

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



27 June 2014

Camden Mayor hosts Minister for Local Government

Council's leading role in promotion of responsible pet ownership, the Camden local government area's rapid growth, it's aspirational 2014/15 Delivery Program and how Camden Council and the State government can continue to work in partnership were topics high on the agenda for discussion for Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak, together with State Member for Camden, Chris Patterson MP, as Minister for Local Government, The Honourable Paul Toole MP visited Camden today.

Attending the Camden region for the first time since his appointment in April 2014, Minister Toole briefly toured the home of Council's premier annual event "Paws in the Park", at the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park, before moving onto the Mayor's office to discuss a number of initiatives Camden is leading the way on within the local government industry.

One such initiative the Mayor briefed the Minister on is Council's annual Paws in the Park event, which has grown from strength to strength over the past three years, with approximately 2000 people attending last year's event.

"Camden Council is proactive, contemporary and leading the way within the local government industry in the area of educational initiatives on animal management and responsible pet ownership" she said.

"Paws in the Park, one of Camden's premier events, allows Council to educate the community on responsible pet ownership in a fun, family friendly environment. The popularity of this event continues to grow, as demonstrated by the increase in attendees over the past three years, and we anticipate seeing even more people this year in August".

"Camden is dedicated to being a leader in promoting responsible pet ownership and I hope that the Minister can use Camden as an example for other Council's to follow" she said.

The Mayor also discussed Council's range of major capital works projects outlined in its recently adopted Delivery Program which will see a \$20 million investment into the community.

"I was pleased to discuss with Minister Toole my Council's prudent financial management, as demonstrated in the 2014/15 Delivery Program adopted by Council on Tuesday night. Not only was I able to highlight that

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Camden delivered a balanced budget, but that we invested in our community by way of major capital works projects.”

“I was proud to be able to share with the Minister how well we are doing at Camden in providing for the community and managing our finances.”

Once again demonstrating Council’s interest in standing out from the pack, the Mayor highlighted the proposed Camden Business Alliance to Minister Toole as a further initiative Camden is developing to ensure we are a leading Council.

“The Business Alliance / Economic Development Taskforce is aimed at growing business and improving opportunities for employment and diversity of employment in the Camden local government area. It is another opportunity for Council to proactively demonstrate its interest, not only in the business community, but in leading the local government industry”.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak thanked Minister Toole for taking the time to visit Camden, noting the importance of building and maintaining a strong working relationship with the State Government.

“I thank Minister Toole for taking the time to visit Camden today. To be able to highlight a number of initiatives Camden is leading within the local government industry was invaluable. I am committed to continuing to work collaboratively with the Minister and the State Government to ensure Camden is the best it can be.”

The Mayor also hosted Minister Toole and a number of Members of Parliament, Mayors and General Managers from surrounding Council’s in what was an extremely informative forum that showcased Council, its growing community and its plans for the future.

“Camden Council aims to be a leading Council within NSW and today provided the opportunity for us to showcase our area and the work we are committed to doing to ensure this is the case.” she said.

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Words: 640

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