



# Camden Council

## Business Paper

**Ordinary Council Meeting**  
**12 April 2022**

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**Camden Council  
Administration Centre  
70 Central Avenue  
Oran Park**



The public can also view the meeting via Council's webcast. A link to this webcast can be found on Council's webpage – <http://webcast.camden.nsw.gov.au/video.php>

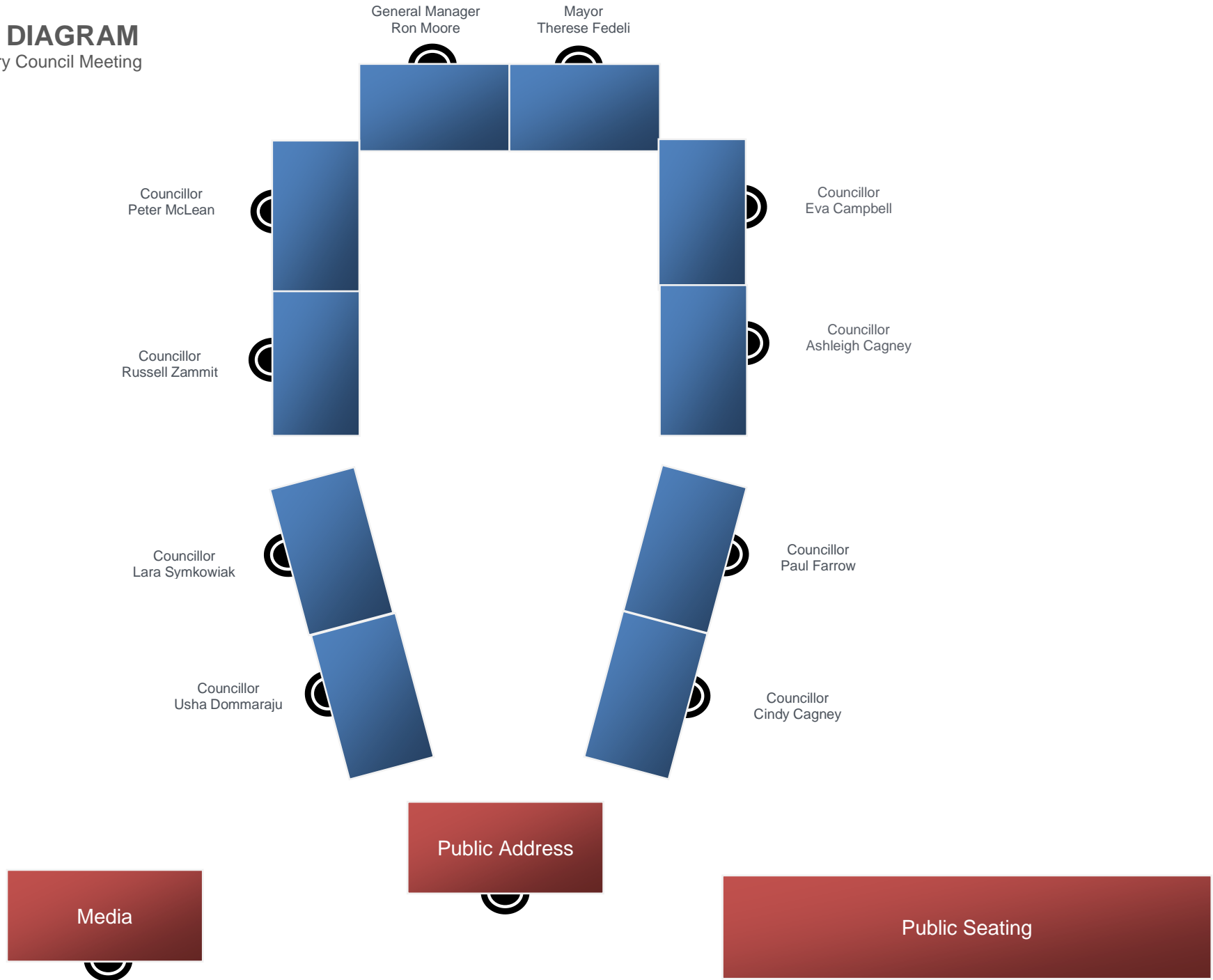


## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AHD	Australian Height Datum
BCA	Building Code of Australia
CLEP	Camden Local Environmental Plan
CP	Contributions Plan
CRET	Camden Region Economic Taskforce
DA	Development Application
DCP	Development Control Plan
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning & Assessment Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument
FPL	Flood Planning Level
GSC	Greater Sydney Commission
LAP	Local Approvals Policy
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
REP	Regional Environmental Plan
PoM	Plan of Management
RL	Reduced Levels
S10.7 CERTIFICATE	Certificate as to zoning and planning restrictions on properties
S603 CERTIFICATE	Certificate as to Rates and Charges outstanding on a property
S73 CERTIFICATE	Certificate from Sydney Water regarding Subdivision
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SREP	Sydney Regional Environmental Plan
STP	Sewerage Treatment Plant
VMP	Vegetation Management Plan
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement

# SEATING DIAGRAM

Camden Ordinary Council Meeting



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE**

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In accordance with section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, all elected Councillors must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the Council.

The oath or affirmation may be taken or made before the General Manager, an Australian legal practitioner or a Justice of the Peace.

A Councillor who fails, without a reasonable excuse, to take the oath of office or make an affirmation of the office in accordance with the Act is not entitled to attend a meeting as a Councillor, until the Councillor has taken the oath or made the affirmation.

### **OATH**

“I [*name of councillor*] swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Camden Local Government Area and the Camden Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment”.

### **AFFIRMATION**

“I [*name of councillor*] solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Camden Local Government Area and the Camden Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment”.

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: PRAYER**

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### PRAYER

Almighty God, bless all who are engaged in the work of Local Government. Make us of one heart and mind, in thy service, and in the true welfare of the people we serve: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Almighty God, give thy blessing to all our undertakings. Enlighten us to know what is right, and help us to do what is good: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Almighty God, we pause to seek your help. Guide and direct our thinking. May your will be done in us, and through us, in the Local Government area we seek to serve: We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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### AFFIRMATION

We affirm our hope and dedication to the good Government of Camden and the well being of all Camden's residents, no matter their race, gender or creed.

We affirm our hope for the sound decision making by Council which can improve the quality of life in Camden.

*Either – “So help me God” or “I so affirm” (at the option of councillors)*

\*\*\*\*\*

We pledge ourselves, as elected members of Camden Council, to work for the provision of the best possible services and facilities for the enjoyment and welfare of the people of Camden.

*Either – “So help me God” or “I so affirm” (at the option of councillors)*

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## **ORDINARY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT:       ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet and pay our respect to elders both past and present.

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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In accordance with Camden Council's Code of Meeting Practice and as permitted under the *Local Government Act 1993*, this meeting is being live streamed and recorded by Council staff for minute taking and webcasting purposes.

No other webcasting or recording by a video camera, still camera or any other electronic device capable of webcasting or recording speech, moving images or still images is permitted without the prior approval of Council. Council has not authorised any other webcasting or recording of this meeting. A person may, as provided under section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, be expelled from a meeting of a Council for using or having used any device in contravention of this clause.

I remind those that are in the chamber that your image and what you say will be broadcast live to the public and will also be recorded so please be mindful of your actions and comments. You should avoid making statements that might defame or offend and note that Council will not be responsible for your actions and comments.



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## **ORDINARY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

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Leaves of absence tendered on behalf of Councillors from this meeting.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That leaves of absence be granted.**

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:       DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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NSW legislation provides strict guidelines for the disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary Conflicts of Interest and Political Donations.

Council's Code of Conduct also deals with pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflict of interest and Political Donations and how to manage these issues (Clauses 4.28-5.19).

Councillors should be familiar with the disclosure provisions contained in the Council's Code of Conduct.

This report provides an opportunity for Councillors to disclose any interest that they may have or Political Donation they may have received relating to a Report contained in the Council Business Paper and to declare the nature of that interest.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That the declarations be noted.**

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

### SUBJECT: PUBLIC ADDRESSES

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The Public Address session in the Council Meeting provides an opportunity for people to speak publicly on any item on Council's Business Paper.

The Public Address session will be conducted in accordance with the Public Address Guidelines. Speakers must submit an application form to Council's Governance team no later than 5.00pm on the working day prior to the day of the meeting.

Speakers are limited to one topic per Public Address session. Only seven speakers can be heard at any meeting. A limitation of one speaker for and one speaker against on each item is in place. Additional speakers, either for or against, will be identified as 'tentative speakers' or should only be considered where the total number of speakers does not exceed seven at any given meeting.

Where a member of the public raises a question during the Public Address session, a response will be provided where Councillors or staff have the necessary information at hand; if not, a reply will be provided at a later time. There is a limit of one question per speaker per meeting.

Speakers should ensure that their statements, comments and questions comply with the Guidelines.

All speakers are limited to four minutes, with a one minute warning given to speakers prior to the four minute time period elapsing. The commencement and conclusion of time shall be advised by the Mayor/Chairperson.

Public Addresses are recorded for administrative purposes. It should be noted that speakers at Council meetings do not enjoy any protection from parliamentary-style privilege. Therefore they are subject to the risk of defamation action if they make comments about individuals. In the event that a speaker makes potentially offensive or defamatory remarks about any person, the Mayor/Chairperson will ask them to refrain from such comments.

The Mayor/Chairperson has the discretion to withdraw the privilege to speak where a speaker continues to make inappropriate or offensive comments about another person, or make a point of order ruling if a speaker breaches the Guidelines.

Only the audio recording of the public address speakers will be heard on Council's webcast. Visual images of the speaker will not be captured as part of that webcast.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That the public addresses be noted.**

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## **ORDINARY COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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Confirm and adopt Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 8 March 2022.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 8 March 2022, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.**

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

### Mayoral Minute

**SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - RECENT FLOODING AND CHARITY SOCCER GAME SPONSORSHIP**

**FROM:** The Mayor

**TRIM #:** 22/133145

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The past month has been difficult for our community, and communities right across the state.

It was with a heavy heart I, along with many others here tonight and across the country, watched the deluge of rain and flooding impacting our areas. It was particularly painful listening to stories of people leaving their homes and businesses in a hurry to escape potentially being isolated; watching our roads and facilities close to keep our residents out of danger; and knowing people's livelihoods were affected again, after being impacted so heavily by COVID-19.

