

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
24 MAY, 2004, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET, CAMDEN -
8.00PM**

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Present: Cr Anderson (Mayor/Chairperson), Cr Dewbery, Cr Elliott, Cr Kernohan, Cr Campbell, Cr Whiteman, Cr Cagney, Cr Funnell, Cr Johnson.

Staff: Acting General Manager (Director Development & Environment), Acting Director Governance & Outcomes (Manager Corporate Services), Director Works & Services, Manager Development, Manager Outcomes, Manager Assets, Acting Manager Environment & Health (Senior Environmental Health Officer), Manager Community Services, Senior Governance Officer.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were no Public addresses.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Public Questions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 27TH APRIL, 2004

Moved Cr Kernohan, seconded Cr Johnson the confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 27th April, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted with alterations to the Questions Without Notice relating to 60 Harrington Street, Camden specifically Cr Kernohan's second question, noting the inclusion of a second clause "and permission to fill on the nearby Motel construction site", and the insertion of word "Motel" in front of the word "site" in the third question. In addition noting the question regarding "Employment of Staff" the deletion of the word "lied" and substitution of the word "rests".

078/04

THE MOTION AS MOVED BY CR KERNOHAN WAS **CARRIED.**

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DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Development Committee – Held 27 April, 2004

Development Committee – Held 10 May 2004

Resources & Services Committee – Held 10 May 2004

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Kernohan that the Minutes of the Development Committee held on the 27 April, 2004 with the alteration of Item No. 5 resolution noting Cr Kernohan voted against the Motion and the Development Committee held on 10th May, 2004 and the Resources and Services Committee held the 10th May, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

079/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

OTHER COMMITTEES

Traffic Committee – Held on 10 May, 2004 **Tabled Document
“BPA 1”**

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Funnell that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee held on the 10th May, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

080/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**MAYORAL MINUTE - CAMDEN MUSIC FESTIVAL -
SPONSORSHIP**

(TC/2904)

The Camden Music Festival Committee has invited Council to be the major sponsor for the concert to be held at the Camden Civic Centre on Friday, 25th June, 2004.

The concert will consist of both local and international performers, including the Camden High Big Band, Camden Rugby Big Band, Davis High School Madrigal Choir (from Davis, California USA), Caddo Magnet High String Orchestra (from Shreveport, Louisiana, USA) and the Campbelltown Camden District Band. The three local bands performing consist entirely of students and local community citizens who regularly volunteer their services and time in the promotion of music and the arts throughout Camden and surrounding districts.

The Camden High School and its Band Auxiliary are the hosts for the American String Orchestra from Louisiana during their stay in Australia, thus enabling the opportunity of having an international and multi cultural concert in Camden.

The cost of sponsorship is the cost of the hire of the Civic Centre auditorium for the evening, currently set at \$1,045.00. In return for the major sponsorship, the Committee will actively promote Camden and Council.

The concert represents a unique opportunity for Council to sponsor such an event and assist a voluntary organisation to ensure an international performance to be held in Camden.

I recommend Council assist the event by providing sponsorship to the value of \$1,045.00. being the hire of the Civic Centre for the evening of 25th June, 2004. The funding to be allocated from the 2003/2004 Budget - "Subsidies and Donations-Group Financial Assistance" vote (Job No. 2900.450).

Recommended: That Council support the Camden Music Festival Committee as the major sponsor of the Concert to be held on 25th June, 2004 by providing funding for the hire of the Civic Centre auditorium to the value of \$1,045.00 to be allocated from the 2003/2004 Budget as outlined in the report.

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Resolved on the Motion of Cr Anderson, seconded Cr Kernohan that Council support the Camden Music Festival Committee as the major sponsor of the Concert to be held on 25th June, 2004 by providing funding for the hire of the Civic Centre auditorium to the value of \$1,045.00 to be allocated from the 2003/2004 Budget as outlined in the report.

081/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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1. 2004/05 Draft Management Plan & Budget

(Director Governance and Outcomes)

Purpose Of Report

To inform Council of its revised 2004/05 Draft Budget position 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 budget workshops with Councillors and senior staff on 3/05/04 & 10/05/04, and in accordance with the Management Plan timetable, the 2004/05 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 28 days commencing Tuesday 25 May 2004 and closing Wednesday 23 June 2004.

Copies of the Management Plan and Budget will be physically available at the following locations:

- Camden Office – Customer Service Counter
- Narellan Office – Customer Service Counter
- Camden Library
- Narellan Library, and
- Cobbitty and Leppington Shops

It will also be electronically available on Council's website.

2004/05 Draft Budget Features

Features of the 2004/2005 Draft Budget include:

- A working funds budget surplus of \$193,812
- The preservation of \$1,000,000 in accumulated working funds
- New initiatives totalling \$1,030,652. **Refer to Appendix 1 (Table Document "BPA 2) for a detailed list**
- A significant capital works program exceeding \$25m
- No new loan borrowings above the standard recurrent level of \$1,500,000
- No existing services will be compromised or adversely affected
- Sufficient resources to ensure the short-term outcomes of the 2004/05 Budget Strategy are achieved

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2004/05 Draft Budget Summary

The following table outlines a summary of income and expenditure estimates submitted for the 2004/05 Draft Budget. The 2003/04 Adopted Budget is displayed for comparative purposes.

