

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 28 JUNE, 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: General Manager, Director Development & Environment, Director Governance & Outcomes, Director Works & Services, Manager Development, Manager Outcomes, Manager Community Services, Manager Engineering, Section 94 Contributions Officer, Team Leader Revenue, Team Leader Expenditure, Senior Governance Officer.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Johnson declared an interest in Item 4 being a land holder in the Elderslie infill area and potential developer.

GENERAL PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were no public addresses.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 24th May, 2004

Moved Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Cagney the confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of 24 May, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted

089/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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DELEGATED COMMITTEES

Development Committee – Held 24 May 2004
Development Committee - Held 15 June 2004
Resources & Services Committee – 15 June 2004

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Cagney that the Minutes of the Development Committee held on the 24 May, 2004 and the Development Committee held on 15 June, 2004 and the Resources and Services Committee held the 15 June, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

090/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

OTHER COMMITTEES

Traffic Committee – Held 15 June 2004
Tabled Document “BPA 1”

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Dewbery that the Minutes of the Traffic Committee held on the 15 June, 2004, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

091/04

THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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1. 2004/05 Management Plan & Budget
(3968) (Director Governance and Outcomes)

Introduction

At the Resources & Services Committee Meeting on 24 May 2004, Council considered the Draft 2004/2005 Management Plan and Budget. Council resolved to place the Draft Management Plan and Budget (including the Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges documents) on public exhibition for comment for 28 days, with written submissions closing on 23 June 2004.

Submissions From The Public

At the close of business on 23 June 2004 there was one public submission received in relation to the Draft 2004/05 Management Plan & Budget. This submission was received from the Camden Men's Bowling Club Inc requesting that Council continue its financial assistance of \$36,000 per annum for the maintenance of the Bowling Greens.

It should be noted that in the current 2003/04 Budget, Council made a provision of \$36,000 to assist the Club in maintaining the greens during the transitional phase from the control by Western Suburbs Leagues Club to the creation of the new Camden Sports Club.

There were numerous delays in the establishment of the new Club and the granting of the liquor and poker machine licences to the Club. The granting of the licenses, and their timing, was crucial to the Club's plans to generate sufficient revenue to enable the various programs of the new Club to be maintained (in the case of lawn bowls) or established.

With the transition now complete and the new Club operational it may be appropriate for Council to extend the subsidy for a further year to enable the continuation of bowls on the site while the new revenue streams are established. Council provides only limited recreational facilities for residents meeting the profile of the bowling community and Council has required the maintenance of the greens to be an integral component of the draft lease of the site to the new Club.

A copy of the submission is attached as **Table Document "BPA 2"**.

In addition, the Local Government Superannuation Board has indicated that it may terminate its contribution holiday from 1

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January 2005, thus requiring a contribution of \$300,000 in the coming financial year. Due to the late notice of this change, it will be addressed by reserving the projected surplus and any savings identified in quarterly reviews.

Authorised Variations during the Exhibition Period

At the Resources and Services Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2004 Council resolved to accept the offer of funding from the NSW Ministry of the Arts for a Community Development Officer.

Both the grant funding of \$73,338 and Council's contribution of \$6,000 have been added to the 2004/05 Budget and reflected in the revised 2004/05 Budget Summary below.

Revised 2004/05 Budget Summary

The 2004/05 Budget forecasts accumulated Working Funds as at 30 June 2005 of \$1,187,812. This figure represents a \$187,812 surplus above Council's minimum desired Working Funds level of \$1,000,000.

Dissection of Expenditure

Funds have been allocated to Council's five Strategic Directions as follows:

Sustainable Urban Growth	5,222,781	7.7%
Accessibility	16,178,831	23.9%
Environmental Systems	14,210,095	21.0%
Economic & Community Development	20,601,163	30.5%
Governance	11,446,538	16.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	67,659,408	100%

Source of Funding

Council's expenditure budget is funded by the following sources of income:

Rates & Extra Charges (incl Waste)	23,037,228	33.9%
Fees & Charges	3,461,405	5.1%
Grants & Contributions	11,862,561	17.5%
Loan Funds	1,500,000	2.2%
Reserve Funds Utilised	18,303,878	27.0%
Interest on Investments	2,020,097	3.0%
Depreciation (Non-Cash Income)	6,306,805	9.3%
Other Income	1,355,246	2.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	67,847,220	100%

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General Rate Increase

The 2004/05 Budget provides for a rate increase in line with the Minister for Local Government's determination of 3.5%. In addition to this general rate increase Council has received confirmation from the Local Government Minister that a further 0.571% increase to Council's notional rate income has been approved to compensate Camden for rates lost on Crown owned land.