After coming out of isolation recently, I was able to get out and visit some of the businesses impacted by the recent floods. The damage caused by the flooding and rainfall was heartbreaking and I thank those businesses for taking the time to talk to me about their experience and show me around.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Council teams who went over and above in recent weeks. They worked around the clock to manage road and bridge closures, clear debris, make emergency road repairs and keep the public informed of what was happening across the area. Council was also proud to host a flood relief information pop-up in Camden, where we, alongside Resilience NSW, Service NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Centrelink, helped residents and business owners find support.

We're now in the recovery phase. We're assessing the damage and working to have it rectified as soon as possible. I'm proud our fantastic staff continues to work effectively as a team and prioritise our community.

I'd also like to thank the SES, RFS, Police and Resilience NSW for their support and assistance in caring for our community and area. The difficulty of the situation was made a little easier knowing our staff were working alongside these heroes.

And, of course, I'd like to acknowledge everyone impacted by the floods and applaud you on your resilience and commitment to returning to normal. We're a strong community and I know we will continue to support each other as we rebuild.

As an extension of our sponsorship agreement with the Macarthur FC, Council has recently been approached by the club to be involved as a sponsor of their flood charity game on Friday 22 April, where Macarthur FC will play Melbourne Victory FC.

All ticket sales on the night will be going to the Macarthur Foundation Inc, which is the club's registered charity, and the Foundation will then distribute 100 per cent of those funds to flood affected sporting and community groups in our region.

The cost of the Game Day Sponsorship is \$5,000, which will go towards helping cover the cost of running the game and see Council acknowledged and promoted as a sponsor in the lead up and on game day.

I believe this is a fantastic way to further support those who were affected by the recent floods and would like everyone's support in accepting the invitation.

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Council support and endorse a \$5000 sponsorship of the Macarthur FC Flood Charity Game.**



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

### ORD01

**SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF THE DRAFT CONNECTING CAMDEN - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022/23 - 2025/26 DRAFT DELIVERY PROGRAM AND 2022/23 OPERATIONAL PLAN, DRAFT 2022/23 BUDGET, DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2022/23 DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES**

**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy  
**TRIM #:** 22/80747

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the Draft Community Strategic Plan, Draft 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program, Draft 2022/2023 Operational Plan, Budget and Fees and Charges, and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan are now in a position to be formally considered by Council and placed on public exhibition.

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, all councils are required to undertake community planning and reporting activities using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework.

The IPR framework provides for the interrelationship between the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy. According to the framework, these documents are required to be reviewed and developed by the newly elected council.

The Community Strategic Plan is a minimum 10-year plan and represents the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by a council. All other plans must support the achievement of the Community Strategic Plan's objectives. The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies to achieve them.

The Delivery Program is a four-year program and outlines the principal activities Council will deliver, or advocate for, to achieve the objectives outlined in the Community Strategic Plan. All plans, projects, activities, and funding allocations are directly linked to the Delivery Program.

The Operational Plan is an annual plan which supports the Delivery Program and outlines the projects and actions that will be undertaken to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

The Resourcing Strategy provides detailed information on how Council will resource plans, projects and strategies over a four to 10-year period in delivering the Community Strategic Plan.

Councillors were briefed on the IPR framework requirements and budget on 23 February, 1 March, 2 March, 16 March and 23 March 2022.

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## MAIN REPORT

### **Community Strategic Plan, 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan**

In accordance with the IPR framework, the new Community Strategic Plan has been developed, taking into consideration our current situation, acknowledging our proud history, and strategically planning for our future growth.

The Draft *Connecting Camden – Our Community Strategic Plan* has been informed by research and community engagement undertaken over the past four years and is supported by a Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan incorporates our community's vision and aspirations for the area. The Plan aligns its objectives and strategies to realise the vision in making Camden *Welcoming, Liveable, Prosperous, Balanced and Leading*.

The Draft 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program, inclusive of the 2022/23 Operational Plan, outlines the primary activities to be undertaken to achieve the aspirations in the Community Strategic Plan. This document details the range of services Council delivers, the principal activities and actions involved in delivering those services, and the manner in which progress will be monitored and success measured.

The document is comprised of four parts:

1. Introduction – details how the documents interact with the IPR framework;
2. About Camden – provides a snapshot of the Camden community, now and into the future, and how Council is structured to deliver on the activities and actions outlined in the Program and Plan;
3. Delivery Program Principal Activities and Operational Plan Actions – details Council-led activities for the next four years, as well as one-year actions that will contribute to these activities; and
4. Financial Management – outlines how Council will generate its revenue for the 2022/23 financial year and the major sources of revenue which fund Council's operations.

A copy of the Draft Community Strategic Plan is provided as **Attachment 1** to this report. A copy of the Draft 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan is provided as **Attachment 2** to this report.

### **Resourcing Strategy Summary**

Whilst the legislation does not require the Workforce Management Strategy and Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plans to be exhibited, Council has provided an overarching document to assist the public in understanding how the Resourcing Strategy supports the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

A copy of the Draft Resource Strategy Summary is provided as **Attachment 3** to this report.





## DRAFT 2022/23 BUDGET

A comprehensive review of the draft 2022/23 Budget has been undertaken. Councillors were briefed on the IPR framework requirements and budget on 23 February, 1 March, 2 March, 16 March and 23 March 2022.

A summary of the Draft 2022/23 Budget is provided in the table below:

<b>Draft 2022/23 Budget</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Operating Expenditure	\$152,008,000
Capital Works Program Expenditure – Council Delivered	\$87,499,000
Capital Works Program Expenditure – Developer Delivered	\$107,354,000
Other Capital Expenditure	\$6,229,000
Loan Principal Repayments	\$3,121,000
Transfers to Cash Reserves	\$67,379,000
<b>Gross Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$423,590,000</b>
Less: Developer Delivered Capital Works	(\$107,354,000)
Less: Depreciation Expense	(\$35,000,000)
Less: Transfers to Cash Reserves	(\$67,379,000)
<b>Net Cash Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$213,857,000</b>

Council's proposed gross expenditure budget for the 2022/23 financial year is \$423.6 million. Upon removing non-cash expenditure and transfers to reserve, Council's proposed cash budget for the 2022/23 financial year is \$213.9 million.

### Capital Works Program Summary

The Capital Works Program for the 2022/23 financial year is \$194,853,000. A breakdown of this program is shown in the following table:

<b>Local Service</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Road/Transport Infrastructure	\$84,126,900
Drainage Infrastructure	\$35,393,300
Parks & Playgrounds	\$36,910,100
Community & Recreational Facilities	\$3,322,700
Community Support Package Stage 3 (22/23 works only)	\$35,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194,853,000</b>
<b>Funded By:</b>	
Works in Kind Agreements	\$107,354,400
Section 7.11 Funds (Cash Reserves)	\$64,374,700
External Grants	\$8,824,200
Internal Reserves	\$935,600
Loans	\$11,850,000
General Fund	\$1,514,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194,853,000</b>

A copy of the Capital Works Program is provided as **Attachment 4** to this report.

## 2022/23 BUDGET AND RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

The draft 2022/23 Budget provides the financial resources for Council to continue to deliver the services, programs and activities outlined within the Delivery Program. In reviewing the 2022/23 Budget, Council has prudently considered both the needs of the community and long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

After taking into consideration the cost of maintaining existing service levels, the draft 2022/23 Budget has identified available funding of \$2,003,100.

The proposed allocation of available funds is to maintain contemporary service levels in support of a rapidly growing and diversifying community, including Council's asset base. The proposed allocation of available funds is shown in the following table:

Budget Position	2022/23
Available Funding	<b>\$2,003,100</b>
<b>Recommended Allocation:</b>	
Environment & Sustainability Performance	\$134,400
Urban Tree and Landscape Assessment	\$118,400
Less: Funding from Community Support Package 3	(\$118,400)
Open Space and Landscape Maintenance	\$238,000
City Presentation – Public Space Maintenance	\$150,000
Depot Operations – Plant Fleet Management	\$124,200
Corporate Support Functions	\$368,000
Cyber Security Action Plan	\$256,500
Digital Innovation Strategy	\$1,056,000
Less: Funding from Technology Improvements Reserve	(\$945,000)
Regulatory Compliance - Illegal Dumping	\$114,000
Family Day Care Service Enhancements	\$95,600
Less: Funding from Family Day Care Reserve	(\$95,600)
Commercial Waste Operations	\$78,600
Less: Funding from Commercial Waste Reserve	(\$78,600)
Food and Organics (FOGO) Project	\$134,400
Domestic Waste Services	\$2,089,100
Less: Funding from Domestic Waste Reserve	(\$2,223,500)
<b>Total - Recommended Allocation</b>	<b>\$1,496,100</b>
Proposed Transfer to Working Funds Reserve	\$507,000
<b>Draft Budget Position</b>	<b>Balanced</b>

### Proposed Transfer to Working Funds Reserve

Given the current uncertainty regarding inflation, the impact of global events such as the conflict in Europe on the broader economy and recent natural disasters, it is considered prudent to restrict (transfer) the remaining balance (\$507,000) to the Working Funds Reserve. This would be utilised as a contingency to offset unforeseen impacts on Council's budget in the 2022/23 financial year.



The Working Funds Reserve is primarily used as a holding reserve for unallocated funds or for transferring committed funding from one budget year to the next. Once held in the reserve the contingency can only be accessed through a formal resolution of Council. The balance in the reserve will be reported to Council as part of the quarterly budget review process.

## **DRAFT 2022/23 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

### **COVID Community Support Package**

Council is continuing to deliver a staged Community Support Package with Stages 1 and 2 focused on immediate support to the wider community and businesses to ease the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stage 3 focuses on recovery and generating investment into our community. The total support package is valued at \$130.6 million over four years.

Across the three stages of the Community Support Package, it is estimated that Camden's economic output will increase by up to \$221.7 million. Five hundred and seven additional FTE jobs will also be generated by the package.

