

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD 26 JULY, 2004, CIVIC CENTRE, OXLEY STREET, CAMDEN  
8.00PM**

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

**Staff:** General Manager, Acting Director Works & Services (Manager Community Services), Director Development & Environment, Director Governance & Outcomes, Manager Engineering, Manager Development, Manager Environment & Health, Acting Senior Governance Officer (Administration Officer).

**APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

**GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

Mrs Liz Gibson addressed the Council in relation to item 7.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING  
28th June, 2004.**

*Moved Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Whiteman the confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 28 June, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted*

104/04  
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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**DELEGATED COMMITTEES**

Development Committee – Held 28 June 2004

Development Committee – Held 12 July 2004

Resources & Services Committee – Held 12 July 2004

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Funnell, seconded Cr Elliott that the Minutes of the Development Committee held on the 28 June, 2004 and the Development Committee held on 12 July, 2004 and the Resources and Services Committee held the 12 July, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.*

105/04  
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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**OTHER COMMITTEES**

Traffic Committee – Held 12 July 2004 **Tabled Document  
“BPA 1”**

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Kernohan, seconded Cr Johnson that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee held on the 12 July, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.*

106/04  
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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

**1. Local Government Association of NSW (LGA) – 2004  
Election of Executive Committee**

(2811/9)(Director Governance and Outcomes)

**Purpose of Report**

To inform Council the State Electoral Office has forwarded details for nomination, voting and election of candidates for the Executive Committee of the LGA.

**Positions Available for Nomination**

Nominations are invited for the positions of:

- President – 1 to be elected
- Treasurer – 1 to be elected
- Vice-Presidents – 2 to be elected – 1 from a country council, 1 from a metropolitan council
- Committee Members 20 to be elected – 10 each from country and metropolitan councils.

**Nominator Details**

Nominators must be elected members of councils, which are financial ordinary members (not associate members) of the Association. No person may nominate more candidates than the number to be elected for each position.

**Candidate Details**

Candidates must be serving members of councils, which are financial ordinary members (not associate members) of the Association.

Candidates are given the opportunity to provide details of Local Government service in the form of a Statutory Declaration and the information will be forwarded to constituent councils before the Annual Conference.

Candidates for the position of President at this election must be members of metropolitan councils but may also include the incumbent President. This is due to the ruling that the office of President alternates between members of country and metropolitan councils. Candidates for the positions of Vice-President and Committee Member must be from the respective country or metropolitan councils for which the nomination is made.

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**Nomination Details**

Nominations must be in writing on the prescribed form and signed by the candidate as well as at least two nominators other than the candidate.

Nomination forms and Statutory Declarations in support of candidature must be received by the Returning Officer, State Electoral Office, no later than **NOON** FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2004.

They may be –

- hand delivered to the State Electoral Office  
Level 20, 207 Kent Street, Sydney or
- posted  
PO BOX 693 Grosvenor Place NSW 1220 or
- faxed (02) 9241 6011  
(Please note: the original of a faxed nomination must be received by the Returning Officer by **NOON** FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2004)

Withdrawals by candidates must be in writing to be valid and received by the Returning Officer prior to the close of nominations - **NOON** FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2004. Defects in Nomination or Statutory Declaration forms must be rectified by the candidate prior to the close of nominations.

**Voting Details**

Councils must be financial ordinary members of the Association as at the close of roll - **NOON** FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2004.

Voting will be conducted at the Annual Conference of the LGA. Voting for President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer will be conducted on Monday 25<sup>TH</sup> October 2004 and for Executive Committee on Tuesday 26<sup>TH</sup> October 2004.

Recommended: That Council determine whether it wishes to nominate any Councillor for election to the LGA Executive Committee.

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Johnson that no Councillors be nominated for election to the Local Government Association Executive Committee.*

107/04  
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THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED.**

**2. 2004/05 Financial Assistance Grants**

(Director – Governance & Outcomes, File No 3317)

**Introduction**

Council recently received notice from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission advising preliminary financial assistance grant estimates for 2004/05. Of great concern to Council is the diminishing financial assistance from this body over the last 2 years, in particular the general purpose component of the financial assistance grant.