	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget
Gross Income	57,070,599	66,267,627
Gross Expenditure	(57,078,683)	(66,073,815)
Surplus / (Deficit)	(8,084)	193,812

The increase in base income and expenditure is primarily due to the quantum of Section 94 works included in the 2004/05 Draft Budget being substantially more than those allocated in the 2003/04 Adopted Budget.

Income Estimates

The level of available income determines the scope of expenditure; therefore maximisation of income results in the potential for expanded levels of service provision. Commentary on specific income items follows:

1. Rates & Associated Income

2004/05 gross rates income has been estimated based on the approved rate-pegging increase of 3.50%. In addition, a 3.20% increase (approximately 550 new assessments) has been allowed for anticipated growth in the rate base.

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

	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Variation
Gross Rates Income	18,004,498	19,597,436	1,592,938
Interest Charges etc	167,000	170,800	3,800
Sub Total	18,171,498	19,768,236	1,596,738
LESS: Pensioner Rebates	(164,250)	(171,000)	(6,750)
NET RATES INCOME	18,007,248	19,597,236	1,589,988

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2. 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 2004/05, the total cost of the Domestic Waste Service is estimated at \$5,737,543 funded by:

Domestic Waste Charges	3,865,121
Less: Pensioner Rebate Subsidy	(77,156)
Add: Operational Grants & Subsidies	47,741
Add: Sale Of Assets	165,000
Add: Other Income	95,483
Add: Depreciation Income	717,396
Add: Transfer from DWM Reserve	923,958
TOTAL FUNDING	5,737,543

The Domestic Waste Charges represent an increase ‘across the board’ of only 1% on the adopted 2003/04 Domestic Waste charge.

3. 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 budgeted estimates for both components:

	2003/04 Revised Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Increase
Equalisation Component	1,547,031	1,593,442	46,411
Roads Component	500,782	515,805	15,023
FAG TOTAL	2,047,813	2,109,247	61,434

The 2004/05 Draft Budget figure of \$2,109,247 represents a 3% increase on the revised 2003/04 Budget figure.

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4. Loan Funds

The Draft Budget includes additional loan borrowings of \$1,500,000. This loan is used to part-finance capital works such as the roads construction program. It should be noted that Council has reduced its annual loan borrowings in recent years from \$2.3m to \$1.5m.

5. Interest on Investments

Interest on the investment of surplus funds provides Council with a significant revenue source; however, most 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 \$75,624 (16.8%) in 2004/05. This is based on the assumption that interest rates will continue to increase over the next 12 months.

The following table highlights a comparison of estimated interest on investments between the 2003/04 and 2004/05 Budgets:

	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Variation
Gross Interest Earned	1,827,473	2,020,097	195,624
LESS: Section 94	(1,375,000)	(1,495,000)	(120,000)
Net Benefit to Working Funds	452,473	525,097	75,624

6. 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 Draft Budget include:

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Grant / Subsidy	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget
Traffic Route Subsidy	18,035	18,576
RTA Roads Maintenance Grant	72,141	74,305
RTA Roads Construction Grant	76,000	34,100
Family Day Care Operational Grant	195,000	200,000
Family Day Care Special Needs Grant	350,000	350,000
Library Per Capita Subsidy	88,000	89,000
Community Development Grants	72,149	61,972
Children Services Grant	43,350	44,651
Bushfire Subsidy	137,225	141,342
Bushfire Equipment Subsidy	194,058	199,880
Noxious Weeds Grant	8,556	8,342
Camden Library Upgrade Grant	125,000	125,000
RTA PAMP Grant	20,000	20,000
Community Road Safety Program (RTA)	56,800	58,341
Narellan Urban Improvements Grant	85,000	0
Stewardship Grant	0	8,000
Waste Management Grant	25,000	0
Roads to Recovery Grant	247,521	397,592
Equestrian Park Program Grant	0	145,455
Skateboard Facility Grant	120,000	153,580
Total Tied Grant Funding	1,933,835	2,130,136
Pensioner Subsidies	247,100	256,741
Financial Assistance Grant – Equal	1,703,926	1,593,442
Financial Assistance Grant – Roads	524,782	515,805
Total Untied Grant Funding	2,475,808	2,365,988
Total Grant Funding	4,409,643	4,496,124

7. Fees and Charges

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

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Description	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Variati on
Approvals Income	1,829,005	1,763,065	(65,940)	(3.6%)
Dog & Animal Control Income	36,887	40,531	3,644	9.9%
Commercial Waste Income	361,599	380,172	18,573	5.1%
On-Site Sewerage Management Fee	39,120	74,340	35,220	90.0%
Civic Centre Income	483,340	497,840	14,500	3.0%
Library Fees	32,805	33,996	1,191	3.6%
Community Facilities Income	112,419	121,835	9,416	8.4%
Swimming Pool Income	27,618	28,447	829	3.0%
Park Hire Fees	31,500	32,445	945	3.0%
Road Restoration Fees	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
Legal & Statutory Income	22,880	24,590	1,710	7.5%
Lease & Rental Income	53,470	52,380	(1,090)	(2.0%)
Section 603 Certificate Income	88,000	92,000	4,000	4.5%

Expenditure Estimates

Budget submissions were requested from management with the following guidelines provided:

- Salary increases of 3.25%.
- Inflationary (CPI) estimates of 3% for all non-labour related expenditure.
- Other than selected recurrent capital expenditure, all capital expenditure and increased operating expenditure above the guidelines to be listed as a Project Bid.