A summary of the Community Support Package is provided in the table below:

<b>COVID Community Support Package</b>	
Community Support Package – Stages 1 & 2	\$16,750,000
Community Support Package Stage 3 (Consists of):	
Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grants Rnd. 1	\$874,692
Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grants Rnd. 2	\$3,249,586
Community Infrastructure Projects	\$104,995,000
Events	\$320,000
Grants and Assistance	\$359,600
Local Employment	\$675,000
Building Renewal Works	\$150,000
Programs	\$248,000
City Beautification Program	\$2,980,000
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>\$130,601,878</b>
<b>Funding:</b>	
Section 7.11 Funding	\$72,350,000
Grant Funding	\$10,536,278
Internal Reserves	\$2,809,800
Domestic Waste Reserve	\$4,150,000
Loan Income (over 4 years)	\$37,300,000
General Fund	\$3,455,800
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$130,601,878</b>

Proposed Sportsground Strategy Project Funding

The Community Support Package Stage 3 includes \$16.5 million over the next three years for the following sportsground improvements:

Sportsground Improvements	
Field Improvement Program	\$10,000,000
Floodlighting Upgrades	\$1,000,000
Buildings & Facilities Upgrades	\$4,000,000
Carparking & Seating	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Allocation Available:</b>	<b>\$16,500,000</b>

Councillors were briefed on 16 March 2022 with respect to recommendations for the allocation of this funding to specific sportsground projects. The following table outlines the recommended sportsground improvement projects.

Sportsground Projects	Amount	Expected Delivery
<u>Jack Nash Reserve – Currans Hill</u> Additional seating, shade and storage.	\$120,000	2022/23
<u>Nugget Beams Reserve – Narellan Vale</u> Amenities upgrade, seating and playing surface improvement.	\$1,190,000	2024/25
<u>Birriwa Reserve – Mount Annan</u> Amenities upgrade, playing surface improvement, seating and shade.	\$1,190,000	2024/25
<u>Wandarrah Reserve – Mount Annan</u> Playing surface improvements, additional shade structures.	\$290,000	2023/24
<u>Catherine Field Reserve – Catherine Field</u> Masterplan Development.	\$80,000	2022/23
<u>Cuthill Reserve – Cobbitty</u> Additional shade and tree planting.	\$80,000	2022/23
<u>Fairfax Reserve – Harrington Park</u> Amenities upgrade, playing surface improvements, additional seating.	\$1,740,000	2023/24
<u>Belgenny Reserve – Camden South</u> Masterplan development and playing surface improvements.	\$550,000	2024/25
<u>Cowpasture Reserve – Camden</u> New amenities building.	\$2,540,000	2024/25
<u>Hayter Reserve – Camden South</u> Implementation of irrigation.	\$350,000	2022/23



Sportsground Projects (Continued)	Amount	Expected Delivery
<u>Onslow Reserve – Camden</u> Playing surface improvement, additional shade and seating.	\$1,150,000	2024/25
<u>Ron Dine Reserve – Camden South</u> Traffic management and parking improvements, irrigation upgrades, and additional seating.	\$1,000,000	2024/25
<u>Synthetic/Hybrid Field/s</u> Stage 1 – develop business case for the pros and cons of both hybrid and synthetic fields.  Stage 2 – subject to decision on surface, Council will determine location and number of fields.  This allocation covers business case and delivery of the field/s.	\$6,070,000	2024/25
Various Drainage Works	\$150,000	2022/23
<b>Total – Proposed Sportsground Projects</b>	<b>\$16,500,000</b>	

#### Community Infrastructure Renewal Program (CIRP) – Update

As part of the 2019/20 Budget, Council adopted a four-year Community Infrastructure Renewal Program which is a continuation of Council's ongoing program of works aimed at addressing infrastructure renewal. The 2022/23 financial year will be the final year of the program.

A summary of the Community Infrastructure Renewal Program is provided below:

Community Infrastructure Renewal Program	Cost
Works Completed to Date	\$2,950,000
Works currently underway in the 2021/22 Financial Year	\$1,200,000
<b>Works to be Undertaken in 2022/23 Financial Year</b>	
Cowpasture Oval Amenities Building Refurbishment	\$150,000
Civic Centre Undercroft - Building and Interior Improvements	\$800,000
<b>Total - Community Infrastructure Renewal Program</b>	<b>\$5,100,000</b>

#### Rate Income

Rating Income for the 2022/23 financial year will increase by 5% as recommended by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The impact on the average residential assessment is approximately \$67 per year (\$1.29 per week).

The 2022/23 Rate Income will be invested in delivering key services and community infrastructure and facilities for our current residents, as well as assisting Council in strategically planning and delivering for our future growth.

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Rates for the 2022/23 financial year will be based on 2019 land valuations as provided by the NSW Valuer General's Office. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1916*, Council must use the 2019 valuations for the issuing of 2022/23 rate notices.

### Stormwater Management Levy

In accordance with Section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council will continue to levy properties that receive a stormwater service through the Stormwater Management Levy, which is \$25 per year for land categorised as residential. This amount has remained unchanged since 2006.

The proposed charges for the Stormwater Management Levy can be found in Council's draft Fees and Charges schedule and the proposed program of works for the 2022/23 financial year can be found in Council's Operational Plan.

### Domestic Waste Charges

It is proposed to increase Domestic Waste Management charges by 3% for the 2022/23 financial year. The impact on the average 120 litre service is approximately \$11.00 per year (21c per week). This increase is required to cover the cost of providing the service, future increases in disposal costs and funding Council's waste plant replacement program.

The proposed charges for Domestic Waste Management can be found in Council's draft Fees and Charges schedule for the 2022/23 financial year.

### Fees and Charges

It is proposed to increase discretionary fees and charges by the projected CPI increase of 2.9% in the 2022/23 financial year. This excludes fees which are set by legislation.

Council's Fees and Charges for the 2022/23 financial year will be part of the documentation placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

A copy of the Fees and Charges Report has been provided as **Attachment 5** to this report.

### Investment Income

Council has an adopted Investment Policy which outlines the way Council may invest funds, risk profile considerations and the types of institutions and products which it may invest in.

Interest projections for the 2022/23 financial year have been prepared based on generating a return on investment of 1.00% (this includes a performance factor of up to 0.8%).

### Loan Borrowings - External

The proposed loan borrowings for the four-year Delivery Program are shown below. Loan borrowings are indicative only and revisited at each review of the Budget. Council's capacity to borrow is strong and within the industry benchmarks for a growing Council.



Purpose	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Renewal Program	\$3.5M	\$3.5M	\$1.5M	-
CSP Stage Three	\$8.35M	\$11.85M	\$13.2M	-
Community/Civic Catalyst Site	-	-	-	\$27.3M
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>\$11.85M</b>	<b>\$15.35M</b>	<b>\$14.7M</b>	<b>\$27.3M</b>

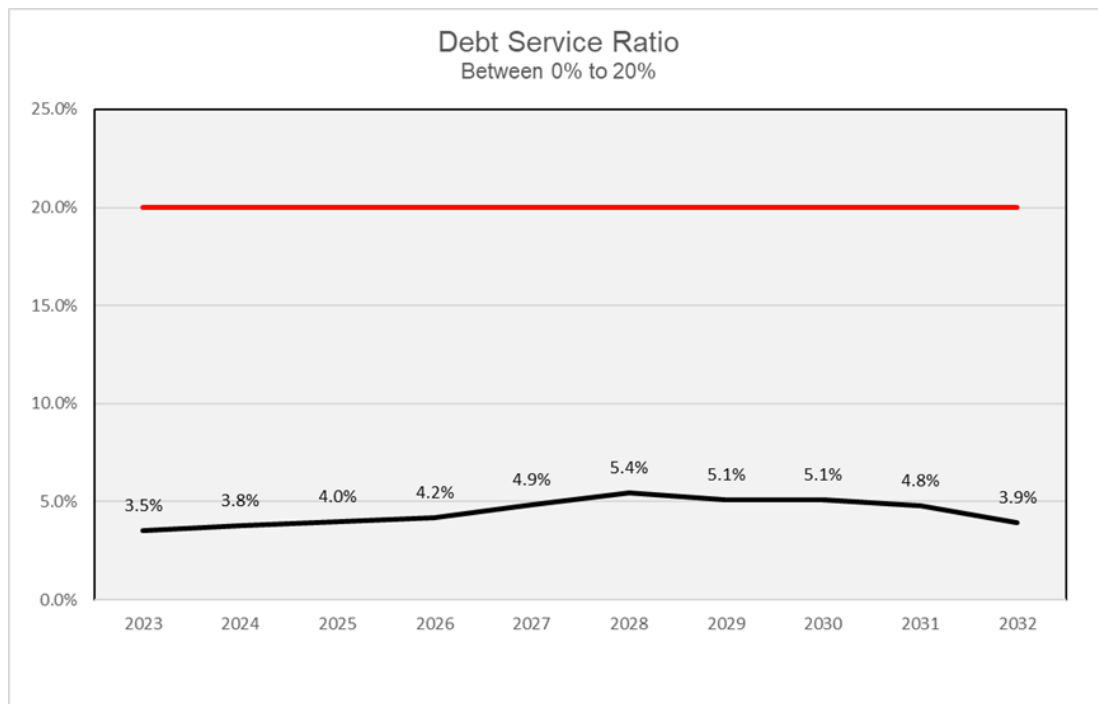
Where possible, Council will also take advantage of low-cost interest schemes offered by the NSW State Government that assist councils with the cost of growth.

Council’s proposed debt is shown in the table below:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<b>Principal Outstanding</b>	\$55,562,000	\$66,904,000	\$75,745,000	\$99,030,000
<b>Debt Servicing Costs (principal &amp; interest)</b>	\$4,479,000	\$5,219,000	\$6,084,000	\$6,889,000

Council has considered the impact of its proposed loan borrowings program on the Long-Term Financial Plan and is satisfied that this level of debt is well within the recommended levels for a growth Council.

This is demonstrated through the forecasted debt service ratio which is shown in the chart below:



Council continues to use debt wisely, balancing the level of debt, capacity to borrow and the opportunity cost of borrowing to ensure inter-generational equity in a rapidly growing environment. As Council grows there will be greater pressure to borrow to construct the infrastructure required to support our community. Council has deliberately maintained a strong borrowing capacity for this purpose. Council’s borrowing capacity remains well within the benchmark of no greater than 20%.

**PROPOSED RESERVE MOVEMENTS**

In addition to the reserve transfers already approved as part of the 2017/18 - 2021/22 Delivery Program, the following reserve transfers are also proposed to be made as part of the 2022/23 Budget and 2022/23 -2024/25 Delivery Program.

Proposed Reserve Transfers (Net)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Transfer to Working Funds Reserve	\$507,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer from Family Day Care Reserve	(\$95,600)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer from Technology Improvements Reserve	(\$945,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer from Capital Works Reserve	\$0	(\$330,000)	\$0	\$0

**Transfer to Working Funds Reserve – \$507,000**

Given the current uncertainty regarding inflation, the impact of global events such as the conflict in Europe on the broader economy and recent natural disasters, it is considered prudent to restrict the remaining balance of the 2022/23 Budget - available funds to the Working Funds Reserve. This would be utilised as a contingency to offset unforeseen impacts on Council's budget in the 2022/23 financial year.