In essence, Council's total notional rate income (i.e. total rate revenue) will therefore increase by 4.071% in 2004/05. This increase was included in the Draft Budget and, as such, does not represent a budget gain.

Conclusion

The 2004/05 Budget provides adequate funding to continue existing services as well as introduce new works and/or services without adversely affecting Council's long term financial viability. One of the features of the Budget is the quantum of section 94 funded works to be undertaken over the next 12 months. The \$26.7m capital works program (including dedicated assets) is by far the largest of its kind undertaken by Council.

Recommended: That Council -

- (i) Adopt the 2004/05 Management Plan and Budget
- (ii) Adopt the 2004/05 Schedule of Fees and Charges as advertised
- (iii) Consider the submission from the Camden Men's Bowling Club and determine whether their request for \$36,000 financial assistance be included in the 2004/05 Budget
- (iv) A base amount of \$480.00 be levied for each rateable assessment for the 2004/05 financial year
- (v) In accordance with Section 537(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993, it be noted that the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2004/05 financial year for each class of rate is:

Residential	48.50485%
Farmland Intensive	23.13684%
Farmland	31.31113%
Business	15.75329%

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- (vi) The following ad valorem rates be fixed and levied on the land value of all rateable assessments for 2004/05 financial year:

Residential	0.338613
Farmland Intensive	0.304752
Farmland	0.169307
Business	0.846533

- (vii) Council allow a discount of 2.5% of the nett ad valorem and base amount rates on an assessment payable for the 2004/05 financial year, provided the ratepayer pays the total nett amount owing on that assessment in full by the due date of the first instalment.
- (viii) Interest charges on outstanding rates be based on the maximum allowable interest rate of 9.0% per annum.

MOTION

Moved Cr Elliott, seconded Cr Dewbery that Council -

- (i) *Adopt the 2004/05 Management Plan and Budget*
- (ii) *Adopt the 2004/05 Schedule of Fees and Charges as advertised, subject to the commercial rental for Jumbuna being increased to a minimum of \$70.00 per day.*
- (iii) *Consider the submission from the Camden Men's Bowling Club and determine whether their request for \$36,000 financial assistance be included in the 2004/05 Budget*
- (iv) *A base amount of \$480.00 be levied for each rateable assessment for the 2004/05 financial year*
- (v) *In accordance with Section 537(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993, it be noted that the percentage of base amount to total yield for the 2004/05 financial year for each class of rate is:*

<i>Residential</i>	<i>48.50485%</i>
<i>Farmland Intensive</i>	<i>23.13684%</i>
<i>Farmland</i>	<i>31.31113%</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>15.75329%</i>

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<i>Residential</i>	<i>0.338613</i>
<i>Farmland Intensive</i>	<i>0.304752</i>
<i>Farmland</i>	<i>0.169307</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>0.846533</i>

- (vii) *Council allow a discount of 2.5% of the nett ad valorem and base amount rates on an assessment payable for the 2004/05 financial year, provided the ratepayer pays the total nett amount owing on that assessment in full by the due date of the first instalment.*
- (viii) *Interest charges on outstanding rates be based on the maximum allowable interest rate of 9.0% per annum.*

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THE MOTION BEING PUT WAS **CARRIED.**

(Cr Campbell, Cr Whiteman and Cr Cagney voted against the Motion).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Cagney, seconded Cr Johnson that:

- (i) *Council advise the Camden Men's Bowling Club that it is unable to provide a financial contribution from the 2004/2005 Budget;*
- (ii) *Council staff liaise with the Camden Men's Bowling Club and the Camden Sports Club on their projected financial position in twelve (12) months time and report back to Council.*

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

(Cr Anderson, Cr Elliott, Cr Campbell, Cr Kernohan and Cr Funnell voted against the Motion).

FURTHER MOTION

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Elliott that Council provide financial assistance of \$18,000.00 from the 2004/2005 Budget to the Camden Men's Bowling Club with a further review of the Club's ability to maintain the greens be provided in six (6) months time.

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MOTION

**CR FUNNELL MOVED THAT THE FURTHER MOTION BE NOW
PUT.**

093/04 *THE MOTION THAT THE FURTHER MOTION BE PUT WAS*

CARRIED.

094/04 *THE FURTHER MOTION AS MOVED BY CR CAMPBELL ON BEING*

*PUT WAS **CARRIED.***

(Cr Whiteman, Cr Cagney and Cr Johnson voted against the Motion).

