during the original exhibition period were invited to attend. The session was attended by seven interested parties and the content of the policy was discussed in detail. Most issues were resolved at the time with only the affectation of the primary corridors issue requiring further attention. On this issue discussions were entered into with the concerned party and investigation of the issue was sought by Ian Perkins a respected consultant in the field and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) (refer to **Tabled Documents "RS 9"** and **Tabled Documents "RS 10"**). The issue is discussed fully in a subsequent section.

**Council's Natural Resource Management Duty**

The responsibilities of local government have gradually changed to reflect the concerns of the general public in regards to the degradation of the natural environment. Council's Charter now includes the duty to "properly manage, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment in a manner which is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) ".

In order to fulfil this duty Councils require a thorough understanding of the broad environmental consequences of plans, policies and programs, manage the environment and exercise approvals power in a manner that is consistent with the principles of ESD.

This natural resource management duty should be undertaken in a manner which is both fair and effective. Effective natural

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resource management at the local government level is difficult in the absence of an agreed to, adopted and implemented policy. A continued 'ad hoc' approach to natural resource management will place the sustainability of Camden at risk, a fact illustrated by the continued incremental loss of natural assets despite the existence of numerous laws, policies and plans that encourage conservation.

The Draft Natural Assets Policy is designed to support decisions that safeguard the vision established in the Camden 2025 strategic therefore ensuring that it is not steadily eroded by the impact of each development.

**Altering Primary Corridors**

The issue that triggered the request for further consultation was the impact of the categorisation of land as a primary corridor.

The inclusion of the primary corridors category is fundamental to the policy structure. The fragmented landscape of isolated bushland remnants impinges significantly upon the biodiversity values of the Camden LGA. Only through the creation of corridor linkages can the dual objectives of landscape function and development be accommodated. Those lands identified as primary corridors represent the most cost effective opportunities for addressing this impact through the fostering of corridor connections.

Primary corridors are crucial to the offsetting process, primary corridors identify those areas which may be considered as recipient lands in any offsetting works. As such the existence of primary corridor affectation on a developer's land can be considered as an advantage allowing the developer to more easily offset any impact that may occur as a consequence of development undertaken

The burden upon land identified as a primary corridor is considered minimal, simply indicating the area in which a suitably configured corridor should be sought when practicable and the requirement to consider the passage of native fauna when undertaking development particularly the construction of fences.

The primary corridors convey conceptually the general siting and importance of conserving/creating a link. The final configuration of the corridor will be established in detailed master-planning exercises. The affectation of primary corridor is not expected to or designed to be a significant constraint on the development potential of the land but rather a guide to how that development can best address the issue of biodiversity conservation.

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The issue of the affectation of primary corridors has been raised by a number of interested parties during the exhibition of the draft policy. In the majority of cases once clarification of the issue was presented the interested party was satisfied with the content of the policy

After further discussions with the parties and relevant experts a resolution of the issue was derived. The final draft presented for adoption contains the following revisions in respect of primary corridors:

- Appendix 1, Section 5, Environmentally Significant Land Dataset

In order to provide greater flexibility a discussion on the criteria applied for the selection of primary corridors has been included. In providing these criteria, variation and flexibility in the affectation of the primary corridor affectation can be argued using existing provisions in the policy, particularly section 1.5 Varying from Policy

- Section 5.3 Development of land containing or near habitat corridors

Concerns were raised regarding perceived ambiguity in the section in particular to the guideline 'c' that clearing of native vegetation should not occur within identified corridors. There was uncertainty as to whether this requirement applied to the identified primary corridor or the final corridor. For the purpose of clarity the guideline has been amended to read. 'Clearance of native vegetation must not occur within the final corridor boundary'

The clarification and expansion of wording in these sections will provide additional guidance and will minimise the scope for misinterpretation.

### **Bringelly Investigation Area**

PlanningNSW is currently overseeing an ecological assessment of the South West Sydney investigation area (Bringelly). A letter from the Bringelly South West Group (refer **Tabled Document "RS 11"**), although recognising the need to map the natural assets of the Camden LGA, suggests that the adoption of the draft Natural Assets Policy is premature considering the PlanningNSW investigation.

This argument fails to recognise the different purposes of the respective assessments. The PlanningNSW investigation is designed to inform broad regional structure planning for the region, whereas the purpose of the Draft Natural Assets Policy

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is to provide a framework to support Council in the performance of its natural resource management duties consistent with the obligations of the current regulatory framework.