**Grants Commission Process**

Financial Assistance Grants are an allocation of federal tax revenue (eg Income taxes and GST) distributed to the various States and Territories of Australia. The Local Government Grants Commission is the body which calculates the financial assistance payable to each Local Government Council.

**Components of the Financial Assistance Grant**

There are two components of the grants, distributed on the basis of principles developed in consultation with local government and consistent with the national principles of the commonwealth Act.

**1. General Purpose Component**

With the 'general purpose component' the Grants Commission attempts to assess the extent of relative disadvantage between councils. The approach taken considers cost disadvantage in the provision of services on the one hand (expenditure allowances) and an assessment of revenue raising capacity on the other (revenue allowances). Because the grants are unconditional the methodology is objective and excludes, as far as practicable, councils' policies and practices (the effort neutral principle). There is a section of the Act that specifies that all councils are entitled to a minimum amount. For 2003-04 the minimum amount was \$15.92 per capita.

**2. Local Roads Component**

The 'local roads component' is assessed on the basis of councils' proportion of the state's population and the lengths of local roads and bridges.

**Expenditure Allowances and Methodology**

Expenditure allowances are part of the 'general purpose component' of the grant. They attempt to compensate councils for the extent of relative disadvantage because of issues beyond their control.

They are calculated for each Council for a selected range of council functions, such as libraries, health, building control, recreation, roads, etc. An additional allowance is calculated for councils outside the Sydney area that recognises their isolation.

Council policy decisions concerning the level of service provided, or if there is a service provided at all, are not considered (effort neutral).

The general formula for the calculation of expenditure allowances is:

Allowance = No. of Units x Standard Cost x Disability

Where:

**No. of Units** is the measure of use of the function for the Council. For most functions the number of units is the council's population. For others it may be the number of properties or the length of local roads.

**The Standard Cost** is the weighted average net expenditure, per unit, by all councils in the State.

**The Disability** is the measure of the extent of relative disadvantage a council faces in providing a standard service because of issues beyond its control. For each function the characteristics likely to influence the cost are identified and measured. The measure is then related to the potential additional costs to councils.

**Revenue Allowances and Methodology**

The Commission is attempting to assess the relative position of councils in terms of their revenue raising capacity. The calculation of revenue allowances involves determining each council's theoretical revenue raising capacity by comparing land values per property to a state standard and applying the state standard rate-in-the-dollar. For comparative purposes the Commission purchases valuation data that has been calculated to a common base date for all councils by the Valuer-General.

To reduce seasonal and market fluctuations in the property market, the valuations are averaged over three years. In the

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revenue allowance calculation, councils with low values per property are assessed as being disadvantaged (positive allowances). Councils with high values per property are assessed as being advantaged (negative allowances). That is, the theoretical revenue capacity of each Council is equalised against the State standard. The Commission's approach excludes the rating policies of individual Councils (effort neutral).

**Camden Council's Declining Financial Assistance**

The Financial Assistance Grants paid to Council over the last 5 years and the preliminary estimate for 2004/05 is outlined in the following table:

	<b>General Purpose</b>	<b>Local Roads</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>
1999/2000 Actual	\$1,239,227	\$349,628	\$1,588,855
2000/2001 Actual	\$1,351,900	\$385,888	\$1,737,788
2001/2002 Actual	\$1,448,205	\$432,666	\$1,880,871
2002/2003 Actual	\$1,563,092	\$473,188	\$2,036,280
2003/2004 Actual	\$1,551,621	\$502,267	\$2,053,888
2004/2005 Grants Commission Estimate (1)	\$1,462,760	\$511,646	\$1,974,406

(1) The preliminary estimate will be confirmed by the Grants Commission in August 2004 and the first quarterly payment forwarded to Council in September 2004.

An analysis of these figures and those that Council estimated reveals the following:

- Total financial assistance in 2004/05 has fallen by \$79,482 (3%) when compared with 2003/04 figures.
- Council budgeted for a 3% increase in financial assistance for 2004/05. The resultant budget shortfall is \$134,841.
- The general purpose component has fallen \$100,332 (6%) in the last 2 years and \$88,861 (5%) in the last 12 months.

**Conclusion**

Financial Assistance Grants represent a major source of revenue for Local Government Councils. Camden, a high growth Council, can ill afford reductions in financial assistance of this magnitude, particularly given our current and forecast rate of service expansion.