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2. 2004 Council Election – Final Costs
(2811/9) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Council has received the final invoice from the State Electoral Office (SEO) representing Council's proportion of the costs incurred by the SEO for the March, 2004 election. The total amount of the Invoice is \$27,811.17 (exclusive of GST). The State Electoral Office has distributed its costs of managing the election statewide across all Councils on a pro rata basis. The State Electoral costs for the 1999 election was \$18,768.29 and the current invoice represents an increase of 48%.

A break up of the Invoice shows Council's proportion of costs for such items as:-

Returning Officer Costs	\$8,625.36
Advertising	\$2,294.40
Rolls	\$585.89
Materials	\$2954.63
Training	\$313.93
Counting Operation	\$7,344.24
Central Operation	\$2,797.02
Administration fee	\$2,895.70
TOTAL	\$27,811.17

The total cost of the 2004 Election to Council is now \$111,949. The balance of \$84,138 was directly expended by Council on election day staffing, advertising, polling place hire, materials and other expenses at the direction of the Returning Officer. The 1999 Election total expenditure was \$75,657.

A figure of \$95,000 was initially allowed in the 2003/04 Budget for the Election. However, as a result of the State Government decision to postpone the September, 2003 election to March, 2004, the State Electoral Office advised all Councils, to anticipate an increase in costs in the order of 60% compared to 1999. These increases, it was explained, resulted from the postponement and subsequent loss of warehouse accommodation, an increase in rent for the new centralised counting venue, the "above the line" method of voting and the vote counting software. Council subsequently at the December, 2003 Budget review increased the amount provided to \$121,000.

An analysis of the Camden 2004 election statistics, in particular, the increase in voting population numbers, additional Polling Places, additional staffing requirements and the overall electoral

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figures reveals the increases by the State Electoral Office are not commensurate with 48% increase in the work load and responsibilities of both the local Returning Officer and the State Electoral Office in the conduct of the Camden election. This is exemplified in the expenditure for "Counting Operation" of \$7,344.24 when, in reality, only two Wards were counted at the Central counting venue, with South Ward being counted locally at Council's cost.

It should also be pointed out, the amount of \$2,294.40 charged for advertising, is in addition to \$12,447 Council spent independently in placing specific electoral notices in the local media as required. The State Electoral Office amount is, again, Council's proportion of a statewide radio and newspaper promotion of the election.

In the lead up to the Election, the State Electoral Office was not able to give any definitive answers to questions relating to a whole range of issues, in particular, a precise estimate of the amount payable by each Council. Councils had to await the end of the total process and be invoiced an amount which could be up to 60% above the 1999 costs. The State Government, through the Electoral Office, has continued to pass on its full costs of the conduct of local government elections to Councils. In addition, Councils have not been consulted as to the methodology of apportioning the costs and little thought given to the impact of these costs on individual Councils.

Recommended: That Council

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the costs of the 2004 Council Election; and
- (ii) Write to the State Electoral Office expressing its concern at the current method of apportioning and communicating the cost of the electoral process to Councils and the magnitude of the costs for the 2004 Election process.

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Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Elliott that Council

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the costs of the 2004 Council Election; and*
- (ii) Write to the State Electoral Office expressing its concern at the current method of apportioning and communicating the cost of the electoral process to Councils and the magnitude of the costs for the 2004 Election process.*

095/04 THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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3. Cities for Climate Protection

(File 4720) (Director Governance & Outcomes)

Purpose

To advise Council of the achievement of Milestone 1 in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program.

Background

The Camden 2025 Strategic Plan, as part of its environmental platform, targets a “reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through increasing energy efficiency”. In order to meet this objective, Council resolved at the ordinary meeting held on the 28 July 2003 to join the Cities for Climate Protection program (CCP). The successful CCP program supported by the Australian Greenhouse Office provides a structured approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. 182 local governments in Australia are participating in the program covering almost 75% of the Australian population.

In being a participant in the program council commits to achieving the following milestones:

- (i) Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the Council and community.
- (ii) Set an emissions reduction goal.
- (iii) Develop and adopt a local greenhouse action plan to achieve those reductions.
- (iv) Implement the local greenhouse action plan.
- (v) Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of actions and measures.

The emissions inventory covers greenhouse gas emissions from both Council's own operations and the activities of the community. The goal and action plan cover the actions Council proposes to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions both in its own operations and within the community.

Achieving Milestone 1

At the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) National Congress, held in Melbourne from the 23 to 26th May 2004 Camden Council's achievement of Milestone 1 in the program was acknowledged. Council was awarded a trophy to signify the achievement. The trophy is proudly displayed in the foyer of Council's John Street office.

