

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



30 June 2014

Council Approves a Bumper Budget

At the recent Council Meeting, Councillors adopted the 2014/15 Operational Plan (Budget), which now ensures the delivery of a range of exciting community assets and infrastructure to the current and future residents of the Camden Local Government Area.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said she was excited to deliver a comprehensive and aspirational budget.

“Through sensible and prudent financial management, my Council has been able to deliver a balanced budget whilst delivering one of the biggest capital works programs in Council’s history. This budget will deliver major infrastructure to our residents which will help ensure community facilities and services grow as our population grows”.

“I was pleased to have the support of the majority of councillors for this budget. Seven councillors voted in favour of this budget, with Councillor Eva Campbell voting against it and Councillor David Bligh being an apology”.

“My Council is determined to make the best decisions for the current residents of the Camden LGA as well as plan ahead for our future residents. This budget and the infrastructure that will be delivered by my Council will leave a lasting legacy for the Camden community, a legacy I am extremely proud of. During my term on Council, I am committed to ensuring that the commitments I made during the election and since I’ve been Mayor are being delivered to the community in a timely and financially sensible manner”.

“One of the big ticket items in the budget, and something I am extremely proud of, is the Camden Town Centre Upgrade. I believe it is imperative we inject significant funding into the Camden CBD before Council relocates to Oran Park. \$5.35 million will be invested into the Town Centre to deliver new paving, drainage, a decked car park, street furniture and traffic management solutions. As we head towards our move to Oran Park in 2016, I am committed to ensuring we leave Camden Town Centre better than what it is today”.

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“I would like to thank both Chambers of Commerce for their submission on the budget and I look forward to consulting with them when the plans for the Camden CBD are exhibited. This is an exciting time for Camden and I am pleased to be able to deliver such a significant upgrade to help ensure Camden is a place for businesses to prosper”.

\$2.816 million has been allocated to Stage 1 of the Narellan Sporting Complex for the construction of netball courts, rugby fields and athletics track. Mount Annan Leisure Centre will undergo an expansion with just under \$8.6 million being invested into Centre.

“The budget sees a large investment into sport facilities including the Narellan Sports Hub and Mount Annan Leisure Centre. It is vital we increase the capacity of our sporting and recreation facilities to ensure existing residents are not ‘crowded out’ and that all residents have space to relax and play”.

“\$2 million has been allocated in the budget to match the State Government’s grant for the construction of the PCYC in Elderslie. It is important we utilise the State Government grant to build this youth facility and deliver a fantastic asset to the community. PCYC’s are extremely important in helping young people develop life skills and provide a safe place where there is support, guidance and encouragement”.

“Kirkham Oval is the perfect location for the PCYC with sporting facilities already onsite, accessibility via public transport and a high school opposite. The PCYC is being built in an area facing rapid growth with many families moving into Elderslie and nearby Spring Farm, as well as across the wider LGA”.

“I am also excited to announce funding for the establishment of a Business Alliance. The Alliance will aim to drive the delivery of Council’s adopted Economic Development Strategy. Attracting businesses and creating employment in the Camden LGA is something I campaigned for in the lead up to the Local Government Election so I am pleased to deliver funding for the creation of the Business Alliance. Council will soon be seeking expressions of interest for membership on the Alliance”.

Council has allocated over \$1.14 million to fund 24 new positions to build organisational capacity in order to deliver the projects identified in the budget.

“We are a growing Council and it is exciting for me as Mayor to be able to offer 24 new employment opportunities within our organisation. I am very much for local employment and Camden Council is definitely taking the lead in offering new and varying positions, which will continue as our LGA expands”.

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Detailed plans for many major community projects will be placed on public exhibition for the community over the coming months commencing with Camden CBD improvements in late July.

“I encourage the community to stay posted for detailed plans of major projects and I look forward to listening to what our community has to say about their future facilities”.

For a full list of projects adopted in the 2014/15 Operational Plan (Budget), please refer to the tables below.

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Words: 829

Delivery Program Changes	Cost	Expected Delivery	Funding
Workforce Funding			
Forward Funding Staffing & Additional Staffing	\$1,144,800	2014-15	Additional 24 staffing positions in 2014/15 (Recurrent Funding)
Operational Funding			
Camden Town Centre Studies	\$100,000	2014-15	Non-recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget
Economic Development (Including Business Alliance)	\$75,000	2014-15	Recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget
Bi-Annual Sponsorship Program	\$56,000	2014-15	Recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget
Works Depot Development - Feasibility Study	\$50,000	2014-15	Non-recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget
BEP Wetlands Study / Improvements	\$50,000	2014-15	Non-recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget
Various Studies	\$25,000	2014-15	Recurrent funding included within the 2014/15 Budget

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Delivery Program Changes (Continued)	Cost	Expected Delivery	Funding
Capital Funding			
PCYC Building Construction - Council Contribution	\$4,107,400	2014-15	Funded through Section 94 Cash Reserves and State Grant
Stage 1 - Camden Cemetery Improvements	\$600,000	2014-15	Funded through the Camden Cemetery Reserve
Annual Footpath Construction Program	\$300,000	2014-15	Funded from the 2014/15 budget surplus (Recurrent)
New Playground Sites (Location to be determined)	\$183,400	2014-15	Funded from the 2014/15 budget surplus.
Parks & Garden Depot Relocation	\$150,000	2014-15	Brought forward from the 2015/16 budget
Rosevale Reserve (Narellan) Dog Off-Leash Area	\$70,000	2014-15	Funded from the 2014/15 budget surplus
Camden Museum – Air conditioning & Storage	\$20,000	2014-15	Funded from the 2014/15 budget surplus
Bus Shelter Bin Purchases	\$20,000	2014-15	Funded from the 2014/15 budget surplus
Commence Stage 1 - Narellan Sporting Complex	\$2,816,000	2015-16	Funded through Section 94 Cash Reserves
Commence Stage 1 - Camden Town Centre Upgrade	\$1,754,000	2015-16	Asset Renewal Reserve (\$759K) and Town Centre Reserve (\$995K)
Construct Outdoor Multi-Purpose Youth Facility (Location to be determined)	\$650,000	2015-16	Funded from the 2014/15 (\$50K) and 2015/16 (\$600K) budget surplus
Mt Annan Leisure Centre Stage 2	\$8,691,600	2016-17	Funded through Section 94 Cash Reserves
Camden Carpark Construction	\$3,600,000	2016-17	Funded through Section 94 Cash Reserves

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