Council's adopted 2004/05 Budget surplus of \$187,812 will be reduced by \$134,841 to just \$52,971 as a result of this decision from the Local Government Grants Commission.

On the subject of Council's forecast budget position, it is important to note that Council may be required to recommence

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superannuation contributions for members in the 'defined benefit scheme' as of 1 January 2005. The Superannuation Board is planning to meet in late November 2004 to discuss this matter. If reintroduced, the impact on Council's budget will be approximately \$290,000 for the six months ending 30 June 2005.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council note the report
- (ii) Council support a letter to the Premier, Local Member and Minister for Local Government outlining Council's concerns with this matter

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Kernohan that:

- (i) Council note the report
- (ii) Council support a letter to the Premier, Local Member and Minister for Local Government outlining Council's concerns with this matter

108/04  
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THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED.**

**3. Pecuniary Interest Councillor and Staff Primary Returns – as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004**

(719/5) (General Manager)

As required under Section 450A of the Local Government Act 1993, completed Primary Returns lodged with the General Manager are required to be tabled at the first meeting of Council held after the last day of lodgement (1<sup>st</sup> July 2004).

All Councillors and staff required to complete and lodge a Pecuniary Interest Primary Return under Section 449(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 have complied, therefore, the completed Primary Returns as at 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004 are tabled and available for viewing.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Kernohan, seconded Cr Elliott that the information be noted.

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**4. Postcode Changes - Australia Post - Camden LGA**

(554/2) (Director Governance and Outcomes)

At the Council Meeting on 24th May, 2004, a Notice of Motion was adopted from Councillor Johnson, requesting 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.

However, during investigation of this matter, Council has recently received notification that Australia Post is conducting a review of postcodes due to the size of the area currently covered by postcode 2171 and the need to cater for future growth. Australia Post, in fact, has decided to assign additional postcodes for these areas.

The following table shows the localities, new postcode number and commencement date. Australia Post will advise all residents and Private Box/Locked Bag holders of the changes to the Postcodes.

<b>SUBURB</b>	<b>OLD POSTCODE</b>	<b>NEW POSTCODE</b>	<b>COMMENCEMENT DATE</b>
Leppington	2171	2179	23/7/2004
Rossmore	2171	2557	6/8/2004
Catherine Field	2171	2557	6/8/2004
Bringelly	2171	2556	6/8/2004

As a result of these postcode changes, further action on the Council resolution of 24th May, 2004 has been discontinued.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

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

110/04  
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THE MOTION ON BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED.**

(Cr Campbell voted against the Motion).

**5. Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management**

8075.340) (Director Works and Services Division)

**Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to recommend adoption of the Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management. The draft Plan of Management has been **distributed under separate cover** to Councillors.

**Background**

Council resolved to exhibit the Plan of Management (POM) for Gundungurra Reserve at its meeting of 27 January 2004.

A major issue which delayed the finalisation of the draft POM has been the location of the East West Link Road through Lot 4 of Gundungurra Reserve. The location was subsequently confirmed and incorporated in exhibited Draft Local Environmental Plan 121 – Spring Farm (DLEP) that was adopted by Council on 15 December 2003 for gazettal. The plan was gazetted on 21 May 2004.

A major outcome, set out in the draft POM, is to undertake a corridor wide approach to land management that prioritises the protection and improvement of natural bushland. This outcome is integral to the Camden 2025 Vision which references that the *“the natural environment of Camden has been managed so that ecosystems have been successfully restored and a network of bush corridors has been established”*.

**Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management**

The Gundungurra Reserve POM is the second specific area plan developed after the overarching Camden Riparian Areas POM was adopted by Council in December 2002.

The Gundungurra Reserve POM re-categorises the community land from ‘natural area – watercourse and wetland’ to ‘natural area’ reflecting the guidelines for categorisation as set out in the Local Government Act.

The Plan identifies design and management issues that require attention to maximise the effectiveness of the reserves functions through incorporating masterplanning principles. A Works Action Plan is included to guide implementation of the POM and resource allocation.