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With financial assistance from the Australian Greenhouse Office, Camden completed an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for 1996, 1999 and 2003 and using these results has projected an emissions total for 2010, if council follows a 'business as usual' strategy.

The corporate analysis included an investigation of buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights and water/sewage sectors. The analysis showed a projected 280% increase in tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted, from 4,313 tonnes in 1999 to 12,040 in 2010. The analysis expects an increased proportion of CO₂ emission from Council buildings and street lighting.

The community analysis investigated the residential, commercial, industrial and transport sectors. The analysis projects a 254% increase on tonnes of carbon dioxide between 1996 and 2010.

These increases reflect the rapid urbanisation occurring and likely to occur in the Camden LGA. Increases in the size of the community and the scale of council operations will result in dramatic increases in emissions if energy efficiency strategies are not employed. The projections do not consider the impact of the Bringelly proposal which will only exacerbate the emissions forecast.

Milestones 2 and 3

Achieving Milestones 2 and 3 of the CCP requires Camden Council to set an emissions reduction goal (2) and develop and adopt a local greenhouse action plan (3) to achieve those reductions.

A reduction goal is a council endorsed, public statement which states the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that will be achieved in a specified amount of time. It is typically expressed as a percentage figure.

A reduction goal typically includes two focus areas for reductions:

- (a) emissions associated with corporate (in-house) activities and
- (b) emissions associated with community (external) activities.

These two focus areas need not necessarily share the same percentage reduction target. The CCP preferred target is a 20% reduction from the base year in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2010.

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Considering the rate of growth in the Camden LGA it is recommended that the setting of an emissions reduction target be postponed until an investigation of the range of emission reduction strategies and their implications for Council and community is undertaken. Setting a realistic reduction goal will provide direction for the Local Action Plan to be developed in Milestone 3 and will provide an objective to strive for and measure progress against.

Conclusion

Council is demonstrating local leadership through commitment to a process that will result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This reduction will result in benefits including a reduction in Council's operating cost and improvements in air quality.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council note the achievement of Milestone 1.
- (ii) Council publicise the achievement and seek the ongoing support of residents and businesses.
- (iii) An analysis of emission reduction strategies be undertaken and an emissions reduction target be submitted to council for adoption.

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

- (i) Council note the achievement of Milestone 1.
- (ii) Council publicise the achievement and seek the ongoing support of residents and businesses.
- (iii) An analysis of emission reduction strategies be undertaken and an emissions reduction target be submitted to council for adoption.
- (iv) Council staff be congratulated on the achievement.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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4. Revised Camden Contributions Plan
(File 2767/8) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of the Report

This report is to seek adoption of a revised Camden Contributions plan. The Camden Contribution Plan was adopted by Council and been effective as of 12 November 2003. The Plan has been revised to finalise the works associated with the Elderslie and Spring Farm developments.

Background

Camden Council adopted the Camden Contribution Plan on 27 October 2003. The adoption of the plan was subsequently advertised on 12 November 2003, and the plan became effective on that date. The Plan was adopted concurrently with the decision of Council to advertise the LEP, DCP and masterplans for the Elderslie and Spring Farm release areas.

It was reported to Council that the local components within the Contribution plan relating to Elderslie and Spring Farm may require amendment following the advertising of the Elderslie and Spring Farm planning documents.

The revised plan was subsequently exhibited in accordance with section 28 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000. Council elected to exhibit the plan for an extended six week period, the exhibition period ending on 6 February 2004.

Submissions received

Only two submissions were received concerning the new plan **Tabled Document "BPA 3"**.

In both these cases the submission sought to further increase the contribution rates applicable to the local rates on the respective developments. The figures presented were reviewed and found to be accurate. The nexus requirements linking the proposed works to the development were also considered valid in each case. The increased figures were subsequently included.

An e-mail from Mr Patrick MacNamara on behalf of the Spring Farm consortium seeking inclusion of additional road works on Springs Road, to allow for construction to an Urban Standard. The additional works are valued at \$1.5 Million.

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A very late fax was received from Mr Max Ahearn, on behalf of the Elderslie consortium. This submission outlined increased pedestrian requirements required through the drainage reserves of the Elderslie development. The total value of these works was approximately \$700,000.

No submission has been made objecting to any part of the plan.

Conclusion

The revised plan, **Tabled Document "BPA 4"**, will deliver the works outlined in the masterplan for both Elderslie and Spring Farm, the exhibition of this plan has received submissions requiring the increase in contribution rates.