**Transfer from Family Day Care Reserve – \$95,600**

Funding is required to implement a range of improvement actions within the Family Day Care service.

**Transfer from Technology Improvements Reserve – \$945,000**

Funding is required to continue the implementation of Council's Digital Innovation Strategy. The strategy is aimed at delivering modern technologies which will result in efficiencies and continued improvements to the customer service experience.

**Transfer from Capital Works Reserve – \$330,000**

It is proposed to utilise \$330,000 from the Capital Works Reserve to part fund additional works to be undertaken at the Camden Memorial Pool over the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. This matter was reported to Council on 25 February 2020.





## RESERVE BALANCES

The balances available to Council for future allocation from its two major reserves are shown below.

<b>Capital Works Reserve</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance</b>	<b>\$1,864,083</b>
<b>Committed Funds Held in Reserve</b>	
<b>Less: 2020/21 Revoted projects</b>	(\$886,266)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Community Support Package Round 3 Funding</b>	(\$205,000)
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>(\$1,091,266)</b>
<b>Capital Works Reserve Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>\$772,817</b>
<b>Less: Funds Committed in Future Years</b>	(\$330,000)
<b>Uncommitted Balance – Capital Works Reserve</b>	<b>\$442,817</b>

The Capital Works Reserve is predominantly used to fund capital works or to match grant funding as part of a capital grant funding agreement.

<b>Asset Renewal Reserve</b>	
<b>Reserve Balance</b>	<b>\$662,000</b>
<b>Committed Funds Held in Reserve</b>	
<b>Add: LIRS Interest</b>	\$100,100
<b>Balance Available</b>	<b>\$762,100</b>
<b>Less: 2020/21 Revoted projects</b>	(\$89,973)
<b>Less: 2022/23 Community Support Package Round 3 Funding</b>	(\$291,800)
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>(\$381,773)</b>
<b>Uncommitted Balance – Asset Renewal Reserve</b>	<b>\$380,327</b>

Council approved the creation of the Asset Renewal Reserve as part of adopting the 2013/14 - 2016/17 Delivery Program. Funds from this reserve are primarily used for the replacement and/or maintenance of existing assets.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Council's Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) outlines the key financial ratios that assist councils to determine their financial health and sustainability. An overview of these ratios is provided in this section.

Council's long-term financial sustainability is primarily driven by increased economies of scale through population growth. Council remains sustainable if the annual rate peg recommended by IPART is adopted annually.

The majority of Councils in NSW adopt the recommended rate peg annually as the only way of maintaining existing services without applying to IPART for a special rate variation now or in the future. Recurrent rate income is essential to operations, maintaining the service quality expected by our community and to upgrade/renew and construct existing and new infrastructure.

Council has a history of strong fiscal management through adopting and maintaining a balanced cash budget position. This is supported by a Council that does not spend beyond its means and has the appropriate budgetary controls and project management frameworks in place.

Council’s rapidly growing and diversifying asset base continues to be maintained at a high standard with the appropriate maintenance and asset renewal programs in place. Council has a strong cash position which is maintained at a level better than the industry benchmark which is prudent for rapidly growing community and organisation.

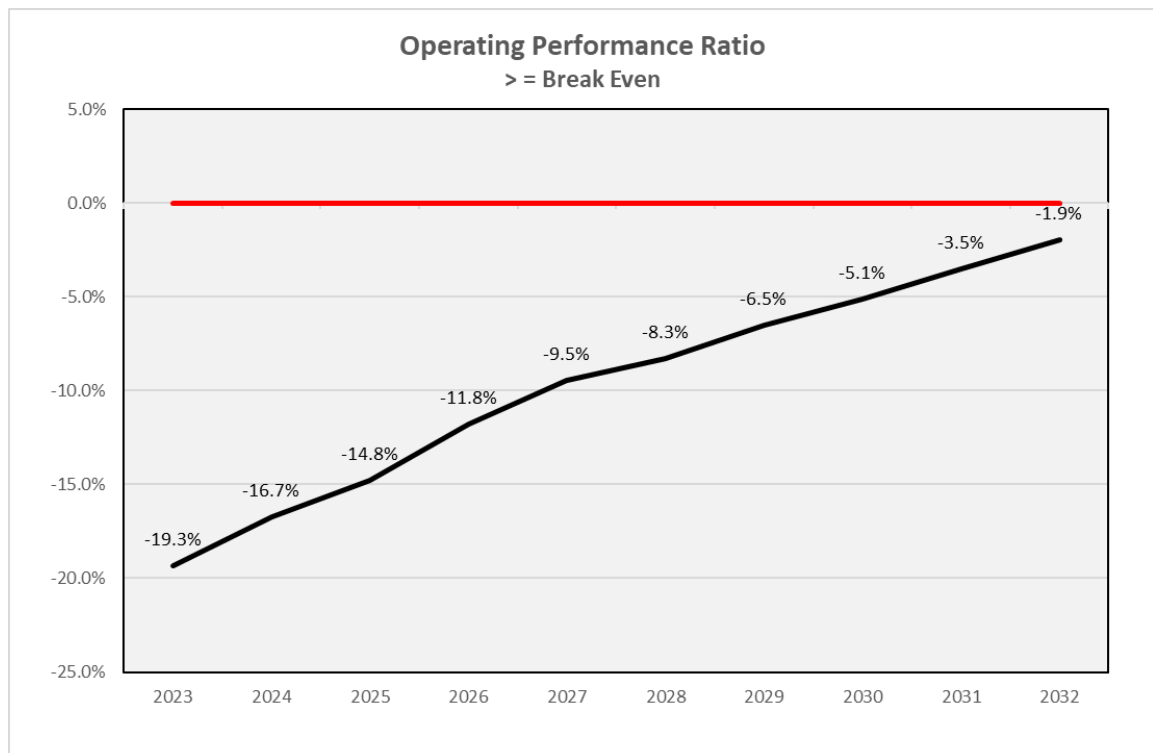
Council also has excellent capacity to borrow to support much needed infrastructure now and into the future. Borrowing is essential to the success of a rapidly growing community and organisation as it ensures essential infrastructure can be delivered early, meaning the cost of infrastructure can be spread over many years without one generation being left to fund the cost of infrastructure. This also allows infrastructure to be provided at the beginning of a community’s development, allowing for thriving and liveable places from the arrival of the first families/residents.

Further information on Council’s financial health ratios is provided below and in Council’s LTFP.

A copy of the Long-Term Financial Plan has been provided as **Attachment 6** to this report.

Operating Performance Ratio

This ratio measures Council’s ability to fund operations (including non-cash depreciation) now and into the future. The benchmark for this ratio is to break even or better.





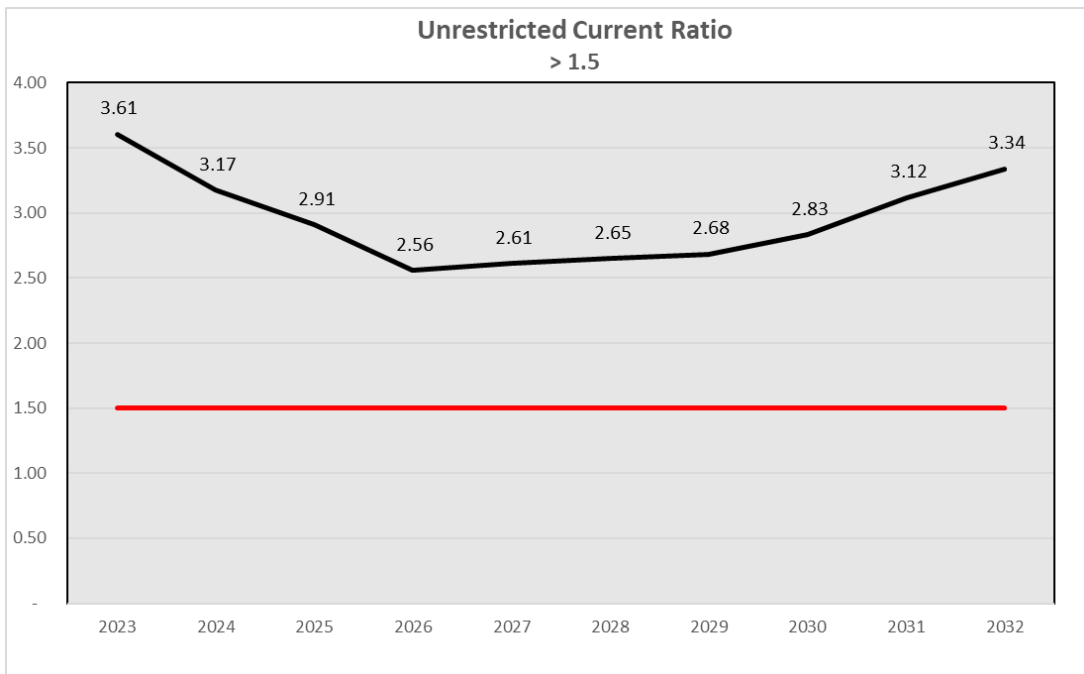
The Camden LGA is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. This brings the challenges of planning for and delivering services and infrastructure sometimes years before additional income is realised through growth. Resources are expected to double over the next 10 years, providing greater economies of scale in the later years of the Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Operating Performance Ratio remains below benchmark predominantly due to high depreciation expense, resulting from infrastructure constructed for future growth in the area. A Council undertaking greenfield developments cannot decide to deliver infrastructure once the population is fully realised; it must deliver services and infrastructure from the time growth commences. It is expected that this ratio will continue to improve over time as Council's economies of scale catch up with extraordinary growth as demonstrated in the above graph.

It is important to note that the Operating Performance Ratio is not a measure of the Council's budget or cash position. Council has a history of adopting balanced budgets and prudently managing expenditure throughout the year to ensure at each quarterly budget review the budget remains in a balanced or surplus position. Council's cash reserves and ability to fund debt (borrowings) are in a strong position.