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**Community Consultation Process**

The Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management was exhibited from 11 February to 10 March 2004 with written submissions received until 24 March 2004. One written submission was received. As the Plan re-categorises community land in accordance with the act (s40A), a public hearing was held on the 1 May 2004. Two local residents attended the public hearing. The findings from the public hearing (refer **Table Document "BPA 2"**) are noted and taken into consideration in respect of amendment of the POM. Under the brief for the POM a Steering Committee comprised of Council, State Government and community representatives was formed to assist to compile the POM. The final Steering Committee meeting was held on 22 April 2004 to discuss the exhibited POM. Discussion centred upon the matters raised during the Public Hearing and as there was a representative from Waste Services NSW the issue of the access road to Jacks Gully Waste Management Facility was also discussed.

**Issues**

The following key issues were identified from the written submission and comments made at the Public Hearing. Set out below are the issues and responses to these:

**Written Submission From Waste Service NSW**

The access road to Jacks Gully Management Facility was a matter that was put forward in a written submission from Waste Services NSW and also discussed at the Public Hearing and the Steering Committee. All the above issues are set out in the table below. The minutes of the Public Hearing are included in the attached **Table Document "BPA 2"**.

Some of the information that is of a minor nature included in the draft POM has been identified at the exhibition stage to be no longer relevant or incorrect and has been amended to ensure the adopted POM is currently up to date at the time of adoption.

Issue	Consideration
Access Road to Jacks Gully Waste Management Facility – (see Figure 6.1 Concept Masterplan)	The access road is proposed in lieu of the existing access road proposed to be closed and revert to Community Land. Waste Services in a submission has indicated they are in negotiation on this matter with Council and the Spring Farm developer consortium. At the

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Issue	Consideration
	Public Hearing there was concern the proposed road should not intrude on the area allocated for the reserve and be outside the Cumberland Plains Woodland (CPW) area. The area where the proposed access road passes through Gundungurra Reserve is generally degraded and should not diminish the value of the CPW remnant. The future access road (link road) has been reclassified as part of the LEP for the Spring Farm Release area.

*Issues arising from the Public Hearing of 25 February 2004 and discussed at the Steering Committee meeting of 22 April 2004.*

Issue	Consideration
The recreational park at Gundungurra Reserve and the adjoining William Howe Park (see Figure 5.1 and 6.1) could create adjoining park areas under two management regimes. The potential for shared maintenance with National Park Wildlife Service (NPWS) – could be problematic	Gundungurra Reserve POM was to acknowledge the relationship of Gundungurra Reserve to William Howe Park. William Howe Regional Park (WHRP) POM highlighted the north west part of the WHRP for a recreational activity focus. Part of the brief Under Section 5.4.2 Recreational Facilities and Use, the provides to integrate the adjoining passive recreational areas (see Strategies 2.2 to 2.5). The NPWS has been involved in the POM process from the beginning and attended Steering Committee meetings.
Shared path network (Section 4.5.3) – concern about proposed shared path (between pedestrians and cyclists) and safety issues such based on width and steep grades	The path network is proposed to link to WHR Park and through the Bush Corridor network to Spring Farm Urban Release Area. There is potential for bicycle use in the long term through Gundungurra Reserve. It will be locally based and subject to safety design considerations. In the short term, due to budgetary consideration, it is proposed to construct part of the path network to principally provide pedestrian linkage to WHRP. It will be funded through a Metropolitan Greenspace Grant that Council recently obtained. It will be built to required standards and signage will be