Recommended: That

- i) Council adopt the Camden Contribution Plan;
- ii) Advertise the adopted plan in accordance with the provisions of section 31 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

(Cr Johnson, having previously declared an pecuniary interest in this matter, took no part in discussion or voting and left the Chamber – the time being 9.14pm)

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

- (i) Council adopt the Camden Contribution Plan;
- (ii) Advertise the adopted plan in accordance with the provisions of section 31 of the Environment Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

(Cr Johnson returned to the Chamber – the time being 9.18pm).

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**5. Licence agreements for the use of Community Facilities
for the period 2004-2005**

(File 4569-8) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of the Report

This report seeks Council's approval to extend licence agreements with various organisations for the use of Council's office facilities for a twelve-month period, March 2004-March 2005; and enter into a new licence agreement for the use of office space within the Harrington Park Community Centre.

Current situation

Council currently owns eleven community facilities throughout the local government area. The community facilities are utilised by people on a:

- Casual basis for social events such as birthday parties, christenings, one – off community meetings;
- Regular basis for meetings, dance classes, exercise classes and social clubs; and
- Permanent basis for office accommodation and program delivery space for groups such as the Camden Area Community Resource Centre.

Currently the Camden Area Community Resource Centre, Macarthur District Temporary Family Care, Camden Area Youth Service, and Miss Lizzies Outside School Hours Care Service use Council's community facilities as office accommodation and / or for the provision of programs and services to the community.

In addition, Council has received a request from Families in Partnership to use the vacant office at the Harrington Park Community Centre.

All groups currently using Council's community centres have hire agreements or licences in place for a 12-month period, with the option for a further 12 months. The current licence arrangements expired in March 2004. Organisations who currently have licence arrangements in place have been contacted to confirm if they wish to exercise their 12-month option. All have indicated they would like to renew their agreements and retain their current accommodation.

As such, it is proposed that the agreements with these groups are renewed for a period of 12 months with no significant changes to

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the terms, other than a 3% increase in the fees in line with Council's draft 2004/05 budget

Recommended: That

- i) Council agree to enter into a twelve month (12) License with the Families in Partnership Co-op. for the use of vacant office space within the Harrington Park Community Centre;
- ii) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Macarthur District Temporary Family Care for the use of space within the Harrington Park Community Centre;
- iii) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Camden Area Community Resource Centre for the use of office space and the annex within the Narellan Community Centre;
- iv) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with Ms Gibson for the use of the Jumbunna Centre for the delivery of an outside school hours care centre within the Jumbunna Centre;
- v) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Camden Area Community Resource Centre for the use of space within the Jumbunna Children's centre for the provision of office space for the Children's Worker, delivery of the occasional centre and toy library within the Jumbunna.

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

- i) *Council agree to enter into a twelve month (12) License with the Families in Partnership Co-op. for the use of vacant office space within the Harrington Park Community Centre;*
- ii) *Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Macarthur District Temporary Family Care for the use of space within the Harrington Park Community Centre;*
- iii) *Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Camden Area Community Resource Centre for the use of office space and the annex within the Narellan Community Centre;*

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- iv) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with Ms Gibson for the use of the Jumbunna Centre for the delivery of an outside school hours care centre within the Jumbunna Centre;*

- v) Council authorize the exercising of the twelve month (12) extension from March 2004 – March 2005 with the Camden Area Community Resource Centre for the use of space within the Jumbunna Children’s centre for the provision of office space for the Children’s Worker, delivery of the occasional centre and toy library within the Jumbunna.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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6. Local Government Cultural Awards: Library and Information Services Award

(File 1326) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of the Report

This report advises Council of an award received from the New South Wales Local Government and Shires Association for the Library Services Strategic Plan: People Places – Vibrant Places.

Discussion

The Local Government and Shires Association held their inaugural Local Government Cultural Awards on Wednesday 16 June 2004.

The awards have been developed to acknowledge the leadership role local government has in cultural development. On the evening it was recognised that cultural development is a rapid growth area for local government with Councils increasing their commitment in the areas of services and infrastructure.

Over 200 entries from across New South Wales were received within 7 categories:

- Library and Information Services
- Cultural Industries
- Cultural Infrastructure Category A
- Cultural Infrastructure Category B
- Cultural Policy and Planning
- Cultural Programs/Projects
- Aboriginal Cultural Development

Camden Council was announced as winner of a medium sized council in the category of Library and Information services for its Library Services Strategic Plan: Vibrant Places – People Spaces. In presenting the award the LGSA commented on the vision that had been shown in the plan and commended Camden Council on its innovative approach.

Recommended: That the award be noted.

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Resolved on the Motion of Cr Elliott, seconded Cr Funnell that the award be noted and congratulate Council staff involved in obtaining the award.