Unrestricted Current Ratio

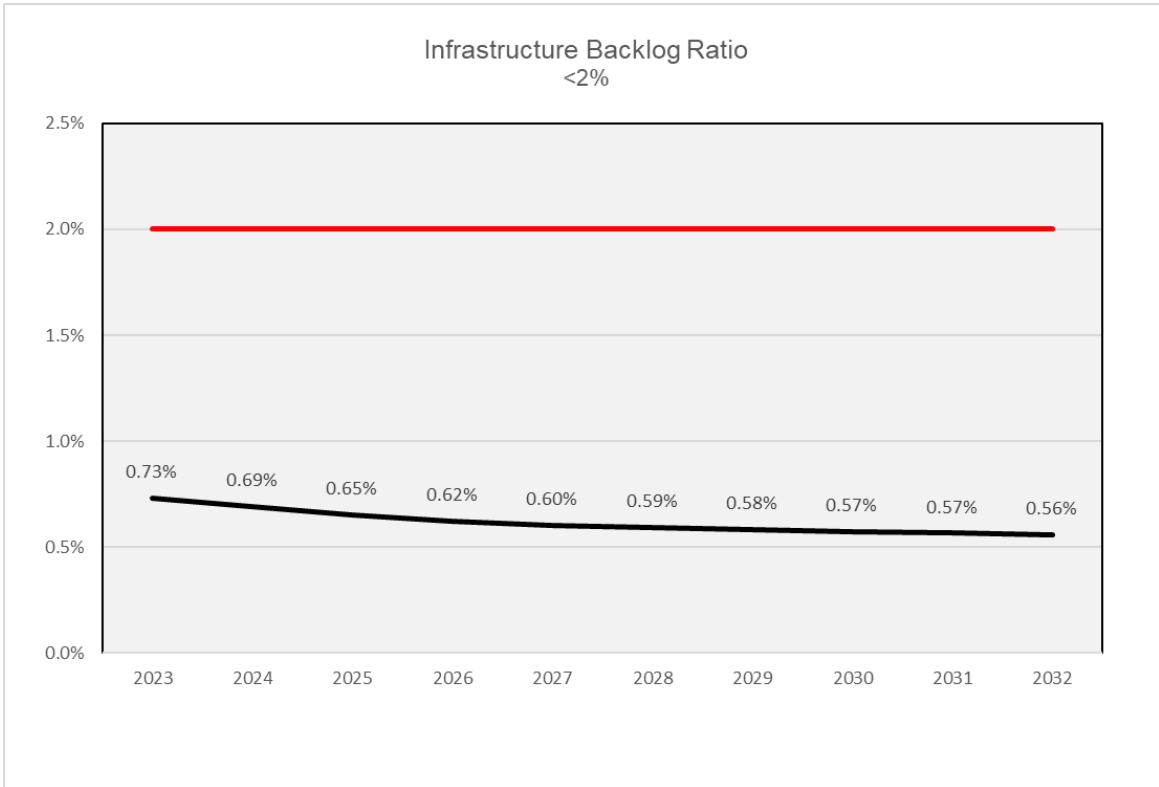
The unrestricted current ratio measures Council's ability to fund short term financial obligations such as loans, payroll and leave entitlements (measures liquidity). The benchmark for this ratio is greater than 1.5:1.



It is estimated in 2022/23 that Council will have \$3.61 to fund every \$1 of liability (or 3.61:1). Forecasts indicate that Council will remain above benchmark levels over the life of the plan, demonstrating a strong cash position.

**Infrastructure Backlog Ratio**

This ratio measures the proportion of the infrastructure backlog against the total value of Council’s infrastructure asset base. The benchmark for this ratio is less than 2%.



The Camden LGA's rapid growth forecasts result in a significant proportion of new assets constructed each year. This ratio improves as a result of the magnitude of new assets being received through development and renewal/maintenance programs Council already has in place. The ratio is well below the benchmark of less than 2% and supports the continuation of programs such as the Community Infrastructure Renewal Program (CIRP) and Community Support Package three (CSP 3), which are aimed at addressing infrastructure renewal as required.

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

The draft documents – Community Strategic Plan, 2022/23 – 2025/26 Delivery Program inclusive of the 2022/23 Operational Plan, 2022/23 Budget and Fees and Charges schedule, and Long-Term Financial Plan – have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and IPR framework.

The draft documents must be publicly exhibited for a period of 28 days as per the legislation.

Public exhibition will commence Friday 22 April and conclude Thursday 19 May 2022 (inclusive).



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The documents will be available at Council's Customer Service Centre (Oran Park), the Camden and Narellan Libraries, will be published on Council's website and be advertised in local media throughout the course of the exhibition period. Notices will also be placed in a local newspaper.

Submissions and/or comments received will be reported back to Council as part of the adoption of the IPR framework package.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the draft Community Strategic Plan, 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program and 2022/23 Operational Plan inclusive of Revenue Policy, 2022/23 Budget, 2022/23 Fees and Charges schedule, and Long-Term Financial Plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council:**

- i. endorse the following documents for the purposes of public exhibition:**
  - a. draft Community Strategic Plan, *Connecting Camden – our Community Strategic Plan*;**
  - b. draft 2022/23 - 2025/26 Delivery Program, inclusive of the 2022/23 Operational Plan and Revenue Policy;**
  - c. draft 2022/23 Budget and Fees and Charges schedule;**
  - d. draft Long-Term Financial Plan; and**
  
- ii. note a further report will be presented to Council at its meeting of 14 June 2022 to consider submissions received during the public exhibition period and to adopt the documents outlined above.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Connecting Camden Community Strategic Plan
2. Draft Camden Council Delivery Program and Operational Plan
3. Draft Camden Council Resource Strategy Summary
4. 2022-23 Draft Capital Works Schedule
5. Fees and Charges Report
6. Long Term Financial Plan for public exhibition

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

ORD02

**SUBJECT: DELIVERY PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2021**

**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

**TRIM #:** 22/65678

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council a progress report on the Delivery Program 2017/2018 to 2021/2022.

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, all councils are required to undertake their planning and reporting activities using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. The framework requires councils to develop a suite of plans that reflect the vision and aspirations of their community. The IPR framework also requires councils to report on the progress of the Delivery Program.

The documents that form our IPR framework include:

- **Community Strategic Plan (10 year+)**

This Community Strategic Plan is the highest level of plan, which stretches beyond the next 10 years, identifying the community aspirations, desired outcomes and necessary strategies.

- **Four-Year Delivery Program and Operational Plan (Budget)**

The Delivery Program is Council's commitment to progress the Community Strategic Plan in its Council term, which is aligned with the six Key Directions. The Delivery Program shows how the community's aspirations are developed into objectives (community outcomes).

- **Resourcing Strategy: Executive Summary**

The Strategy ensures the community's long-term objectives are met. It integrates the below strategy and plans in accordance with the IPR framework:

- Asset Management Strategy and Plan;
- Workforce Plan; and
- Long Term Financial Plan.

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan (Budget) were adopted in June 2017. The IPR framework requires Council to report the progress on the Delivery Program. This report provides a progress update on the Delivery Program for the period July to December 2021.

A Councillor Briefing was provided on the Delivery Program progress report for the period July to December 2021 on 29 March 2022.

### MAIN REPORT

A progress report is provided as **Attachment 1** to this report and provides a status update on the adopted 39 performance indicators within the Delivery Program for the period July to December 2021.






The progress report captures the status of the performance indicators under each of the six Key Directions and provides overall highlights.

Council monitors its progress in achieving the objectives stated in the Community Strategic Plan through the implementation of the Delivery Program under the six Key Directions:

1. Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth;
2. Healthy Urban and Natural Environment;
3. A Prosperous Economy;
4. Effective and Sustainable Transport;
5. An Enriched and Connected Community; and
6. Strong Local Leadership.





Council utilises a rating scale to assess the status of the performance indicators. **Table 1** below provides a description for each rating scale.

**Table 1**

Rating Scale	Symbol	Description
"On Track"		When the 'actual' is either equal to, less or greater than the set target.
"Monitoring"		Corporate variance of $\pm 10\%$ applies to the set target and is considered achievable, feasible and realistic for performance improvement, with the exception of legislative requirements.
"Needs Work"		When the 'actual' is either below or above the corporate variance.
"Trend"		Shows a pattern of change data over time where setting a target is not possible.
"COVID Impact"		Deliverables impacted by COVID-19 NSW Public Health guidelines and restrictions.

**Table 2** below provides a summary of the status of the 39 performance indicators under the six Key Directions.

**Table 2**

Key Direction	No. of Performance Indicators	Status				COVID Impact
		On Track 	Monitoring 	Needs Work 	Trend 	
Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth	4	4	0	0	0	0
Healthy Urban and Natural Environment	12	7	0	0	3	2
A Prosperous Economy	3	1	0	0	2	0
Effective and Sustainable Transport	5	5	0	0	0	0
An Enriched and Connected Community	8	2	0	0	0	6
Strong Local Leadership	7	6	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

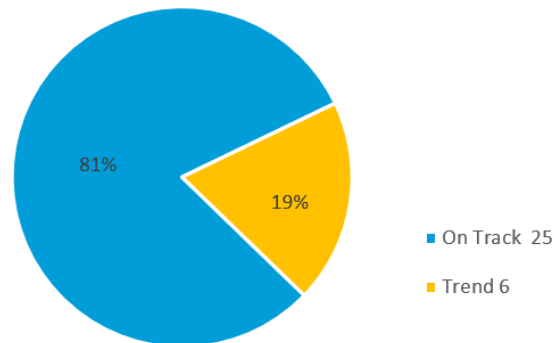
Of the 39 Performance Indicators that were able to be delivered during the reporting period (that is, those not impacted by COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions), 25 Indicators (81%) were assessed as 'On Track'; 0 Indicator (0%) as 'Monitoring'; 0 Indicators (0%) as 'Needs Work' and 6 Indicators (19%) as 'Trend'.

The effects of COVID-19 have had an impact on projects, programs, activities and services that Council would ordinarily provide to the community under normal circumstances. The result of these impacts can be seen in the progress status under Key Direction 2 – *Healthy Urban and Natural Environments*, and Key Direction 5 – *An Enriched and Connected Community*. The impacts were in relation to conducting bushcare activities, illegal dumping activity reported by residents, usage of Council's leisure centre and swimming facilities, the Camden Civic Centre and Family Day Care as well as the provision of arts/cultural events across the Camden LGA.