In general, budget submissions have adhered to these guidelines and allocations appear to have been evaluated to achieve a similar level of service as that undertaken in the 2003/04 Budget.

1. Salaries

Salary estimates in this draft are at the full requirement expected for 2004/05 and reflect full salary costs should all vacancies current or occurring during the year be filled in the period. Salary estimates for 2004/05 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 2004.

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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 in 2004/05 are estimated at \$10,432,013, an increase of \$698,920 (7.2%) on the 2003/04 figures. This increase includes provision for 5 new positions.

2. 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 recently received notification that this position may change but a definitive decision will not be known until the Superannuation Board meets in May 2004. In the event that Council is called upon to commence contributions again, the \$500,000 could be sourced from the budget surplus (ie \$193,812) and the balance borrowed from Council's Internal Reserves.

3. Debt Servicing Costs

The repayment of external loans (principal and interest) is a significant budget outlay. The following table highlights a 6.5% increase in principal and interest repayments for 2004/05:

	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Variation
Interest	613,126	612,859	267
Principal Repayments	1,207,655	1,325,353	(117,698)
TOTAL	1,820,781	1,938,212	(117,431)

2004/05 Budget Impact

It should be noted that Council's total debt outstanding is estimated to be \$9,576,000 (or \$190 per capita) as at 30 June 2005. This is still well within Council's adopted policy limit of \$250 per capita.

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It should also be noted that Council's debt servicing ratio of 8.65% compares favourably with industry benchmarks for growth/developing Council's.

2005/06 Budget Impact (includes provision for new Carpark in Camden)

After allowing for available funds in Section 94 and Council's Internal Reserves, a loan totalling \$1,045,000 will need to be borrowed in 2005/06 to fund the construction of a multi-deck Carpark in Camden. Refer to calculations below:

Estimated Cost		\$2,600,000
Less:		
- Section 94 funds available	(\$595,000)	
- Internal Reserves available	(\$960,000)	(\$1,555,000)
<u>Loan Borrowing Required</u>		(\$1,045,000)

Total interest and principal repayments equate to **\$145,000 per annum** (over 10 years).

The impact on total debt outstanding and debt service ratio is outlined below:

- Total debt outstanding as at 30/06/06 \$11,000,944
- Debt per capita \$212
- Debt service Ratio 10.25%

4. Major Capital Works

A substantial capital works program (\$25.38m including dedicated assets) has been earmarked for 2004/05, a trend set to continue over the next 4 years. The bulk of these works will be funded by external sources of revenue such as Section 94 contributions as well as State and Federal Grants.

5. Government & Statutory Charges

A number of fees are levied upon local government by various state government bodies. The following table highlights a 6.8% increase in the major government and statutory charges payable by Council:

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	2003/04 Adopted Budget	2004/05 Draft Budget	Variation
Board of Fire Commission	51,284	51,250	34
Bushfire Council	90,657	106,745	(16,088)
Department of Planning	28,377	29,107	(730)
Street Lighting Charges	440,000	474,000	(34,000)
Valuer General	70,000	65,543	4,457
TOTAL	680,318	726,645	(46,327)

6. Internal Reserves

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". Internal Reserves are established to recognise substantial financial commitments that are planned for the future. Generally speaking, internal reserves are established only for capital or specific project purposes.

The estimated available reserve balances as at 1 July 2004 together with Council's proposed commitments is set out below:

INTERNAL RESERVES	Balance as at 1 July 04	Funds Committe d	Available Funds
Employee Leave Entitlements	794,744	-	794,744
Loan Repayment Sinking Fund	57,636	-	57,636
Cemetery Improvements	97,697	-	97,697
Parks & Gardens (Equestrian Park)	18,491	-	18,491
Information Technology	272,748	272,748	-
Camden Swimming Pool	163,260	163,260	-
Camden Parking	6,096	6,096	-
Capital Works Reserve***	2,841,991	2,465,694	376,297
Council's Obligation to S94 Development	561,825	233,000	328,825
GRAND TOTAL	4,814,488	3,140,798	1,673,690

***** Funds Committed from this reserve include the following major projects identified in the Draft 2004 - 2008 Management Plan and Budget.**

- Camden Library Redevelopment \$746,000
- Camden Swimming Pool \$610,720
- Camden Parking \$805,000
- Camden Skateboard Facility \$130,000
- Swimming Pool Improvements (MALC) \$173,974

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Conclusion

The 2004/05 Draft Budget is considered responsible in terms of the range of works and services it supports. A key feature of the 2004/05 Draft Budget is the aggressive Section 94 capital works program earmarked over the next 4 years.

Prudent financial management has been exercised with a forecast budget surplus of \$193,812, no additional loan borrowings above the standard \$1,500,000 and the preservation of \$1,000,000 in accumulated working funds. All this without compromising existing services and the advancement of Council's strategic plan: Camden 2025.