It is recognised within the policy that further ecological investigations at higher resolutions will continue to refine current mapping and to this end these investigations are welcomed. Council's natural resource management responsibilities will however continue regardless, a policy that guides Council's actions will always be required.

It is erroneous to think that the PlanningNSW investigation will be any more detailed or informed than the investigation undertaken for the purposes of developing the natural assets policy. Indeed the PlanningNSW investigation has not involved any new mapping and has relied extensively on the data provided to them by Camden Council.

**Offsetting in Core Habitat Regional**

Concerns have been raised by the community regarding the provisions within the policy for offsetting in lands classified as core habitat-regional. The draft policy establishes a provision to allow offsetting to be undertaken in these areas in 'exceptional circumstances' with exceptional circumstances defined as ".....developments of outstanding public socio-economic benefits in which direct and indirect adverse impacts are unavoidable. This includes major government infrastructure and urban release lands for which master planning has been completed to the satisfaction of PlanningNSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Council".

It is generally accepted that there is a requirement for flexibility in respect of infrastructure development, the concern relates primarily to the nature of urban development which the 'exceptional circumstances' clause may allow.

The wording of the exceptional circumstances clause was developed in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The clause recognises that the Camden Structure Plan identifies areas of potential urban development within those areas classified as core habitat regional.

In the final draft the clause has been amended to read "..... development of outstanding socio economic benefit to the broader community to the satisfaction of Council, PlanningNSW and the NPWS".

The new clause removes the reference to urban development per se however does not prohibit urban development. The

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clause now subjects any possible urban development to the same criteria as infrastructure in that it must be of 'outstanding benefit to the broader community'.

The 'exceptional circumstances' clause recognises that the zero net loss objective of 5150 hectares of native vegetation cannot be achieved through conservation in public reserves alone. The security and ongoing management of these large areas of ecological sensitivity can only be achieved with the assistance of limited, sympathetic, low impact residential development which as a consequence conserves large areas of core habitat. It is this form of urban development that the term exceptional circumstances applies. The conservation and management of large areas of bushland representing the outstanding benefit to the broader community.

In these 'exceptional' instances the policy ensures that any urban development will be as responsive to the ecological sensitivity of its location as practicable. The policy requires that all efforts are made to minimise any direct or indirect adverse effects that may occur as a result of the proposal, any residual impact that may occur is required to be offset by the highest offset multiplier, of 6.

Council remains the approval authority in respect of any proposal that employs the exceptional circumstances clause. The requirement for National Parks and Wildlife concurrence should ensure that the decision is in the interests of the ecological values of the area. The assessment principles of no net loss, precautionary principle and cumulative impact will encourage prudence.

**Repealing DCP 84**

A further amendment in the final draft is the repealing of DCP 84 Bush Corridors. DCP 84 Bush Corridors demonstrates the long commitment that Camden Council has had to the biodiversity values of the LGA. Before its time, the plan espouses the virtues of bush corridors and indicates a range of corridor dimensions that should be considered in the urban design process. The draft natural assets policy supplants the requirement for a separate DCP specifically for bush corridors and places the relevant controls with the broader context of natural resource management.

The theory of bush corridors has progressed significantly from when DCP 84 was developed. It is now recognised that corridor configuration must be designed to meet the habitat requirements of target species, populations and ecological communities. Specifying corridor dimensions in a DCP prior to any ecological assessment of the area may not necessarily produce the best outcome. That said, the policy recognises

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that a minimum dimension will ensure that the establishment of corridors will not become a token effort and therefore a 50 metre minimum corridor width has been established.

**Conclusion**

The draft Camden Council natural assets policy represents a milestone in the journey towards a sustainable Camden. Much of what is considered unique about Camden pertains to the vestiges of the natural systems that have survived the development of the region to date. The adroit management of these natural assets will be central to the differentiation of Camden from the remainder of Western Sydney and the maintenance of the 'best of both worlds' ethos.

There will always be arguments against the adoption of a strategic natural resource plan. In such a dynamic context it is difficult to guarantee the certainty that all desire. However without a plan for the management of our natural resources Camden will suffer the tyranny of small decisions or 'death of a thousand cuts' where without the broad landscape context in which natural resource management must be considered the cumulative impacts of development upon the natural systems results in a future Camden distant from the 2025 vision.