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The below diagram provides a visual presentation on the overall progress status:



### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications for Council as a result of this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

The progress report highlights that, at the end of the reporting period (31 December 2021), of those indicators able to be delivered during the reporting period, 100% of the performance indicators are 'on track' or 'trend'.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council note and endorse the attached Delivery Program Progress Report.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Delivery Program Progress Report July 2021 - December 2021

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

ORD03

**SUBJECT: DRAFT SUBMISSION - DRAFT BLUEPRINT FOR THE WESTERN PARKLAND CITY AND DRAFT WESTERN PARKLAND CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP - PHASE 1**

**FROM:** Director Planning & Environment

**TRIM #:** 22/39658

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the exhibition of the NSW Government's *Draft Blueprint for the Western Parkland City* (Draft Blueprint) and *Draft Western Parkland City Economic Development Roadmap - Phase 1* (Draft Economic Roadmap) and to seek Council's endorsement of the **attached** draft submission to the Western Parkland City Authority.

Copies of the Western Parkland City Authority's Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap are provided as **attachments** to this report.

### BACKGROUND

In December 2021, the Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) released the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap for public exhibition. Public submissions were invited by 31 March 2022, with Council provided an extension to comment by 29 April 2022.

The NSW Government established the WPCA to coordinate infrastructure, attract investment and deliver the Bradfield City Centre in the Western Parkland City. The Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap are central to that work.

Together, the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap set out a vision and direction for a green, connected and advanced Western Parkland City. Each of these directions is accompanied by priorities for Government action that is required to deliver the Western Parkland City.

The WPCA is seeking feedback on the following key areas of the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap:

- Role of the Draft Blueprint;
- Delivery priorities;
- Role of the Draft Economic Roadmap;
- Economic priorities; and
- Additional opportunities, gaps, and issues.

A Councillor briefing from the WPCA on the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap was held on 8 March 2022.



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## **MAIN REPORT**

### **What is the Western Parkland City?**

The Western Parkland City covers the eight local government areas of the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly. It is expected that the Western Parkland City will account for over 25 per cent of NSW's population growth by 2036, with nearly 1.7 million people.

### **What is the Draft Blueprint?**

The Draft Blueprint outlines the short-and-medium term priorities for Government investment that will leverage the initial \$20 billion infrastructure investment to help achieve the vision for the Western Parkland City. In this regard, through preparing the Draft Blueprint, the WPCA has identified a pipeline of future projects for investigation, in supporting future growth for the Western Parkland City.

The Draft Blueprint also identifies preliminary inputs by the Western Parkland Councils that may be considered for future investigation, coordination and/or investment to support the delivery of the Western Parkland City.

### **What are the highest priorities of the Draft Blueprint?**

To maximise the Government's initial infrastructure investment, the Draft Blueprint identifies the following critical projects as its highest priorities for the Western Parkland City:

#### **Rail:**

Complete investigations to prioritise a rail connection between Bradfield City Centre and Leppington, linking Bradfield City Centre to Glenfield and Liverpool by 2031 and providing the communities of South West Sydney with access to jobs in the Aerotropolis.

#### **Precinct Activation:**

Deliver road packages, utilities and digital infrastructure and rapid and frequent buses for the Aerotropolis, South West, Greater Macarthur and Wilton Growth Areas to support activation of enterprise lands, jobs growth and connected communities.

#### **Parks and Open Space:**

Establish new parks in the Thompsons Creek and South Creek corridor and provide additional open space throughout the Western Parkland City, along with increasing tree canopy in public spaces to reduce heat and increase community wellbeing.

#### **Economic Development:**

Drive investment attraction and innovation with a strong and predictable infrastructure pipeline, improved capability in advanced manufacturing and cyber security, integrated skills pathways with industry, and enhanced health and education precincts.

#### **Sustainability:**

Progress towards net zero emissions by 2050, with Bradfield City Centre to become Australia's first hydrogen and EV-ready, zero carbon city centre, utilising a micro grid and leading in renewable energy as part of a multi-utility corridor pilot in surrounding precincts.

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## What is the Draft Economic Roadmap?

The Draft Economic Roadmap provides an overarching strategy to maximise the economic opportunities of the Western Sydney International Airport and infrastructure to attract investment, businesses, and talent to the Western Parkland City.

The Draft Economic Roadmap outlines the following three economic opportunities to help provide Government and private sector future investment:

- Foster innovation and build competitiveness;
- Leverage city strengths; and
- Develop 22nd century workforce skills.

The Draft Economic Roadmap accompanies the Draft Blueprint for the Western Parkland City.

## Council's Draft Submission – Key Considerations

While the broad intent of the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap is supported, Council's draft submission provides four overarching comments.

1. The WPCA has considered earlier feedback, prepared by the Western Parkland Councils, relating to the issue of funded and unfunded infrastructure priorities for the Camden LGA. Notwithstanding, clearer timeframes and funding mechanisms are required for delivery of the infrastructure priorities that have been identified to support Councils in the planning process for the Western Parkland City. **Council welcomes a collaborative approach by the NSW Government to ensure holistic planning is undertaken and infrastructure is delivered in a consistent manner across the Western Parkland City.**
2. It is intended that the Draft Blueprint will succeed the Western Sydney Place-based Infrastructure Compact (PIC), previously prepared by the Greater Sydney Commission, as the mechanism for implementation of land use and infrastructure planning across the Western Parkland City. However, it is not clear how the former PIC program is reflected in the Draft Blueprint. **It is recommended that the Draft Blueprint considers the established PIC along with other infrastructure planning and prioritisation works, to support housing delivery and economic growth across the entire Western Parkland City.**
3. The South West Growth Area (SWGA) presents a unique opportunity for housing, employment generation, infrastructure provision, and liveability in the Camden LGA. The existing SWGA Structure Plan (developed in 2006 as a framework to guide the development of this area) is outdated and reflects a 'road-based' transport network. Consequently, a planning disconnect has been identified for the SWGA as to its context in an overarching Structure Plan for the Western Parkland City. **It is recommended that the Draft Blueprint include a contemporary planning vision for the SWGA in the Western Parkland City.**



4. The Draft Blueprint's depiction in prioritising the completion of investigations of the rail connection between Bradfield and Leppington, linking Bradfield City Centre to Liverpool, is commended. **Council strongly supports that this rail link (i.e. the South West Rail Link Extension) is fully constructed by 2031 and that a final business case for the future rail connection between Bradfield, Oran Park, Narellan and Macarthur (i.e. the North South Rail Line) is completed by 2023.**

Further to these overarching comments, Council's draft submission identifies other issues that require consideration and/or clarification by the WPCA in finalising the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap. These issues are summarised below and accompanied by 40 recommendations identified in Council's draft submission.

### **Feedback on the role of the Draft Blueprint**

#### Key Strategies and Plans

- While the Draft Blueprint acknowledges other key strategies and plans that relate to the Western Parkland City, its relationship to those strategies and plans is not clear.
- It is also unclear what role the Draft Blueprint has in a statutory and policy formulation sense.

#### Infrastructure Initiatives

- It is unclear how future infrastructure initiatives will be identified and added to the Draft Blueprint, and how these initiatives will be prioritised and funded.

#### Resilience

- Concerns are raised about how the Western Parkland City will be resilient in the event that the Western Sydney International Airport (WSIA) does not generate the forecast volume of economic activity.

#### Place-based Infrastructure Compact (PIC)

- As noted earlier, there is a need for the Draft Blueprint to identify its relationship with the previously prepared Western Sydney Place-based Infrastructure Compact.
- Clarification is sought on how the Draft Blueprint will be monitored, the cycle of its review process and the manner in which a review would be undertaken.

#### Vision

- Given that the Western Parkland City is likely to be a major catalyst for the NSW economy in the years ahead, it is important the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap provide context relative to the '*NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint*'.
- While it is acknowledged that the term 'Connected' is fitting to describe both transport links and the social framework of a City, they are each significant enough to warrant their own individual 'Vision' theme in providing clarity about what is planned for the Western Parkland City.

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### Delivering A Green City

- In response to submissions, the planning outcomes for Bradfield and the broader Aerotropolis area resulted in a reduced amount of planned open space compared to what was originally proposed. Council's submission requests that the draft Blueprint clarify how a 'Green City' will be delivered and the method to calculate green and open space.
- The Western Parkland City is surrounded by an extensive network of rivers, creeks, and tributaries, all of which underpin the 'Green City'. There is an opportunity for the Draft Blueprint to provide additional insight on sustainability issues, pertaining to water and energy efficiency.
- While the Draft Blueprint refers to supporting the agriculture sector in the Western Parkland City to access international markets, there are concerns that it does not respond to managing the impacts on the existing agricultural industries in the Western Parkland City.

### Delivering A Connected City

- There is a need for the Draft Blueprint to reflect how the NSW Government's '30-minute City' and '15-minute walkable neighbourhoods' initiatives will integrate in facilitating seamless and sustainable travel throughout the Western Parkland City.
- Clear mode-shift targets are needed for the Western Parkland City, otherwise its future transport network is likely to remain predominantly car dependent.
- It is important that Council continues to be directly involved in planning for infrastructure provision/projects, in conjunction with the corresponding NSW Government delivery agencies, to ensure successful planning outcomes for the Western Parkland City.
- There is a need for the Draft Blueprint to outline a clearer course of action in addressing the issue of housing affordability in the Western Parkland City.
- The NSW Government's 'Future Transport Strategy 2056' is currently due to be publicly exhibited, resulting in the need for clarity as to whether the content of the exhibited Draft Blueprint is reflective of the pending updates made by Transport for NSW on transport infrastructure planning in the Western Parkland City.
- While the Draft Blueprint is acknowledged as a high-level, strategic document, it would benefit from a quantitative correlation between future growth and provision of new infrastructure, particularly in the greenfield areas of the Western Parkland City.
- While the need for an integrated transport network strategy is acknowledged (and strongly supported by Council), the Draft Blueprint does not respond to/reflect the legacy planning disconnect in the SWGA i.e. the current SWGA Structure Plan is predicated on a road-based network however there have since been two rail corridors gazetted in the Camden LGA.
- Clarification is required from Transport for NSW and/or in the Draft Blueprint as to the steps and timing in the process for completion of investigations and business case for a rail connection between Bradfield City Centre and Leppington in ensuring delivery of the rail line in the stipulated 2031 timeframe.
- It is especially important for the Camden LGA community (existing and future) that the Draft Blueprint articulates the timing for completion of a Final Business Case for the north-south extension of the 'Sydney Metro: Western Sydney Airport' (North South Rail Line) connecting Bradfield, Oran Park, Narellan and Macarthur.
- As part of the Draft Blueprint's priority to '*investigate potential for additional transit orientated nodes to optimise rail investments*', it is important that Council is directly engaged in partnership with the NSW Government in facilitating these planning outcomes.