Recommended:

- (i) That Council approve the 2004/05 Draft Budget and Management Plan for the purpose of placing the necessary information on exhibition for public comment.
- (ii) That Council be informed of the following exhibition period and locations:

Exhibition Period:

The exhibition period commences Tuesday 25 May 2004 and is open for a period of 28 days, closing Wednesday 23 June 2004.

Exhibition Locations:

- Camden Office – Customer Service Counter
- Narellan Office – Customer Service Counter
- Camden Library
- Narellan Library, and
- Cobbitty and Leppington Shops

The Draft Management Plan and Budget will also be electronically available on Council's website, www.camden.nsw.gov.au

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Funnell, seconded Cr Cagney

- (i) *That Council approve the 2004/05 Draft Budget and Management Plan for the purpose of placing the necessary information on exhibition for public comment.*
- (ii) *That Council be informed of the following exhibition period and locations:*

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Exhibition Period:

The exhibition period commences Tuesday 25 May 2004 and is open for a period of 28 days, closing Wednesday 23 June 2004.

Exhibition Locations:

- *Camden Office – Customer Service Counter*
- *Narellan Office – Customer Service Counter*
- *Camden Library*
- *Narellan Library, and*
- *Cobbitty, Leppington, Catherine Field and Rossmore Shops*

The Draft Management Plan and Budget will also be electronically available on Council's website, www.camden.nsw.gov.au

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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2. Management Plan Review – 31 March 2004
(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.

Tabled Document “BPA 3” provides a list of the various Strategies and Actions as contained in the 2003-2004 Management Plan for the information of Councillors with comments on the current status of each Strategy and Action.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Cagney that the information be noted.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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3. Greater Western Sydney Regional Planning and Management Framework

(File 1981) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Purpose of Report

To confirm Council's previous resolution in relation to the Draft Greater Western Sydney Regional Planning and Management Framework prepared by WSROC.

Introduction

On 28 January, 2003, Council resolved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Council's (WSROC) with respect to the joint development of a regional planning and management framework for Greater Western Sydney. Greater Western Sydney includes all of the Councils within WSROC plus Camden and Campbelltown Councils.

The Draft Framework (Consultation Draft) was released for public comment on 19 March, 2004. Prior to its official public release, Council considered the Draft Framework at its Ordinary Meeting held on 23 February, 2004 and resolved, in part, to support in principle the proposed identification of Leppington for a future town centre, subject to the results of community consultation of the document and subject to no development occurring without the timely provision of essential infrastructure.

A copy of the previous report to Council is contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 4"**.

An extract of the Consultation Draft outlining the specific issues, goals and proposed actions and a map of the proposed spatial structure is contained in **Tabled Document "BPA 5"**.

Councils have been asked to comment on the Consultation Draft by 4 June, 2004.

Summary of the WSROC position

Fundamentally, WSROC is opposed to the large-scale urban development of the south-west and north-west sectors of Sydney that is currently being considered by the State Government. WSROC has proposed an alternative position that much of the future growth of Greater Western Sydney can be accommodated in the existing urban areas.

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WSROC has identified a need for “moderate expansion of the fringe” (up to a maximum total of 50,000 to 60,000 new dwellings in the south-west and north-west sectors combined), in contrast to the State Government’s consideration of up to 110,000 new dwellings in the Bringelly area alone. The WSROC proposal includes a new town centre at Leppington, focused on a new railway line and station that is proposed by State Rail.

Importantly for Camden, WSROC has placed a high value on the retention of significant agricultural lands and on scenic and cultural landscapes in Greater Western Sydney. All land west of South Creek and north of Cobbitty Road in Camden has been identified as an “agricultural protection area”, along with land at Cawdor and Bickley Vale.

In order to provide security of tenure for agricultural landholders and define an edge to Sydney’s growth, WSROC has identified an urban limit boundary. Whilst some minor adjustments to this boundary line will be necessary, it principally bounds the Camden basin, follows the eastern edge of the Central Hills and then follows Kemps Creek northwards around a future town centre at Leppington.

There is a heavy focus in the Draft Framework on regional transport improvements. Acknowledging that a high proportion of Western Sydney residents also work in Western Sydney, but that the pattern of journey to work is dispersed, the Draft Framework identifies the need for improved cross-regional transit networks.

The Draft Regional Framework

The Draft Regional Planning and Management Framework is based upon 10 fundamental principles, being:

1. Establish a city-region spatial structure;
2. Accommodate expected population growth;
3. Retain diverse and balanced communities
4. Plan for regional employment growth;
5. Facilitate the evolution of the regional economic structure;
6. Secure integrated intra-regional transport networks;
7. Reinforce strategic metropolitan linkages;
8. Protection of rural and agricultural resources;
9. Protection of natural environments and systems; and
10. Achieve greater equity and access.

For each principle, the framework establishes long-term goals short-term outcomes and critical actions to ensure the outcomes and goals are achieved. Issues relating to each of these principles

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as they impact on Camden are contained in the previous report to Council. (**Tabled Document “BPA 4”**).