099/04 *THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.***

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7. Progress report on the Narellan Library
(File 4710-12) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the construction of the new Narellan Library and associated community facilities.

Background

Council resolved to accept the tender for construction of the new facility at its meeting held on 8 March 2004. The contract was subsequently signed on 27 April 2004 with works commencing on Thursday 20 May 2004.

These facilities included:

- Library
- Youth centre
- Community meeting spaces
- Community office accommodation
- Café
- Plaza

Table Document “BPA 5” provides the floor plan for the facility.

Construction Program

The contract provided for a 35 week construction period with Richard Crookes Construction Pty Ltd. The contract completion date is by the end of January 2005.

The builder is currently on programme and is scheduling to be complete before Christmas 2004, but this may be subject to change depending on weather conditions or bad ground delays that may be experienced.

Council is holding numerous meetings between the builder and the design team of consultants to ensure this tight construction timeframe can be achieved. Currently, the builder is undertaking earthworks and pier construction for the foundation of the building.

Library

Planning for the smooth transition to the new library facility and for programs that will optimise the new space is also underway.

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Council submitted an application to the State Library of New South Wales for funding to assist with the fit out of the new Library. In particular for the shelving and soft furnishings. The Minister is currently considering the application with announcements expected by August 2004.

Community meeting spaces

There will be a community meeting space provided in the new Library facility. This space will be able to be used either as one large room or two smaller rooms via a concertina wall. This space will be available for regular and casual hire for mainly presentations, training and meetings, and will be advertised as with other Council community facility and meeting rooms. Regular hire will be provided through an annual advertised expression of interest process as per the current practice.

Community office accommodation

The facility provides for up to 3 community office spaces. Provision of this space was in recognition and the expressed needs of local not for profit organisations for appropriate office accommodation that is accessible and visible to the local community.

The office accommodation area provides for a central reception area, small kitchenette, small interview room, storage, toilets for staff and office space.

The design and construction of the office area allows for the removal of the internal walls so that this office space can be reconfigured to provide three, two or one office spaces, depending on needs.

This space will be advertised shortly with a call for expression of interest from organisations servicing the local community. The space is office space only and does not provide for program delivery.

It is proposed that organisations will enter into a lease for use of the office space with a lease fee charged to cover the running costs associated with the space, including structural maintenance, electricity and cleaning.

Once the expressions of interest process has been completed a further report will be presented to Council to enable lease arrangements to be entered into.

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Café

The cafe provided within the facility will be tendered to a private operator or business. The space for the cafe will be provided as a shell with basic services provided however, the successful tenderer will be required to fit out the café and will be required to provide details relating to this in their submission.

As part of the tender process all tenderers will be required to attend a pre-tender meeting where tenderers will be provided with the requirements in order to provide a conforming tender and will have an opportunity to clarify any areas of concern prior to submission of their tender.

The tender will be advertised for a period of 28 days during July – August 2004 in the press, on council's website and through hospitality networks. Once the tenders have been received they will be assessed with a further report presented to Council providing an assessment and recommendation of the successful tenderer. It is intended that the café commences in line with the opening of the new Library Service.

Youth Centre

Planning is underway in relation to development of a range of programs to be provided by the Youth Centre. Council Officers are also having discussions with various government departments to secure ongoing funding for the Centre as well as local youth based services to provide a variety of outreach programs from the Centre.

The Youth Centre will comprise of a large activity space, interview room, small kitchenette, dark room and sound room. This facility will provide the first youth specific centre for Camden.

Public art

A range of public art will be incorporated in the fabric of the building. This will include metal work screens, artwork in the plaza area as well as exterior glasswork. The consultant artist planner has engaged artist Marion Aboud to work with students at Elizabeth Macarthur High School to develop design for the artwork. This has involved a series of development workshops with the senior art classes, the last of which will be held on 28 June. This process has not only had the benefit of enriching the design of the building fabric but also has allowed local young people to be an integral part of a new facility and develop skills through working with a professional artist.

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Conclusion

The Narellan Library and Community Centre will provide a unique facility for the whole community to enjoy.

Recommended: That Council note the report.

Resolved on the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Elliott that Council note the report.

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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**8. NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day
Observance Committee) Week 2004**

(File TC 1640 (Director Works and Services Reports))

Purpose of the Report

This report advises Council of events to be held in recognition of NAIDOC Week, July 4-11 2004.

Background

At the 2001 Census 525 residents of the Camden LGA stated that they were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), an increase of 178 persons from the 1996 census.