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Issue	Consideration
	installed. Some informal tracks will be closed at the time of the construction of the above tracks. The POM identifies the exclusion of motorbikes at Gundungurra Reserve and this will be pursued through the installation of bollards and signs to restrict their access.
No provision for BMX bikes	At present there is no provision for BMX bikes. BMX bikes operating on informal tracks have, in the past caused damage in one area that is proposed to be revegetated as part of the conservation program for the CPW. Council will determine the provision and location of these facilities through the Recreation Strategy.
Parking - should be located outside of the reserve and Cumberland Plain Woodland	The proposed parking is located in the park area adjoining WHR Park and is well away from CPW. It is considered the car park will not adversely impact on the CPW but will provide better access for families and also for emergency vehicles accessing from the East West Link Road.
Incorporate Road underpass with east west link road to ensure fauna and passive recreation connectivity (Section 5.4.4 Strategy 4.3)	The width of the underpass needs to be clarified as to its effectiveness to allow fauna connectivity. The cost may be prohibitive. Rather than word 'incorporate' it should be changed to 'investigate' and 'incorporate if cost is deemed reasonable and able to be accommodated'
Formation and operation of bush corridor committee (Section 5.4.5 Strategy 5.1 and 5.2 )	It is proposed that a bush corridor committee be formed to guide development and maintenance of the corridor. At the Public Hearing it was suggested that better representation would be achieved through a Bushland Corridor Committee with a wider local government area emphasis to identify linkages. The other option is the status quo of consulting with the community where necessary. The idea of a Bushland Corridor Committee operating across the local government area has some merit, however it most probably deserves wider and detailed discussion outside the realm of the POM. It is recommended its formation be investigated and for the present time the management of the bushland

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Issue	Consideration
	at Gundungurra Reserve be done through community consultation by Council.
Under Section 5.4.9 Management and Maintenance there is the need for an Operational Plan of Management	There is funding for mowing the fire breaks and passive area, but none for other operations such bush regeneration. This is a matter that will be considered in future budget processes.
Leases / licences – entry fees (as per section 7.0 Action and Implementation - Item 18.0	An activity required under the Action Plan is to liaise with NPWS regarding potential for collection of park fees. This proposal has been questioned in respect of charging to use Gundungurra Reserve. It is somewhat misleading in that it refers to collection of fees for WHRP. This proposed activity should be deleted as Council would not charge entry fees to Gundungurra Reserve or on behalf of the NPWS for entrance into WHRP on behalf of the NPWS. In any event there is no proposal for entry fees to WHR Park.
Need for increased awareness of the natural environment and cultural environment	The POM proposes a range of community education and participation activities. A series of signage on natural and cultural environment issues for Gundungurra Reserve is being prepared as part of the Metropolitan Greenspace Grant that Council recently obtained. At the same time Council will promote and engage the local community in Bushcare activities.

**Communication Strategy**

It is proposed that the adopted Plan of Management will be promoted through the following mechanisms:

- inclusion on Camden Council's website;
- an advertisement in the Camden Advertiser notifying the general community of the adoption of the POM; and
- notification letters to those who attended Public Hearing, participated in Steering Committee meetings and Waste Services NSW who made a submission.

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**Conclusion**

The Gundungurra Reserve Specific Areas Plan of Management establishes a management framework that reflects the importance of focussing on specific requirements in order that improvements are made both to the park and water quality.

Recommended: That Council adopt the amended Plan of Management for Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management

*Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Cagney that Council adopt the amended Plan of Management for Gundungurra Reserve Plan of Management*

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

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**6. Provision of Translated Message on Council Letterhead**

(File 4442) (Director Works and Service)

**Purpose of report**

This report seeks approval from Council to place a translated message on the back of Council's letterhead.

The purpose of this exercise is to enhanced access to information by Camden's Non-English Speaking (NES) or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community. The translated message could also be used for other purposes such as on the back of newsletters and promotional fliers.

**Discussion**

While Camden's Non-English Speaking (NES) community is relatively small, anecdotal data collected through the work of local services and most recently Council's Chinese Market Gardening Project, suggests that the NES (in particular the Chinese market gardening community) is very isolated and reluctant to utilise Council services.

Camden's overseas born population currently makes up 15.8% or 6936 persons (2001 ABS Census), of this group, 7.5% are from NES backgrounds.

In terms of language spoken at home, the 2001 census indicates that 8.5% of Camden's community speak a language other than English (LOTE) at home. The top ten language groups for the Camden local government area are:

<b>Language other than English (LOTE) spoken at home - Camden (SLA) ABS 2001 Census - Top 10</b>		
<b>Language</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>% as proportion of total population</b>
Italian	742	1.69
Chinese	362	0.82
Spanish	293	0.67
Arabic	272	0.62
Maltese	224	0.51
Croatian	199	0.45
Greek	160	0.36
German	134	0.3
Serbian	126	0.29
Tagalog (Filipino)	118	0.27
<b>Total pop speaking LOTE</b>	<b>3,701 (8.5%)</b>	

*(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2001)*

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Table 1 in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”** shows that the proportion of residents from Non-English speaking backgrounds decreased between the last two census periods (17.0% in 1996 – 15.8% in 2001), while actual numbers increased due to continued growth in the area. This was also reflected for ‘language spoken at home’, (Table 2 in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”**) with the proportion speaking a LOTE at home decreasing from (8.8% in 1996 - 8.5% in 2001).