There are a number of grammatical and formatting issues with the Consultation Draft that need attention prior to the adoption of the Framework. Further, some of the goals, strategies and critical actions contained in the Consultation Draft can be better expressed. As these matters are relatively minor and do not alter the fundamental principles of the framework and its impacts on Camden, it is proposed to separately inform WSROC of these matters.

Council’s Position on the Draft Framework

Prior to consideration of the Draft Framework, Camden Council’s adopted position on urban growth is to limit development to the Camden Basin (an area generally contained by the Scenic and Central Hills and Nepean River, refer to **Tabled Document “BPA 6”**), with a 2025 population projection of 70,000 residents. Camden Council’s position is that the northern areas of Camden should remain rural and rural-residential areas.

However, upon consideration of the Draft Framework, Council resolved to support in principle the urban development of Leppington, east of Kemps Creek, subject to the outcomes of community consultation of the Draft Framework and subject to appropriate infrastructure being provided to support the development and, in particular, the rail link.

Reasons for coming to this amended position (in principle) are discussed in the previous report to Council (**Tabled Document “BPA 4”**) and include the opportunity for improved regional transport infrastructure for all Camden residents that would result from the development, the long-term protection of valuable agricultural lands that would result from the proposed urban limit boundary and a clear understanding that a “no development option” is most unlikely to be upheld by the State Government.

Community Consultation

WSROC have advised that, to date, very few objections have been raised to the Consultation Draft, with the exception of objections from prospective developers of land west of the urban limit boundary (property owners generally in The Northern Road catchment ie. South Creek Catchment).

It should be recognised, however, that the consultation period had not closed at the time of writing this report. Should any

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significant objections be received by WSROC to the proposed development opportunities at Leppington by the close of the consultation period (20 May, 2004) Council will be advised prior to the Council meeting.

No local community comments have been received in respect of Council's previous deliberations on WSROC's publicity.

In any case, it is not recommended that Council resolve to make any change to its current position on development in the northern areas of Camden at this point, as further comprehensive community consultations should be undertaken.

Such consultations will arise out of the community debate and discussion that will occur in the near future as a result of the exhibition of the South-West Sector proposals by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources. In addition, Council will undertake its own consultations through the process of reviewing its Strategic Plan.

Following these more comprehensive consultations, Council will be in a position to consider any possible changes to Council's Structure Plan. Until then, it is recommended that Council maintain its support in principle with the WSROC Draft Framework, in line with the previous recommendation of Council.

Conclusion

The Draft Regional Planning and Management Framework has been developed as a result of a detailed and logical planning process. The positions reached by WSROC appear to be soundly based having regard to the background information and assumptions of population growth.

In most areas, the Draft Framework is generally consistent with Council's positions, particularly in relation to transport, employment, regional centres, agricultural protection, scenic lands protection and environmental protection. Having said this, there are some parts of the Draft Framework which need strengthening and some issues that need inclusion, as detailed in the previous report to Council. Further, there are some minor grammatical and formatting issues and statements that could be better expressed and these matters will be separately addressed to WSROC.

The principal area of inconsistency with Council's adopted position is the identification of urban development opportunities at Leppington. Council considered this matter at its Ordinary Meeting held on 23 February, 2004 and resolved to support the

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proposals in the Consultation Draft in principle, but reaffirm its position that development should not occur without adequate infrastructure being provided to support the development.

It is recommended that Council confirm its previous resolution. However, no change should be made to Council's adopted Structure Plan at this stage, as more comprehensive community consultation will be undertaken in the near future as a result of the exhibition of the South-West Sector proposals by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and as a result of Council's review of its Strategic Plan.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council confirm its previous position on the Draft Regional Planning and Management Framework as outlined in the resolution of item 6 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 February, 2004.
- (ii) No change be made to Council's adopted Structure Plan until more detailed community consultations are undertaken through the exhibition of the South-West Sector development proposals by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, and through the process of reviewing Council's Strategic Plan.
- (iii) Council authorise staff to provide WSROC with detailed comments on the Consultation Draft with respect to grammatical and formatting issues and suggested changes to the wording of goals, strategies and critical actions in the Consultation Draft.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Cagney, seconded Cr Dewbery that:

- (i) *Council confirm its previous position on the Draft Regional Planning and Management Framework as outlined in the resolution of item 6 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 February, 2004.*
- (ii) *No change be made to Council's adopted Structure Plan until more detailed community consultations are undertaken through the exhibition of the South-West Sector development proposals by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, and through the process of reviewing Council's Strategic Plan.*
- (iii) *Council authorise staff to provide WSROC with detailed comments on the Consultation Draft with respect to*

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*grammatical and formatting issues and suggested changes
to the wording of goals, strategies and critical actions in the
Consultation Draft.*

084/04 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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4. Library Fines Amnesty
(File 1326/5) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose

This report advises Council of the proposal to conduct a “fines amnesty” between 5 - 31 July 2004.

Background

For many years the Library has conducted an annual “fines amnesty”. During the amnesty period, Library borrowers are able to have their fines waived when they return their overdue items if they donate a tin or a packet of non-perishable food.

This food is then donated to a charity to be distributed to the local community. Charities that have benefited from our amnesties include the Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul and Lifeline.

Discussion

In 2003 the Library held a mid-year amnesty that proved to be very successful with approximately 860 food items were collected and donated to Lifeline, with approximately 1,000 collection (books, DVD, CD's) items returned to Council's Library.

