



SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS
BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 28 October 2020
4pm

at

Armidale Council Chamber

Members

Viv May PSM - Interim Administrator

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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Item: 9.12 **Ref:** AINT/2020/36546
Title: Appointment of Acting Director Organisational and Corporate Services
Container: ARC20/4268
Author: John Rayner, Interim General Manager
Attachments: Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the appointment of Ms Marissa Racomelara to the position of Acting Director Organisational and Corporate Services.

Context

Section 337 of the Local Government Act states “The General Manager may appoint or dismiss senior staff only after consultation with the Council.”

Due to the sudden departure on maternity leave of the Acting Director Organisational and Corporate Services, Ms Leah Cook, the Acting General Manager consulted with the Interim Administrator on the appointment of a replacement of this Senior Officer.

On 20 October 2020 the Acting General Manager consulted with the Interim Administrator advising he was proposing to appoint Ms Marissa Racomelara to the role of Acting Director Organisational and Corporate Services until such time as the incoming General Manager determines otherwise. Ms Racomelara commenced on 22 October 2020.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to consult with the Council on the appointment of Ms Marissa Racomelara to the position of Acting Director Organisational and Corporate Services.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

Ms Racomelara has many years of Local and State Government experience and has previously held the role of Director in a large Council.

The organisation is currently rebuilding, Council’s governance is being strengthened and changes are underway to improve culture and performance. Ms Racomelara will add value to these processes.

The Interim Administrator supported the appointment after being approached on 20 October 2020.

This report confirms that consultation with the Council has occurred.

Impact

Policy

The appointment is in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

Risk

There is no known risk to Council in making the appointment.

Sustainability

The appointment has no impact on environmental sustainability however the appointment will add value to the organisation.

Financial

There is no additional financial impact.

Consultation and Communication

Consultation has occurred in accordance with the Local Government Act. The appointment has been communicated to staff through 'News Unleashed' and the Acting Director's direct reports have been advised face to face.

Item:	12.4	Ref: AINT/2020/34195
Title:	Public Library Infrastructure Grant Application	Container: ARC20/4249
Author:	Aimee Hutton, Coordinator Libraries, Museums and Visitor Information Centre	
Attachments:	Nil	

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the submission of a funding application to the State Library of NSW for Public Library Infrastructure Grant funds up to an estimated \$200,000 to be utilised for improvements to the Armidale War Memorial Library.

Context

Each year the State Library of NSW provides an opportunity for NSW councils to apply for funding to assist in the improvement of their public library infrastructure. Projects should provide public benefit and improve library services for NSW communities.

Any projects which position libraries as community hubs, increasing public space and technology, are particularly encouraged.

Purpose

The Armidale War Memorial Library is trying to respond to an increased community demand for public programming and events, as well as create more spaces within the library that can be used for relaxation, studying and socialising.

There is also a need to make the library space more inviting and engaging and create adaptable spaces which can be used for multiple purposes.

This project aligns with the Community Strategic Plan – Our People and Community Outcome 2, and achieves the Principal Activity P1.2 of the Delivery Program:

- Develop a regional 'Library Service for the Future' that incorporates arts, cultural spaces, community gathering spaces, loan resource services, technology and education services.

Proposal, Research and Analysis

In 2019, Armidale Regional Council undertook extensive community engagement to guide the preparation of a Library Strategic Plan. Throughout this engagement it was recognised that the community would like our libraries to do more public programming, and the Armidale War Memorial Library in particular needed more adaptable spaces to achieve this.

Initiatives to improve shelving, create more adaptable library spaces and the remodelling of our circulation desk have been included as Year 1 and Year 2 actions in the Library Strategic Plan. This funding will allow these initiatives to be realised.

It is proposed to apply for funding to remove the existing circulation desk which dominates a large amount of space immediately inside the library entrance. The aim is to create a 'community living room' filled with more engaging displays of library resources and adaptable furniture which can be moved or rearranged as required. This will open up a large space which can be used for library events and activities. This new area will also create an opportunity to introduce new technology such as self check stations and tablet loan stations.

A new smaller circulation desk will be purchased and located in an underutilised space immediately beside the main entrance.

Existing static timber shelving will be replaced with modern library shelving on wheels. This will allow the collection to be presented in a more dynamic and engaging way.

Some of the funding will also be used to improve the street appeal of the library, increasing visibility from Rusden Street.

Final quotes are pending, therefore the total grant figure is not yet known. Estimates indicate it will be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Up to \$200,000 can be applied for without matched funding by Council.

Impact

Improvements to the Armidale War Memorial Library will allow us to provide a higher level of service to the community and will make the library adaptable and more welcoming as a community space.

Council is not required to provide any matched funding, therefore there will be no financial impact.

Most of the works will be completed by external contractors, with minimal involvement of other Council departments such as IT for computer systems relocation and Communications for the promotion of the new spaces.

Summary

In line with our Community Strategic Plan outcome to develop a regional 'Library Service for the Future', this project aims to improve the appearance and functionality of the Armidale War Memorial Library so this service can be used by more people in more ways. It will also improve the way the community engages with the library and make the space more welcoming.