‘Proficiency in English’ data (see Table 3 in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”**) shows that several language groups in the Camden area have low English language proficiency.

In the 2001 census 19.7% of Chinese speaking respondents indicated that they did not speak English at all, while 25.8% described their ability to speak English as ‘not well’. Other language groups that have lower levels of English proficiency include Arabic, Croatian, Serbian and Spanish. Proficiency in English is also closely related to the length of time migrants have been living in Australia. Camden’s most recently arrived community is the Chinese speaking community, which also has the lowest levels of English language skills. (see table 4 in **Tabled Document “BPA 3”**).

### **Proposal**

It is proposed that the following translated message is produced in the top ten community languages. The message invites residents to call the translating and interpreting service to request assistance.

*“This information is important. If you need help understanding this document please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 and ask them to contact Council on 02 4654-7777 on your behalf.”*

*The cost to include this translated message (which includes translation, proof reading and typesetting of the message in ten community languages) is approximately \$800.*

There will also be an additional cost of approximately \$400 to add the printed message to the back of the letterhead for a print run of 30,000 copies (Council’s regular order).

### **Resource Implications**

The costs can be met within existing resources. However there will be a small increase in the cost of future reprints for Council’s administration branch.

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**Conclusion**

This initiative is an opportunity for Council to improve the access and equity opportunities for its multicultural community. It is a simple measure with a small cost that will make a major difference in our citizen's ability to access community information and services.

Recommended: That Council proceed with the placement of a translated message on the back of Council's letterhead of the top ten community languages.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Elliott that Council proceed with the placement of a translated message on the back of Council's letterhead of the top ten community languages.

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

**7. Rental of “Jumbunna” Community Centre by Miss Lizzies Kindergarten**

(File Number 6525.710/2) (Director Works and Services)

**Purpose of report**

This report provides Council with advice in relation to Jumbunna Community Centre, 85 Richardson Road, Narellan, as per the resolution of the 12 July, 2004 meeting of Council.

**Background**

“Jumbunna” Community Centre is a Council owned community facility which currently provides accommodation for both community based as well as privately operated facilities. This facility was originally a house that has been converted to a community facility.

Council currently has licence agreements in place with two separate organisations that use “Jumbunna.”

- Camden Area Community Resource Centre (CACRC) provides: occasional care for children 0-5years (29 places), office accommodation for a children’s services resource worker; and accommodation for the toy library.

CACRC is a not-for-profit community based organisation. Under the adopted fees and charges CACRC pay a total of \$24 per day, which equates to approximately \$4 per hour.

- Miss Lizzies Outside School Hours Care Service (OSHC). The outside school hours care service is managed by a private operator, the service provides care on the following basis:
  - Before school (6.30 am – 9.00 am) and after school (2.30 pm – 6.30 pm) Monday to Friday during school terms. 50 children are currently enrolled in after school care, and 20 children enrolled in before school care; and
  - Vacation Care during school holidays approximately 60 children are currently enrolled in School holiday vacation care which operates between 6.30 am and 6.30 pm during school holidays

Under the current arrangements adopted fees and charges for the hire of the facility by Miss Lizzies OSHC are \$35.20 per day which equates to \$5.90 per hour.

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**Discussion**

At Council's meeting held 12 July 2004, it resolved that:

*“Council staff prepare a report, outlining an appropriate commercial rental return for the use of Jumbunna, to be considered by Council at its next meeting”.*

**Comparison of Rentals With Other Local Government Areas**

A telephone survey of four (4) other Local Government Areas was conducted in July 2004 to determine the rates charged to commercial childcare operators who operate their businesses from Council owned premises.

All four Councils contacted reported that they do not rent facilities to commercial operators for the provision of OSHC. Industry practice in this area is for commercial operators to operate OSHC in conjunction with their existing early child care service.