Without the amnesties it is unlikely that as many of our collection items would have been returned. In addition, many of our borrowers welcome the opportunity to be able to donate to charities via the Library Service, with some donating non-perishables even when they don't have any fines.

It is proposed that the amnesty – “Can your fines” be held between Monday 5 July 2004 to Saturday 31 July 2004, and that the food be donated to St Vincent De Paul's Winter Appeal.

Recommended: That

- (i) Library fines during the period 5 July 2004 to 31 July 2004 be waived.
- (ii) The food be donated to St Vincent De Paul's Winter Appeal.

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

- (i) Library fines during the period 5 July 2004 to 31 July 2004
be waived.*
- (ii) The food be donated to St Vincent De Paul's Winter Appeal.*

085/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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5. Civic Centre Nomination in the Restaurant and Caterers Awards for Excellence

(File 2904) (Director Works and Service)

Purpose

This report advises Council of the outcome of the Centre's nomination in the Restaurant and Caterers Awards for Excellence.

Discussion

The Civic Centre was nominated in the category of Function Centre Caterer of the year. The category was open to caterers who primarily provide catering and function facilities to customers for a variety of events including family celebrations, conferences and corporate events undertaken at a purpose built function or convention centre, owned or leased exclusively by the caterer.

The nomination involved a written submission to the Restaurant and Caterers Association, presentation of all promotional material and packages, an interview with the Civic Centre Manager, a tour of the venue and on site judging.

The awards were open to all caterers in the south coast region who are members of the Restaurant and Caterers Association of NSW. Winners were announced on May 3 2004 at the City Beach Function Centre, Wollongong with over 340 people in attendance.

The Civic Centre received valuable feedback, commended the staff, ambience of the room and quality of the meal.

The Centre received an 'honourable mention' in the nominated category and now proceeds to the regional awards for excellence.

Recommended: That Council note the receipt of the award.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Funnell, seconded Cr Johnson that Council note the receipt of the award and thank the Manager and Staff of the Civic Centre for the excellent job.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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6. Report in Relation to Calling of Tenders for Kerb-Side Waste Collection

(File No: TC 4051) (Director, Development & Environment Division)

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to call for tenders for the introduction of an on-call kerbside cleanup collection service to be provided to all domestic properties.

Background

Council resolved in 1998 to provide residents with a kerbside cleanup program allowing them to dispose of unwanted goods including whitegoods, greenwaste material and general material unsuitable for the general weekly collection. The service has been offered to residents twice per year, generally scheduled for May and November. The Local Government Area was broken up into three zones, each zone taking a week to complete collections.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Area 1 | South Camden, Camden, Elderslie, Spring Farm, Harrington Park, Ellis Lane, Grassmere, Kirkham, Cobbitty. |
| Area 2 | Narellan, Narellan Vale, Mount Annan. |
| Area 3 | Currans Hill, Catherine Field, Leppington, Rossmore, Bringelly, Bickley Vale, Oran Park, Cawdor, Smeaton Grange. |

The service has been well received by the community with increasing amounts of material being collected each year.

Whilst the service has been popular and there is a need for it to continue, there have been ongoing issues that have escalated over the years. As such, alternative methods of providing the service have been considered. It is recommended that Council adopt an on-call kerbside cleanup service and call for tenders to provide the service.

Main Report

Since 1998 residents have been able to take advantage of Council's domestic kerbside cleanup offered twice per year. Participation rates of those using the service have well demonstrated that the service is valued by residents wishing to dispose of unwanted items unsuitable for the weekly waste/recycling collection. On average, participation rates range from 20% to 40% across the various collection zones, with more established areas displaying a higher usage rate.

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In previous collections residents have primarily been informed of the cleanups via a brochure delivered to all residential properties. Other methods of notification have included notices in the local newspapers and community notice boards, Council administration offices and Council website. The brochure informs residents that material must be out by a certain time and that it will be collected any day during the scheduled collection week.

This has been the root of many of the problems associated with the current collection method. As the dates of the cleanup change each collection, reliance is placed upon residents receiving and reading the notification and then placing the correct material out in time.

Many residents allege to never have received the brochure and therefore were not aware of the cleanup but demand that they still be provided with the service. Other residents allege that despite having put material out by the specified date/time the contractors did not collect it and demand we collect it. As there is no way of validating residents claims, material often sits on the kerb for some time before it is removed either by the resident or at an additional cost to Council. Not only is this aesthetically displeasing to have material on the kerb for extended periods of time, it poses a potential public safety threat as the material is on Council land. Overcoming these issues is possible if the service is provided on-call via a telephone booking system.

Aside from alleviating the need to have brochures printed and delivered every 6 months to notify residents of the kerbside collection and overcoming the above and ongoing problems, the provision of an on-call service provides residents the flexibility of having a collection when it is convenient for them, thus improving the service provided by Council. The following table discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the current proposed service.