- Clarification is sought as to the relationship between the Draft Blueprint's *C7 Priority* and *C1 Priority*; in particular, as to whether the road activation packages will be an output from the 'integrated network strategy'.
- While the Draft Blueprint states the intent to include local government in the rollout of *C8 Priority* (*'Pilot a multi-utilities approach and investigate renewable energy opportunities to support early and efficient activation of the Aerotropolis'*) for future infrastructure provision, planning and delivery, this arrangement is not yet fully implemented.
- There is a need for a land acquisition strategy to be developed by the NSW Government to provide certainty as to timing for landowners/residents who may be impacted by the various major transport infrastructure corridors through the Camden LGA e.g. Outer Sydney Orbital, North South Rail Line, South West Rail Link Extension corridors.

#### Delivering an Advanced City

- The Western Sydney City Deal states that the Western Parkland City will create 200,000 new jobs across a wide range of industries over the next 20 years. The Draft Blueprint needs to align with this vision and identify how the 200,000 jobs are proposed to be apportioned across the Western Parkland City.

#### Implementation and Governance

- In noting the importance of the Draft Blueprint's outputs being evidenced-based, the data/information on which it is based must be readily available/accessible to key stakeholders e.g. local government.

#### Appendix A in the Draft Blueprint

- Any future review of the Draft Blueprint must be cognisant of the cycle/timing in review of the 'plans, strategies and initiatives' prepared by councils e.g. Community Strategic Plan, LSPS, LEP etc.
- There is a need to reference WSA Co. as a key stakeholder in the Draft Blueprint, given its influence on the future Western Parkland City through development of the Western Sydney International Airport site.
- Given the impacts of the future Outer Sydney Orbital corridor will transcend local government areas, the Draft Blueprint should reflect it as a regional transport issue.
- Future planning for the Western Sydney Rapid Bus network must ensure connections between Metropolitan Centres as well as Strategic Centres, e.g. Leppington and Oran Park, and should be reflected as such in the Draft Blueprint.
- Delivery of Stage 2 of the Spring Farm Parkway, as referenced in the Draft Blueprint, must include the provision of 'south facing' ramps in providing direct access to the southern extent of the M31 Hume Motorway.

#### **Delivery priorities for the Camden LGA**

- As noted previously, the completion of a Final Business Case for the rail connection between Bradfield City Centre and Oran Park (through to Narellan and Macarthur) is a priority for the Camden LGA as it is significant in providing key mass transit for the Western Parkland City and should be reflected as such in the Draft Blueprint's list of highest priorities.

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### **Additional opportunities, gaps and issues for the Camden LGA**

- An additional layer to the Draft Blueprint is recommended, titled '*Delivering a Prosperous City*', that consolidates the economic initiatives identified to make the Western Parkland City a success.
- Further consideration is required in the Draft Blueprint on how the 'Urban Heat Effect' in the Western Parkland City will be addressed.
- The Draft Blueprint needs to consider the provision of a significant health facility in the SWGA.

### **Feedback on role of the Draft Economic Roadmap**

- In the process of implementing actions and activities from the Draft Economic Roadmap, strong consideration is required for the employment and economic opportunities, which will help in facilitating infrastructure, transport connectivity, skills development and liveability requirements of LGAs with high population growth.

### **Economic Priorities for the Camden LGA**

- The Draft Economic Roadmap needs to further consider the support and attraction of small-to-medium enterprises into the growing strategic and local centres, with particular consideration for cultural and creative businesses and organisations.

### **Additional opportunities, gaps, and issues (Draft Economic Roadmap)**

- Further consideration to be given to small and medium-sized enterprises – attracting, retaining, supporting, and growing the businesses that will support the Western Parkland City's ongoing growth and prosperity, in particular on ways to support small business owners of non-English speaking backgrounds.
- The Draft Roadmap needs to further consider the role that a robust network of community services plays in the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of the Western Parkland City and its citizens. As the most culturally diverse region within Australia, with a high intake of refugees and migrants and a significant non-English speaking population, the Western Parkland City is well-positioned to support, leverage and grow the workforce potential of a huge and expanding migrant population.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications for Council as a result of this report.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Western Parkland City Authority is inviting feedback on the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap. Together, the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap focus on guiding growth and investment for the Western Parkland City.

While Council officers support the intent of the Draft Blueprint and Draft Economic Roadmap, a draft submission has been prepared seeking further clarification on several issues within the recommendations provided.





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## **RECOMMENDED**

### **That Council:**

- i. endorse the attached draft submission on the Draft Blueprint for the Western Parkland City and Draft Western Parkland City Economic Development Roadmap - Phase 1;**
- ii. forward a copy of Council's endorsed submission to the Western Parkland City Authority for consideration;**
- iii. forward a copy of Council's endorsed submission to Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP, Member for Camden; and**
- iv. forward a copy of Council's endorsed submission to the other seven members of the Western Parkland City and the Executive Director of the Western Parkland Councils.**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. WPCA Draft Economic Development Roadmap Phase 1**
- 2. Draft Submission - Draft Blueprint for the Western Parkland City and Draft Roadmap (April 2022)**

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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

ORD04

**SUBJECT: IPART REVIEW OF DOMESTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES**  
**FROM:** Director Planning & Environment  
**TRIM #:** 22/112334

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) *Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges* report and to seek Council's endorsement of the attached draft submission to IPART's request for feedback.

### BACKGROUND

In August 2020, IPART released a discussion paper inviting feedback on the charges levied by councils for domestic waste services and IPART's proposed approach to the ongoing management of domestic waste management (DWM) charges which included:

- Implementing a reporting, monitoring, and benchmarking regime to develop a publicly available comparison tool comparing DWM charges for equivalent services across comparable councils;
- Developing a publicly available centralised, comprehensive register of successful tender contract values for DWM services across councils;
- Pricing principles for DWM charges, to provide guidance to councils in setting DWM charges; and
- Limitations on services which can be funded via the DWM charge, such as street sweeping, public place rubbish bins, general litter reduction campaigns not related to collecting domestic waste and clean-up of illegal dumping.

Council officers responded to this discussion paper generally in support of the proposed approach and participated in targeted working groups with IPART.

In December 2021, IPART released a draft report, the *Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges (attached)*, which includes the results of their consultation, stakeholder engagement and focus groups as well as draft decisions. IPART has invited submissions on the draft report by 29 April 2022.

Councillors were informed of the draft IPART report as part of the Councillor briefing on 2 March 2022.

### MAIN REPORT

The draft decisions provided in IPART's draft report include:

1. IPART proposes to publish annually a non-binding benchmark waste peg to assist councils in setting their domestic waste management charges. The proposed benchmark waste peg for 2022-2023 is 1.1%.



2. IPART proposes to publish annually a report on the extent to which councils annual domestic waste management charges increase more than the benchmark waste peg each year.
3. IPART proposes recommending that the Office of Local Government publish pricing principles to guide councils on how they should recover the costs of providing domestic waste management services.

Council officers generally support IPART's draft decisions. IPART's review of DWM charges will provide consistency across the state and clarity on key areas such as the functions and services that can be funded from DWM charges.

IPART has invited submissions on the following questions:

1. *Do you think our proposed annual 'benchmark' waste peg will assist councils in setting their DWM charges?*
2. *Do you think the pricing principles will assist councils to set DWM charges to achieve best value for ratepayers?*
3. *Would it be helpful to councils if further detailed examples were developed to include in the Office of Local Government's Council Rating and Revenue Raising Manual to assist in implementing the pricing principles?*

Council officers have prepared a draft submission (**attached**) to IPART's request for stakeholder feedback.

Council's draft submission raises concern with the proposed waste peg of 1.1% for 2022-2023 and the elements that have been included in determining the proposed peg.

The draft submission notes that the key drivers that determine the cost of providing the domestic waste service are outside of Council's control, including CPI, award-based salary increases and fuel prices.

The draft submission recommends that, in determining the proposed waste peg, IPART include a broader range of services associated with managing domestic waste, including the domestic waste associated with litter collection, illegal dumping and community recycling centres.

The draft submission recommends that one of the proposed pricing principles be modified to include all costs associated with collecting waste generated from domestic properties. This would allow all elements of the domestic waste service to continue to be funded from the domestic waste budget.

Council's draft submission also suggests the calculation method of the proposed waste peg include a factor for a base increase in line with CPI and a future population factor.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

At this stage, there are no immediate financial implications in relation to IPART's review and draft report. However, if Council were to amend its proposed domestic waste charges for the 2022/23 budget from the proposed increase of 3% to the non-binding benchmark provided by IPART of 1.1%, it would result in the projected domestic waste service budget being in a deficit position, primarily due to Council not being able to recover the cost of providing the service.

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Longer term, if Council were unable to recover the actual costs of providing domestic waste services, this would have a significant impact on service delivery and quality. Council would also need to consider the scope of its domestic waste service.

Over the last five years, the state average annual increase in domestic waste charges was 4.5% with Council's average increase for the same period being 2%.

### **CONCLUSION**

IPART is inviting submissions on its draft report into domestic waste management charges. It is recommended that Council endorse the **attached** draft submission in response to IPART's request for feedback.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council:**

- i. endorse the attached draft submission to IPART's Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges; and**
- ii. forward a copy of the submission to Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP, Member for Camden.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. IPART's Draft Report Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges - December 2021
2. Draft Submission - Review of Domestic Waste Management Charges



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

## ORD05

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE COUNCILLOR MISCONDUCT FRAMEWORK**  
**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy  
**TRIM #:** 22/111546

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the draft submission on the Councillor misconduct framework review (the review) to be sent to the Office of Local Government (OLG).

### BACKGROUND

The Minister for Local Government has initiated an independent review of the framework for dealing with councillor misconduct in NSW.

Mr Gary Kellar PSM has been appointed to carry out the review. Mr Kellar was involved in the 2017 review of the Queensland local government misconduct framework and was CEO of Logan City Council for 26 years.

A consultation paper has been issued to facilitate an understanding of the current framework and to invite submissions identifying improvement areas and suggestions for the practical application of those improvements in relation to 28 areas for consideration.

Councillors were briefed on this matter on 29 March 2022.

### MAIN REPORT

#### **Scope of the Review**

The review is examining the current administrative framework under which complaints about councillor misconduct are managed, with the aim of identifying possible areas for improvement.

In particular, the review is examining the process for making complaints, the investigation process, the timeliness of disciplinary action, and the efficacy of the disciplinary action and penalties available.