The development of the Cultural Map in 2002 was further evidence of the Camden communities desire to participate in NAIDOC week events;

“it felt really good to be taking part in NAIDOC week because finally there was recognition of the aboriginal people living in Camden, it was acknowledged that they were part of Camden’s History and still are today.” Glenda Chalker.

NAIDOC Week is held annually to celebrate and recognise indigenous people and their heritage, and to bring issues of concern to the attention of Governments and the community as a whole.

The planned activities for this year’s NAIDOC week are aimed at reflecting the theme of, “Self- Determination - Our Community - Our Future - Our Responsibility”.

Program

It is proposed that Council use NAIDOC Week 2004 to enhance the initial steps made over the past two years, by increasing the scope of its events.

The proposed program of events for 2004 includes:-

Day 1- Monday 5 July

- Flag Raising ceremony to be held outside Council on John Street, followed by a Mayoral reception at the Camden Civic Centre, where a indigenous food theme café will provide morning tea.

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- The mayoral reception will also include a performance by a group of local Aboriginal dancers (TBC) and musicians. Invitations will be issued to Councillors and members of the Aboriginal community.

Day 2- Tuesday 6 July

- Aboriginal Arts workshops with the community to run in conjunction with school holiday programs. A local aboriginal artist will be engaged for this purpose.
- Dreamtime story time to be undertaken in conjunction with the library story time (Aboriginal storyteller to be engaged) to be held at the Camden Civic Centre so that the ATSI theme cafe can be utilised by parents.

Day 3- Wednesday 7 July

- 'Making Connections' - Under the banner of NAIDOC Week bring together as many ATSI service providers and residents as possible to increase linkages across the community. Making Connections will also have a significant contribution to Camden's Community Plan consultation process, and allow for information sharing across a range of services.

In conjunction with the 3 days of activities there will also be a display of Aboriginal Artworks in the Art Gallery of the Camden Civic Centre. Local Artists have been approached in relation to this.

Camden Civic Centre will also providing an Indigenous Café for the duration of programs at the Camden Civic Centre.

Communication Strategy

The following Communication Strategy will be implemented to ensure events are well promoted.

1. Involving Tharawal Land Council members and promotion through mailing list.
2. Advertising through schools in the LGA via school newsletters
3. Utilising community announcements on Koori Radio (free community service for NAIDOC Week)
4. Promoting through Community Services Newsletter, Lets Connect, local newspapers and Koori Mail Newspaper.

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5. General information fliers distributed through Libraries and Customer Service Centres, and community noticeboards; and
6. Mail out to organisations on Council's Community directory.

Conclusion

NAIDOC Week is a national event to celebrate and recognise indigenous people and their heritage, and to bring issues of concern to the attention of Governments and the community as a whole.

The proposed events will continue the development of strategic linkages between Council and the local ATSI community.

Recommended: That Council note the proposed schedule of events for NAIDOC Week July 4-11 2004 "Self Determination, Our Community Our Future, Our Responsibility".

Resolved the Motion of Cr Johnson, seconded Cr Campbell that Council note the proposed schedule of events for NAIDOC Week July 4-11 2004 "Self Determination, Our Community Our Future, Our Responsibility".

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

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9. Festivals Australia Funding Agreement
(File: TC/4798) (Director Works and Services)

Purpose of the Report

Council is advised of a successful funding application through the Commonwealth Government Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts; Festivals Australia program. The funding will provide finance for the staging of a cultural workshop and concert.

Discussion

Festivals Australia will provide \$10,000 funding to Council for the provision of a Musica Viva performance and workshop in the form of Taikoz. Taikoz, a drumming fusion of traditional Japanese and modern percussion.

Through the funding program, the Camden Civic Centre is able to provide a unique opportunity for the community to experience a professional international music style which they would generally travel to Sydney city to experience.

The workshop and performance will be in a form suited to all age groups. The performance not only entertains but also educates its audience in Japanese culture.

Prior to receiving funding Council is required to enter into the funding agreement with Festivals Australia.

The funding agreement is for the period 19 November 2004 to 20 November 2004 covering the Taikoz workshop on November 19 and family concert on November 20. Under the funding agreement Council will receive \$10,000 to cover the complete cost of the performance and workshop for Taikoz. A minimal charge will be applied to the performance.

Recommended: That:

- (i) Council enter into the agreement with Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Festivals Australia; and
- (ii) The Common Seal is affixed to the required documents.

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

- (i) Council enter into the agreement with Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Festivals Australia; and*
- (ii) The Common Seal is affixed to the required documents.*

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THE MOTION WAS **CARRIED.**

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NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Councillor Liz Kernohan, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 28th June, 2004.