Current – Scheduled Service

Advantages:

- Material is only out for collection for a set number of weeks per year (currently 6).
- Contractors collect material

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Disadvantages:

- Need to rely on brochures and newspaper notices etc being delivered to all residents to notify them of the cleanup, dates change each year (brochure delivery and printing costs approx \$7000 per year).
- Many residents complain they did not know the cleanup was on as they “didn’t receive the brochure” and demand that we provide them with the service.
- Many residents complain that the contractors did not collect their material (dispute that they put material out on time) and it remains in front of their property for extended periods of time.
- Problems with illegal dumping, people adding to waste in front of people’s homes or dumping on side of road.
- People have to hold on to their waste until collection time and may miss it if they are on holidays.

Proposed – On Call Service

Advantages:

- More convenient for residents who can book in when they need it and not have to wait for 6 months.
- Know in advance the number of cleanups to collect (can limit the number of collections per day, for example 50 per day).
- Once the number and addresses of booked in services are known the drivers can schedule where to start, and to only cover these areas rather than having to cover an entire area.
- Don’t need to rely on brochures being delivered to all residents to notify them of the cleanup, therefore people cannot say they didn’t know about it and have missed out.
- Can tell residents when they are allowed to put their material out, therefore reducing the time waste is sitting on the nature strip. Some material is put out 2 weeks before the collection period with the current service.

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- Addresses of residents booked in are known, therefore there won't be any dispute about whether material was out in time (common complaint with current service).
- Can manage in advance times when it is known that there will be less staff or resources (eg truck is being serviced), can block these periods out and not book anyone in.
- Generally more control over the cleanup

Disadvantages:

- Increased administration work booking people in.
- Residents may see neighbours with material out and do the same.
- Material will be scattered throughout the area all year round as opposed to only 6 weeks a year with current service.

The current collection system dictates to residents when they can have a cleanup, which is often not suitable for many. For example, people may be about to move house and cannot hold onto the material for several months until the next cleanup, or they may be away on holidays during the scheduled service times. Therefore having the convenience of being able to book a service at a suitable time is regarded as a significant advantage. Residents will still be provided with the same service, but at a time more convenient to them.

Furthermore, an on-call service offers Council more control of the service. Knowing the number of collections booked per day and allocating sufficient resources will minimise the time and therefore the risk of material being on the kerb, but additionally reduces problems with illegal dumping as a result of people being frustrated at not being able to dispose of material when it is convenient.

Having contacted many other Councils in regards to the services they offer, it was found that many Councils who do provide a kerbside cleanup do so on call. Having researched the various options, it is proposed that Council change current service practices to provide residents with an on-call collection for kerbside cleanup.

Whilst it is recognised that there are advantages and disadvantages to both the proposed service and Council's current

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service, it is felt that the advantages of changing the service to on-call far outweigh any disadvantages. These are summarised below.

It is proposed to operate the kerbside cleanup as follows:

- Residents ring Council to make a booking for a kerbside cleanup service.
- Residents will be asked what type of material they wish to dispose of (general material or metal waste).
- Residents will be given a day to put material out for collection.
- A contractor will collect the material on the specified day and transport material to appropriate disposal/recycling facility.
- Each residency will be allocated 2 collections per year with the option of additional services at a cost per collection. A maximum of 3 cubic metres of waste per collection is allowed.

A tender has been prepared and provides for the above to be implemented.

It is proposed that the contract be awarded for a period of 1 year, with the allowance of a 1 year extension if required. This will allow Council to assess the suitability of the alternate scheme.

Conclusion

The need for the continuation of the domestic kerbside cleanup is well evidenced in the participation rates that have been experienced over the years. However in order to overcome the many issues with the current method of service and to provide a more convenient service to the community it is recommended that an on-call service be implemented and that tenders are called for the provision of this service for a period of one year.

Recommended: That Council:

- (i) Call for tenders for the provision of an on-call domestic kerbside cleanup.
- (ii) Review the service in 12 months.

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*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Cagney, seconded Cr Whiteman that
Council:*

- (i) Call for tenders for the provision of an on-call domestic
kerbside cleanup.*
- (ii) Review the service in 12 months.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Councillor Peter Johnson, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 24th May, 2004.

“That Council conduct an investigation, and prepare a report, into the advantages and/or disadvantages of lobbying the Federal Government into changing the postcode of the Camden LGA areas of Catherine Field, Leppington, Rossmore and Bringelly from a Liverpool based 2171 to a more Camden based postcode.

Signed:..... Councillor Peter Johnson

The Notice of Motion was formally moved Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Funnell that Council conduct an investigation, and prepare a report, into the advantages and/or disadvantages of lobbying the Federal Government into changing the postcode of the Camden LGA areas of Catherine Field, Leppington, Rossmore and Bringelly from a Liverpool based 2171 to a more Camden based postcode.

088/04

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

(Cr Campbell and Cr Kernohan voted against the Motion).

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QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Holdsworth Drive/Mount Annan Drive Roundabout.

(TC/3526)

Cr Elliott drew attention to the roads adjoining this roundabout and pointed out the road is still the responsibility of Landcom. Despite persistent requests from Council regarding road maintenance, Landcom have not kept their part of the bargain. Where is Council at present with these negotiations?