***(Greg Wright, Director Governance & Outcomes informed Council due to an oversight a party who had made a submission during the Draft Natural Assets Policy exhibition period were not included in the invitations to attend an information session regarding the submissions. Discussions have since been held with the party and they have indicated their willingness for the consideration of the policy by Council to proceed).***

***(Cr Corrigan returned to the Chamber – the time being 7.14pm).***

Recommended: That Council

- (i) adopt the Draft Natural Assets Policy.
- (ii) notify all interested parties of the adoption.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Batros, seconded Cr McFadden  
that Council*

*(i) adopt the Draft Natural Assets Policy.*

*(ii) notify all interested parties of the adoption.*

RS030/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**11. Sale of Camden Airport**

(File: 5125.50-2) (Director – Governance and Outcomes)

**Introduction**

During April, the Commonwealth Government announced its strategy for the sale of its shareholding in Bankstown Airport Ltd, Camden Airport Ltd and Hoxton Park Airport Ltd. This followed the original decision to sell the airports by way of a trade sale in March, 2001. The purpose of this report is to consider the rating implications of the sale and to recommend a course of action to Council for seeking the rating of the property.

**Background**

Section 114 of the Australian Constitution provides that:

*“A State shall not, without the consent of the Parliament of the Commonwealth . . . impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to the Commonwealth . . .”*

This essentially bars Council from levying rates on a property owned by the Commonwealth such as Camden Airport.

However, it has been the policy of successive Commonwealth Governments that this constitutional immunity from being taxed is not used where a lessee or a tenant of the Commonwealth pays a charge or rental for the property. This policy was originally embodied in a Finance Direction and the spirit has been retained as general government policy. Payments by the Commonwealth equivalent to rates are gratuitous and do not constitute a legally enforceable obligation.

Council does currently receive payments from the Commonwealth as part of the rental paid by the commercial undertakings operating from the airport. In the last financial year this amounted to \$23,500 in respect of commercial businesses. The Commonwealth makes no contribution for the general airport lands including runways, taxiways, curtilage or internal service areas.

**The Sale of the Airport**

It is the intention of the Commonwealth to sell its shareholdings in the companies that operate the airports. It is believed that the properties will remain in government ownership and the new purchaser will pay a lease to the Commonwealth for the tenancy of the sites. This is the situation at Sydney Airport.

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The lease arrangements to the Sydney Airports Corporation Limited incorporate provisions enshrining the existing arrangements, that is that only the commercial elements of the airport pay rates equivalents and that any areas that might be assumed to constitute public infrastructure do not. However, by effectively selling that public infrastructure to private concerns the underlying public policy reasoning no longer applies and the entire site becomes a commercial undertaking.

It would seem that in the case of the Sydney Airport the sale price reflected a capital component for the right not to be rated or taxed in relation to the areas utilised in providing an aircraft arrival and departure service (the so-called "public infrastructure" component). It is this position that Council will need to alter at the earliest opportunity if it is to succeed in having the airport rated as a commercial undertaking. It must be done before the sale and lease documentation is presented to the market place. If the airports are sold on a completely commercial basis, including the liability for Council rates, there can be no argument later.

**Conclusion**

Council recognises the economic value of the Camden Airport to the broader Camden community and has, in the past, tacitly accepted the fact that it provides an element of public infrastructure that provides a benefit to our community. If the Commonwealth Government, however, is to sell the airport and fully commercialise its operations then it should be treated as any other commercial operation and the new owners should not receive a windfall benefit simply as a result of its previous ownership.

Recommended: That Council make representations to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services; the Minister for Finance and Administration and the Federal Member for Macarthur seeking the incorporation of liability for Council rating of the whole airport site into any sale and/or lease documentation prior to the transfer of Camden Airport into private ownership.

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr Winn that Council make representations to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services; the Minister for Finance and Administration and the Federal Member for Macarthur seeking the incorporation of liability for Council rating of the whole airport site into any sale and/or lease documentation prior to the transfer of Camden Airport into private ownership.*

RS031/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**12. RTA Stormwater Environment Improvement Program**  
(File 3213) [Director Works and Services]

**Purpose**

This report seeks endorsement from Council of grant funding received from the RTA for stormwater improvement initiatives of runoff from Camden Valley Way, between Northern Road and Narellan Road. The program seeks to assist Council by providing funds for both the initial capital cost and ongoing life cycle of stormwater improvement programs.