“That tomorrow the General Manager issue the Mayor with an electronic key which will allow access during office hours to all Council Office areas at Camden and Narellan via internal and external doors.

Signed: Councillor Liz Kernohan

The Notice of Motion was formally

Moved Cr Kernohan, seconded Cr Funnell that tomorrow the General Manager issue the Mayor with an electronic key which will allow access during office hours to all Council Office areas at Camden and Narellan via internal and external doors.

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THE NOTICE OF MOTION WAS **CARRIED**.

(Cr Campbell voted against the Motion).

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QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Development Application – Crematorium

Cr Dewbery wished to be advised has a development application been submitted to construct a crematorium in Camden.

The Director Development & Environment stated no development application has been lodged for a crematorium at this stage.

House Numbering – Camden LGA

Cr Dewbery drew attention to the poor house numbering visible on houses in the Camden area. Clearly visible house numbering is a distinct advantage ambulances and emergency services and saves lives. Does Council have a policy on house numbering, and could Council put an article in the “Let’s Connect” newsletter to encourage residents to clearly identify their properties with house numbers.

The Director Development & Environment stated Council does not have a policy but could encourage people through various publications to clearly mark house numbers.

The Director Works & Services stated an article can be placed in “Let’s Connect”. Council does have house numbering in rural areas based on the Curio numbering system. Council has worked actively with the Rural Fire Services and emergency services in these areas and to particularly to overcome problem areas such as long narrow roads.

Roundabouts – Mount Annan

Cr Elliott drew attention to the roundabout in Mount Annan in Welling Drive which is well lit. However, the oldest roundabout has no lighting at all and needs upgrading.

The Director Works & Services advised the matter will be investigated and a report bought back. However, if Council can have the works funded from another source the work will be done.

House Numbering

Cr Campbell asked is Cr Dewbery aware of a business within Camden approved by Council who places three luminous numbers at the front of the house for a small fee.

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Environmental Issues – Cobbitty Road

Cr Campbell drew attention to the report in this evenings Development Committee for prosecution for tree removal and requested a full explanation of why further action was not taken in respect of incidents at 269 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty.

The Director Development & Environment stated a response to this question is beyond the scope of this meeting and is complex. A full response will be provided in writing.

Seating – Hill Street, Camden

Cr Kernohan drew attention to an undertaking by a previous Mayor and Council Staff several years ago, to place a seat at the bottom of Hill Street for senior citizens to sit following medical appointments. Was this the case?

The Director Works & Services stated Council is not aware of this request. Several requests have been received from medical practitioners and patients for seating in Hill Street over a number of years. The matter will be further investigated.

Jack's Gully – Hours of Operation

Cr Whiteman requested to be advised who determines the hours of operation at Jack's Gully Tip.

The Director Development & Environment stated the Waste Services NSW are the owners and operators of the facility. Council has spoken to the authority concerning an extension of hours as they have recently restricted the hours of operation.

Cr Whiteman further asked could a submission be made to extend hours on Sundays, as the tip currently closes at 1pm.

The Director Development & Environment stated another submission will be made.

Parks & Reserves – Cleaning Programme

Cr Whiteman requested to be advised of the system in place for cleaning of parks.

The Director Works & Services stated Council has a system of rotation on a three weekly cycle. The Main Street gets daily

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attention as does Macarthur Park. The cycleway also gets more regular attention.

Cr Whiteman asked could the playground area behind the netball courts at Kirkham Park be given more attention as instances of broken glass occur regularly.

Entrance to Camden – Camden Hospital Site

Cr Funnell drew attention to the untidy nature of the land surrounding Camden Hospital on the entrance to Camden. Could Council request the Hospital to mow and clean up this site.

The Director Development & Environment stated the site on Menangle Road and Broughton Street is the subject of a recent development application to amend the carparking spaces. The area will be developed as part of a carpark development and will include landscaping. Council can write and ask that the area be cleaned up in the interim.

Smoking in Eating Areas

Cr Funnell raised concerns regarding the control of smoking in eating areas and in particular hotels adjacent to eating areas. Are all areas where eating takes place smoke free.

The Director Development & Environment stated all food areas are smoke free however, there does not need to be physical wall between the diners and smokers. However, the issue can be regulated. If the area in question can be provided, Council staff can speak to the proprietor.

Tree Planting Committee

Cr Funnell, as a member of the Tree Planting Committee, asked are funds available for the purchase of advanced trees for a project which the Committee has. The sum of \$5,000.00 is required.

The Director Works & Services stated no funds are currently available in the Budget, however, Council could either vote funds or use Councillor Ward funds.

The Meeting closed at 10.15pm.