Campbelltown Council does rent one facility to a commercial user for the delivery of childcare services including a preschool, and before and after school care. The fee charged for this is \$15 per hour.

**Options for fees for 2004/05**

Following are two (2) options for Council's consideration in relation to the fees applicable to the use of Jumbunna by a commercial user.

Option 1

Increase rental for the operator from \$35.20 per day (\$5.90 per hour) to \$36.25 per day (\$6.05 per hour) in line with Council's policy of increasing fees and charges by 3%, which equates to \$9,152 annually.

Option 2

Increase rental for the operator from \$35.20 per day (\$5.90 per hour) to \$15 per hour in line with that charged by Campbelltown Council for OSHC, which equates to \$25,200 annually.

These rates are based on current usage of 300 hours per school term and 120 hours per school holiday period.

**Implications**

Given the potential increase in fees it is proposed that any substantial increase be applied from January 2005. This

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would allow the operator to revise fees if required and provide sufficient time to notify families enrolled at the service.

Recommended: That

- (i) Council determine any change to the exhibited fees for the use of the "Jumbunna" Community facility by a commercial user.
- (ii) Any amended fees be exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act.

**MOTION**

Moved Cr Funnell, seconded Cr Campbell that

- (i) Council adopt the exhibited fees for the use of the "Jumbunna" Community Facility by a commercial user, being -

*a rental increase for the operator from \$35.20 per day (\$5.90 per hour) to \$36.25 per day (\$6.05 per hour) in line with Council's policy of increasing fees and charges by 3%, which equates to \$9,152 annually.*

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

*(Cr Elliott and Cr Anderson voted against the Motion).*

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

I, Councillor David Funnell hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2004:

*“That an education programme be immediately implemented to warn people of the consequence of tree and bush removal without a development application from Camden Council”.*

Signed:

Cr David Funnell

*The Notice of Motion was formally*

*Moved Cr Funnell, seconded Cr Johnson that an education programme be immediately implemented to warn people of the consequence of tree and bushland removal without a development application from Camden Council.*

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

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

*(Cr Kernohan left the chamber during Questions without Notice – the time being 9.00pm).*

*(Cr Kernohan returned to the chamber – the time being 9.04pm)*

*(Cr Cagney left the chamber during Questions without Notice – the time being 9.06pm).*

*(Cr Cagney returned to the chamber – the time being 9.11pm)*

*(Cr Campbell left the chamber during Questions without Notice – the time being 9.15pm).*

*(Cr Campbell returned to the chamber – the time being 9.19pm).*

### **Tree Planting – Gundungurra Reserve**

Cr Funnell would like Parks and Gardens staff to be congratulated for the high-quality of the organisation and implementation of this year's tree planting held at Gundungurra Reserve.

### **Listing of Development Applications**

Cr Funnell would like to express his appreciation to staff at receiving the listing of the last three months outstanding DA's and Subdivisions and asked whether he could discuss some of the issues when he reviewed the list.

The Director Development and Environment advised that she would be happy to discuss any application with any Councillor.

### **CIFA Committee Meetings**

Cr Cagney would like to know if it is possible for the Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA) to be granted the use of a room within the undercroft for the purpose of it's monthly Committee meetings.

The Acting Director Works and Services answered she will investigate.

### **Studley Park House**

Cr Cagney requested a copy of the original Conservation Management Plan for Studley Park House and any other conservation plans for the Studley Park Estate/Golf Course.

The Director Governance and Outcomes answered he will investigate the request.

### **Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club**

Cr Cagney requested an update at a Councillor Workshop on the concept plans proposed by the Camden Golf Club at Studley Park and the interest if any in the Narellan area of the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club.

The General Manager informed a briefing to Councillors on this issue is proposed for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and a report to the next Council meeting regarding the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club's interest in the Narellan area. The Director Development and Environment advised she could provide Councillors with an overview of the Eastern Suburbs Leagues proposal at the workshop scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2004.

### **Structure of Community Groups**

Cr Cagney asked if staff could prepare, and bring back to Council in couple of months a report outlining the structure of the current relationships with community groups, regarding community facilities. The report should contain the various structures that currently operate (summarised below) but exclude the Bicentennial Equestrian Park and the newly adopted tennis court arrangements.