The review will include an examination of similar frameworks used in other jurisdictions for any lessons they may offer for improving the NSW framework.

The Terms of Reference and Consultation Paper are provided as **Attachments 1** and **2** to this report, respectively.

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## Draft Submission

Submissions are requested to focus on identifying practical opportunities for improvement and any deficiencies in the current framework. This offers Council a valuable opportunity to seek to influence prospective enhancements to the current framework before subsequent consultation drafts of a revised framework are published.

A draft submission has been prepared which provides feedback on each of the subject areas identified in the consultation paper except for the section on 'Insights from Other Jurisdictions', as any relevant ideas about this that were provided in the consultation paper were included elsewhere in the submission.

The proposed feedback is summarised below:

- Objectives and Expectations:
  - Separate Codes of Conduct for Councillors and other Council officials (including staff, volunteers, contractors), to ensure each document is relevant and user-friendly;
  - Clarity of objectives included from the legislation through to the relevant codes and procedures, so the expectations are consistent and easily understood; and
  - Further guidance with respect to managing lobbying, as recommended by ICAC.
- Complaint Processes:
  - Limited involvement for the general manager and mayor in dealing with complaints about councillors, and mandatory appointment of a complaints coordinator or similar who would have primary responsibility for dealing with complaints about councillors. This reduces the potential for conflict and perceptions of influence however it should still remain open to the general manager and mayor to endeavour to resolve lower-level complaints by informal means, if possible, before referring to a complaints coordinator;
  - Maintain the current emphasis on the informal resolution of complaints especially for lower- and mid-level breaches, so long as adequate procedural fairness is preserved; and
  - A template form for making complaints and tightened timeframes for lodgement of a complaint, to ensure adequate information is provided and to discourage frivolous or vexatious complaints.
- Investigation Timeframes:
  - A maximum timeframe for conduct reviewers to complete an investigation (for example, a 90-day period) so that procedural fairness and the timely resolution of complaints are effectively balanced.



- Outcomes:
  - Distinguish between higher-level misconduct and lower-level behavioural breaches, to reflect the relative seriousness of each;
  - Restoring the disciplinary powers previously available to councils under the Model Procedures before the *Cornish* judgement by the Supreme Court, to provide councils with greater flexibility for responding to misconduct. These previous powers were to: require training or other education; counsel; remove from membership of a committee or any other body or organisation where the councillor is the council's representative; require an undertaking not to repeat offending behaviour; require an apology to any person or organisation affected by a breach.
- Costs:
  - The ability of the OLG to recover expenses incurred in the investigation of councillor misconduct from councils is not supported, as this investigatory function is an appropriate and accepted one for a regulatory agency;
  - Particularly for higher-level misconduct, Councils or the OLG (whichever is relevant) should be permitted to recover the cost of dealing with complaints about councillors by other councillors, where the other councillors have been found to have engaged in misconduct. This would provide a further disincentive for councillors to breach the Code of Conduct. Standard debt recovery measures consistent with the Debt Management and Hardship Guidelines published by the OLG may be suitable; and
  - A pre-qualified panel of independent investigators should be established to ensure consistency of approach and outcome, as well as streamlined costs.

The draft submission is provided as **Attachment 3** to this report.

### **Submission Timeframes**

The OLG has requested that submissions be received by 28 March 2022. As this allowed insufficient time for Councillors to participate in induction training on the Code of Conduct, and a briefing and preparation of a submission (if required) to be considered by Council, the OLG was contacted to ask if it would accept a submission provided immediately following the Council meeting of 12 April 2022. Its advice was that it would be able to accept a submission from Council shortly following the 12 April 2022 meeting.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council endorse the submission on the Councillor misconduct framework review, as this offers an opportunity to provide feedback on potential enhancements to the current framework.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council endorse the submission on the Councillor misconduct framework review, included as Attachment 3 of the report, to be sent to the Office of Local Government.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Terms of Reference
2. Consultation Paper
3. Draft Submission on the Councillor Conduct Accountability Review





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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

### ORD06

**SUBJECT: RETURNS DISCLOSING PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy

**TRIM #:** 22/69699

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council note the tabling of returns disclosing pecuniary interests and other matters by newly elected Councillors, who are required to submit a return within three months of their election.

### BACKGROUND

Under clause 4.21 of the Code of Conduct, Council's new Councillors must complete and lodge with the General Manager a Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Return within three months after becoming a Councillor.

### MAIN REPORT

Under clause 4.25 of the Code of Conduct, the Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Returns must be tabled at the first meeting of Council held after the last date for lodgement, which was 21 March 2022.

Incoming Councillors have lodged their first pecuniary interest returns. The returns are tabled with this report.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

### CONCLUSION

The completed Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Returns are tabled.

### RECOMMENDED

**That Council note the tabling of the Disclosures by Councillors and Designated Persons Returns for newly elected Councillors.**



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**ORD07**

**SUBJECT: INVESTMENT MONIES - FEBRUARY 2022**  
**FROM:** Director Customer & Corporate Strategy  
**TRIM #:** 22/102641

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

In accordance with Part 9, Division 5, Section 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, a list of investments held by Council as at 28 February 2022 is provided.

### MAIN REPORT

The weighted average return on all investments was 0.78% p.a. for the month of February 2022. The industry benchmark for this period was 0.07% (Ausbond Bank Bill Index) and the current official cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is 0.10%.

The Responsible Accounting Officer (the Chief Financial Officer) has certified that all investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the relevant regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

Council's Investment Report is provided as an **attachment** to this report.

### RECOMMENDED

**That Council:**

- i. note that the Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that all investments held by Council have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Regulations, and Council's Investment Policy;**
- ii. note the list of investments for February 2022; and**
- iii. note the weighted average interest rate return of 0.78% p.a. for the month of February 2022.**

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Investment Report - February 2022



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**ORD08**

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - STRONGER COMMUNITIES -  
SOLAR LIGHTING OF DOG OFF LEASH AREAS**

**FROM:** Director Sport, Community & Activation

**TRIM #:** 22/95048

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's acceptance of grant funding for \$18,000 (excl. GST) through the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program, to install solar lighting in selected dog off leash areas.

### BACKGROUND

The Stronger Communities Program supports the Australian Government's commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia by investing in infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes while promoting community participation, inclusion, and cohesion.

Projects eligible for funding must be small capital works or capital expenditures that deliver benefits to the local community, and applicants must be invited to apply by their local Member of Parliament. The grant amount available is up to 50% of eligible program costs, with the maximum grant available per project being \$20,000 (excl. GST). Projects must be completed by 31 December 2022.

Council was invited by Dr Mike Freelander MP, Member for Macarthur, to nominate a project in the Camden LGA (within the Macarthur electorate) for funding.

Council officers nominated a project to install solar powered lighting at dog off leash areas in Oran Park, Emerald Hills and Arcadian Hills.

### MAIN REPORT

Council has been notified that it has been successful in receiving grant funding under the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Programme (Round 7) of \$18,000 (excl. GST) for the installation of solar powered lighting in selected dog off leash areas.

The project recognises the increase in the number of companion animals during Covid-19 and the additional use this placed on the dog off leash areas.

The solar powered lighting will extend the use of the dog off leash areas to the early evening and allow for greater opportunity to exercise and socialise companion animals.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has been successful in its funding application for \$18,000 (excl. GST). Council is required to provide matching funding, which is available in the existing budgets.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Council has been successful in securing grant funding under the Stronger Communities Program Round 7 to install solar lighting in selected dog off leash areas in the Federal seat of Macarthur. The solar lighting will extend the use of the dog off leash areas to the early evening and allow for greater opportunity to exercise and socialise companion animals.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council:**

- i. accept grant funding of \$18,000 (excl. GST) from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Stronger Communities Program Round 7 for the installation of solar powered lighting at selected dog off leash areas;**
- ii. write to The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, thanking him for the grant; and**
- iii. write to Dr Mike Freelander MP, Member for Macarthur, thanking him for his support.**



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL

**ORD09**

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING - NSW DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND JUSTICE - YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES - CAMDEN'S YOUTH JOBLINK PROGRAM**

**FROM:** Director Sport, Community & Activation

**TRIM #:** 22/103312

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the receipt of grant funding of the amount of \$50,000 (excl. GST), through the NSW Government Local Youth Opportunities Grants Program, to deliver the Camden Youth Joblink Program, and to seek Council's endorsement to accept the funds.

### BACKGROUND

Youth Opportunities is an annual funding program delivered by the NSW Government, specifically the Department of Communities and Justice, which gives local governments, non-for-profit organisations and youth services an opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 in funding for projects that empower young people and give them the opportunity to deliver local projects and events.

Camden Council has been successful in receiving this funding on two occasions in the past, the first in 2019 to deliver the Youth Empowerment Project and the second in 2020 to deliver the Spotlight project. In September last year, Council officers, after consulting the Camden Youth Council, submitted an application to receive \$50,000 (excl. GST) to deliver the Camden Youth Joblink Program.

### MAIN REPORT

The NSW Government, through Minister Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, has advised Council that it was allocated a grant of \$50,000 (excl. GST) to fund Camden Youth JobLink Program. This program is an employment program developed by the Camden Youth Council and supported by Council staff in response to the 2020 Youth consultation that found Youth Employment to be one of the key strategic priorities that local young people would like Council to support.

Based out of Julia Reserve Youth Centre in Oran Park, young people will be given the opportunity to gain qualifications, discover possible career pathways, develop employability skills, and be linked to local employment opportunities.

The Camden Youth Reference Group will work with Council officers to develop an outcome framework to measure the success of this program, whilst ensuring that the employment and training opportunities are specific to the needs and wants of local young people.

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## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council will receive funding of \$50,000 (excl. GST) from the Department of Communities and Justice and will provide an in-kind contribution of \$18,790 (excl. GST).

## **CONCLUSION**

Council has been allocated a NSW Government Youth Opportunities Grant of \$50,000 (excl. GST) to deliver the Camden Youth Joblink Program. The program will provide local youth the opportunity to gain qualifications, discover possible career pathways, develop employability skills and be linked to local employment opportunities.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Council:**

- i. accept grant funding of \$50,000 (excl. GST) from NSW Government Youth Opportunities Grants Program for inclusion in the 2021/2022 budget to deliver the Camden Youth Joblink Program;**
- ii. write to The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services, thanking her for the grant; and**
- iii. write to Mr Peter Sidgreaves MP, Member for Camden, thanking him for his support.**