**Background**

Council was recently made aware of funding available from the RTA to undertake environment improvement programs where the RTA's assets form part of the contributing catchment.

Council's submission considered a program of 20 pit inserts on Camden Valley Way, between Northern Road and Narellan Road, effectively providing 100% runoff from RTA's road. This heavily trafficked section of Camden Valley Way is responsible for significant pollutants generated from vehicles, and litter from pedestrians and commuters.

The RTA's offer consists of \$29,965 (ex GST), being 100% of the capital cost and 20 years of ongoing maintenance. Installation and maintenance costs were obtained from the manufacturer. The funding is part of the RTA's Stormwater Environment Improvement Program (SEIP).

Capturing a significant proportion of gross pollutants will go a long way towards alleviating the impacts of development on waterways within Council's boundaries and beyond.

The RTA's restriction on the funds require that the devices be installed by 30 June 2003 with no further request to the RTA for maintenance of these devices at this location.

**Conclusion**

This program permits Council to participate in a worthwhile program that goes towards protecting and enhancing the environment. The RTA's commitment is noted. Council's co-operation is possible with no additional short to medium term input.

Recommended: That Council accepts the sum of \$29,965 (ex GST) from the RTA being for 20 pit inserts as part of the RTA's Stormwater Environment Improvement Program on Camden Valley Way.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Corrigan, seconded Cr McFadden that Council accepts the sum of \$29,965 (ex GST) from the RTA being for 20 pit inserts as part of the RTA's Stormwater Environment Improvement Program on Camden Valley Way.*

RS032/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**13. Petition From The Camden Cricket Club, Camden For Use Of The Bicentennial Equestrian Park**

(File 1500/660/2)[Director Works and Services]

**Purpose**

This report formally advises Council of the petition presented at Council's meeting held on Monday 14 April 2003, by the Camden Cricket Club.

In accordance with the Council's policy 5.1 Council is formally advised of the petition presented to Council by the Cricket Club at the meeting held on 14 April 2003.

The petition contained 905 signatories, and stated that:

*"Our growing cricket club needs more grounds. In 1996 the club approached Council to upgrade facilities and number of grounds around Onslow Park (next to Show Ground). Council officers suggested an area in Bicentennial Park to co-exist with the development of the Equestrian centre.*

*The Council granted \$70,000 and the equestrian development happened, but the cricket club was left out.*

*It is clear that this 150 acre area is barely used and only rarely by Camden people. The area that the cricket club is interested in is largely unused. We have no wish to exclude Equestrian activities - we simply wish to coexist!*

*We wish to develop these grounds for your children and the senior cricketers. We want a Village Green environment that enhances the ambience of Camden".*

Council resolved at its meeting that:

- (i) *The Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park retain its sole equestrian focus;*
- (ii) *Camden Cricket Club be advised of Council's decision;*
- (iii) *Camden Cricket Club's current and projected needs be incorporated into the Recreation Strategic plan.*

**Recommended:** That Council formally note the petition presented by the Camden Cricket Club at the meeting held on 14 April 2003.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr McFadden, seconded Cr Batros  
that Council formally note the petition presented by the Camden  
Cricket Club at the meeting held on 14 April 2003.*

RS033/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**  
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**14. Library Fines Amnesty**

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

**Purpose**

This report advises Council of the proposal to conduct a “fines amnesty” between 30 June 2003 to 19 July 2003.

**Discussion**

During the summer period each year the Library has held a fines amnesty, during which Library borrowers are able to return overdue items without incurring fines if the item is returned with a tin or a packet of non-perishable food. The food is then donated to charity to be distributed on a needs basis within the local area.

During the 2002/2003 amnesty approximately 500 food items were collected with the return of around 1000 items. Without the amnesty it is likely that many of these items would never have been returned.

Given the success of the last amnesty and following request from borrowers, it is proposed that a further amnesty – “Can your fines” be held between Monday 30 June 2003 to Saturday 19 July 2003, and that the food be donated to St Vincent De Paul’s Winter Appeal.

Recommended: That

- (i) Library fines during the period 30 June 2003 to 19 July 2003 be waived.
- (ii) The food be donated to St Vincent De Paul’s Winter Appeal.

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

- (i) *Library fines during the period 30 June 2003 to 19 July 2003 be waived.*
- (ii) *The food be donated to St Vincent De Paul’s Winter Appeal.*

RS034/03 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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The Meeting closed at 7.26pm.