- Sporting groups using council grounds, yet providing their own funding for club houses and fields maintenance;
- Sporting groups to whom Council supply; grounds, buildings etc and the fee structure currently existing;
- Community hall leasing to community groups by Council;
- Community Hall 355 Committees and the structure of fees and funding that apply.

The General Manager answered the report will be provided as soon as possible.

**Footpath Restoration – Argyle Street, Camden**

Cr Whiteman enquired after the progress of Council restoration work to the footpath being disturbed by the Sydney Water project. Also who is paying for the restoration and will the pavers be restored to their original state.

The General Manager advised Sydney Water is paying for the restoration, which is currently completed up to the Commonwealth Bank (cnr John and Argyle Sts). She also advised the pavers are being restored as close as possible to their original state but once they have been disturbed it is difficult due to various reasons as outlined in the report to Council by the Director Works and Services to restore them to their original state.

**Community Safety Forum**

Cr Kernohan enquired if a copy of the proposed changes to Narellan Hotel currently on exhibition was sent to the Community Safety Forum and will this matter come to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

The Director Development and Environment advised she was unsure but will investigate and if not make them aware of it and also advised a report will be brought to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

Cr Kernohan requested the Community Safety Forum be notified in the future of any matter going on exhibition which is classed as liable to impinge on community safety.

The Director Development and Environment advised that this could occur.

**Legislation in Relation to Court Orders**

Cr Kernohan enquired as to what powers Council has to vary a court order.

The Director Development and Environment advised the legislation in relation to court orders has changed. If Council is happy with what is proposed Council can now modify a consent that has been issued however; if Council does not support the variation the matter will need to revert to the court for determination.

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Cr Kernohan asked what the statute of limitations was on this type of appeal.

The Director Development and Environment advised there is 12 months in which to make a challenge, however; in this case the court has made the consent valid for a period of 5 years so an application has been lodged within time.

**Exhibition Period Times**

Cr Kernohan asked if exhibition period times could start from the Monday following the first day the notice of the exhibition appears in the paper.

The Director Development and Environment advised exhibition notification letters are mailed in advance of the paper advertisement and the commencement date of the exhibition is the first day the advertisement will appear in the paper, which is in accordance with Council's Notification Policy. Council only advertises in one paper.

**Dangerous Dogs**

Cr Kernohan asked is it Council policy when a request to declare a dangerous dog is reported to Council the people are advised the person taking the report will write to the owners.

The Director Development and Environment advised there is no policy in relation to dangerous dogs – people are asked to make the complaint in writing due to the severity and ramifications of the issue. In the event a request is received in relation to a dog on the street that is considered dangerous, our response time is usually within an hour.

**Roads – Mount Annan**

Cr Elliott asked when the report outlining the progress of negotiations between Council and Landcom regarding the Landcom controlled roads in Mount Annan was being presented to Council.

The Manager Engineering advised negotiations were almost finalised with a final meeting scheduled in about one week's time. The General Manager advised the report would be brought to Council after the meeting and include the meeting outcome.

**Broadband Access – Telstra**

Cr Elliott stated some developments in the Narellan area have had problems with broadband access and asked if Council could approach Telstra for advice on the minimum requirements for access for commercial developments.

The Director Development and Environment advised this could be taken up as part of the Local Environmental Study for Narellan and the Town Centre. Also discussions had taken place with Telstra concerning the demands for Springfarm and Elderslie development.

**Abandoned Vehicles**

Cr Dewbery asked if Council had a policy to deal with abandoned cars.

The Director Development and Environment informed if these cars are on a public road ownership needs to be determined to facilitate removal. If Councillor Dewbery could provide details of the location of the vehicles action would be taken to have them removed.

**Road Maintenance**

Cr Dewbery asked if Council was aware of Parramatta City Council successfully using Pink Batts to fill pot holes and could Council look into the method.

The Acting Director Works and Services advised she will investigate.

**Stray Animals**

Cr Dewbery asked what services Council have in place to hold stray dogs over the weekend.

The Director Development and Environment informed Companion Animal Officers work Monday to Friday and Rangers are rostered on the weekends to respond to dangerous dogs. Also Renbury Farm is the contract pound service available to surrender any dogs during a weekend.

The Meeting closed at 9.24pm.