The Director Works & Services stated it is not that Landcom have not kept their part, the Development Application lodged was not to Council standard. At the time, Council was given a letter that the sandstone roads being built would be guaranteed for 20 years. Other roads were built, not to Council standards, although they did ultimately build further roads to Council standards. The road in question is not to standard and Council is holding Landcom liable. Negotiations are underway and have been going on for years, these should be completed within two months. If safety problems occur, Council will do the work and submit an invoice, which Landcom pays.

Cr. Elliott stated, as the matter has been ongoing for years, could a sunset clause be agreed to complete negotiations, as it is unacceptable to residents of Mt Annan.

The Director Works & Services stated a report be submitted to Council in two months.

Graffiti - Civic Centre

(TC/4149)

Cr Kernohan drew attention to the graffiti on the walls of the Art Gallery room.

The Director Works & Services stated an upgrade of the Art gallery was under consideration by the previous Council. Some of the walls are cracked and marked. The marks will be removed.

Sydney Water pipe replacement works -Argyle St.

(TC/857A)

Cr Whiteman asked has Council received a time schedule for the works on Argyle Street and for the restoration of the footpath to original standard.

The Director Works & Services stated Council cannot control Sydney Water as a government body. This is not a Council Development approval. Council has been successful in negotiating with Sydney Water on a traffic management plan and change of

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work practices. Council does not have a timetable to put before Council. Council will endeavour to obtain a timetable and circulate to Councillors. It is a better process than originally intended. There is expectation Sydney Water will restore the footpath, if not Council can assert some pressure for the work to be done. Council staff are of opinion, Sydney Water will give Council a restoration order to fix footpath.

Councillor Induction Program

(TC/719)

Cr Cagney drew attention to the Induction programme set for 31st May, 2004 and asked could a briefing be also held on that night on the Harrington Park/Mater Dei Planning investigation, the subject of a memo issued this evening. It is noted the Community Information sessions will be held commencing 8th June, 2004. Councillors need to be informed of the community information and be brought up to date. It would be appropriate, as it is a week prior to the information evenings.

The Manager Outcomes stated the memo also stated further information could be obtained personally. It may be possible to include the session to an induction evening.

Sydney Water Pipe Replacement Works - Argyle Street

(TC/857A)

Cr Funnell asked had any consideration been given to doing the work at night so as not to disrupt businesses. Several coffee shop owners have raised the issue.

The Director Works & Services stated that was certainly an option together with underboring of the complete footpaths so as not to dig the footpath up at all. Those options were not acceptable to Sydney Water for various reasons. The current option is less damaging to pedestrians than some of the other options considered. Sydney Water would not undertake the work at night.

Camden Car Parking Station

(TC/4157)

Cr Funnell asked to be updated on the current status of the carpark. Is it intended to go ahead with the construction.

Acting General Manager stated the allocation for the construction is in the Budget with borrowings in the next financial year, which will allow for the design and construction in the following year. The draft budget has to be adopted.

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Policy – Overseas trips.

(TC/719)

Cr Funnell asked if Council has a policy for paying for overseas trips for any persons.

The Acting General Manager stated there is no formal policy dealing with overseas trips. Any overseas trips are reported in the Annual Report and the Council will consider any trip on its merits. There have not been many trips in the past. The last trip was with the General Manager and was paid for by the Local Government Managers Association with Council granting leave for the General Manager to attend.

Cr Funnell asked how many seminars do staff attend.

The Acting General Manager stated Council has an annual training budget and allocations for seminars are in accordance with the budget. The Directors also have a budget amount for attendance at seminars. All staff attendance at seminars is part of professional development or staff training programmes.

Jumbunna Child Care-Richardson Road Narellan

(PF6525.710)

Cr Anderson requested to be advised the month and year when the contract expires with Miss Lizzies at Jumbunna.

The Director Works & Services stated this will be provided.

Mount Annan Aquatic Centre

(TC/4140)

Cr Anderson drew attention to the fence recently erected on site at the eastern end to the perimeter fence on Narellan Road. Is there a reason for this fence?

The Director Works & Services stated the fenced off area is not utilised by the public and is basically land that Council owns which is available for Stage 2 or for other purposes. If there is a concern, Council can talk to the lessee.

Cr Anderson also drew attention to the physical appearance of the Centre and asked did Council have a landscape plan for the Centre, which should have been implemented by now.

The Director Works & Services stated the development went through the normal approval process and the landscaping as approved should have been carried out. Investigations can be made.

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Cr Anderson asked are the Lessees required to give to Council an annual report on the activities within the Centre. Is the report necessary, if it is not being done, should it be provided.

The Director Works & Services the Centre is a Council asset costing \$8m, and is not aware of a condition requiring an annual report, but the request seems reasonable and the lessee will be requested to provide the report.

Narellan Library site

(TC/4711)

Cr Anderson drew attention to the commencement of work at the Library site and noted this is later than the agreed commencement. Does Council have an idea of when the Library will be finished.

The Director Works & Services advised at the signing of the Contract, the confirmed date of completion date is 31st January, 2005. The late start on 20th May, was due to a change of site foreman. The work is expected to be completed will before 31st January and Councillors will be given updates as the project progresses.

Skateboard facility - funding

(TC/3102)

Cr Anderson requested advice as the success of the funding application.

Director Works & Services stated Council has not received advice at this stage, a memo will be issued to Councillors as soon as advice is received.

The Meeting closed at 9.09pm.