

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



21 May 2015

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Council is another step closer to achieving the vision for Camden set out in Camden 2040, endorsing the revised Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan (Budget) to be placed on public exhibition.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said that this is a great result and looks forward the initiatives and service improvements being achieved.

"I am proud to lead a Council that continues to demonstrate quality long term planning and responsible financial management to deliver the best outcomes for our community,"

"Additional funding has been proposed for projects and initiatives that will result in a more customer focussed and technology enabled organisation,"

"Significant improvements to the maintenance of parks and open spaces are proposed, with high impact landscaping at specific roundabouts and corner locations and more resources for community events."

"This is an exciting time for Camden with so many major projects that will be delivered over the next few years. This is a result of Council's commitment to ensuring the best services, facilities and infrastructure possible for our current and future residents." Cr Symkowiak highlighted.

The revised Delivery Program includes a number of new initiatives resulting largely from Council's ability to allocate additional funding to a range of workforce, operational and capital funding programs. As part of the 2015/2016 Budget and revised Delivery Program, Council has proposed to implement the following projects;

- An exciting \$1.5 million Outdoor Youth Space at Birriwa Reserve, Mount Annan
- An allocation of an additional \$700,000 per annum towards open space maintenance which will result in improved service standards
- 18 new high priority staffing positions
- Establishment of an in-house customer contact centre with a focus on improved customer service across the organisation

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- Over \$900,000 in capital funding for technology based solutions to assist staff efficiency and provide higher quality customer service
- Over \$1million for amenities buildings improvements
- High impact plantings at key locations such as roundabouts and corners

The revised 2013/14 – 2016/17 Delivery Program and Draft 2015/16 Operational Plan (Budget) will be on public exhibition until 10 June and available on Council's website and at Council Libraries and Customer Service Centres.

Council at its meeting also reported on the progress of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the period between July and December 2014.

Cr Symkowiak said that she was proud of the significant progress that Council has made in its implementation.

"I am proud that Council has continued to make significant progress in achieving the priorities outlined in the Delivery Program, despite facing challenges associated with managing large-scale urban population growth,"

"Council is committed to responding to the community's vision and priorities and delivering the community's long term vision for Camden as set out in Camden 2040." Cr Symkowiak said.

Some of the key achievements for period between July and December 2014 include:

- Timely assessment of Development Applications with the average assessment of 29.5 days which is well below the target on 40 days and the provision of construction certificates in a timely fashion with a 15 day average - well below the average of the 28 day target
- Adoption of the Narellan Sports Complex Strategy Master Plan and commencement of design investigations
- An increase in the percentage of waste diverted from landfill. This is currently at 78%
- Volunteer bushcare hours continue to increase and more than 2,000 people have been engaged in environmental education programs

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- Council joined the Small Business Friendly Councils program and has committed to a range of business improvement initiatives to assist the local economy to grow and prosper
- Visitation to the regional tourism website has increased and group tours to the area have grown
- Council continues to promote safe road practices and has launched the SMART Traffic Offenders Program in addition to a number of other road safety initiatives. Two Black Spot Projects were funded on Raby Road and Cut Hill Road
- Council's Family Day Care received the highest possible assessment rating under the National Quality Framework

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