



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 28 March 2018

1pm

at

Guyra Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS

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Public Exhibition of Draft Media Policy	
Submission	Comments
#1 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01130]	<p>I have serious concerns about this Draft Media Policy.</p> <p>The policy limits the capability of our elected councillors to talk openly about issues that affect the public.</p> <p>It is an incredibly restrictive media policy designed to turn Armidale Regional Council into a corporation with crafted messaging.</p> <p>This media policy is in my opinion at odds with our democratic process and limits the possibility of a free press.</p>
#2 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01131]	<p>As a private citizen, I voted for many of the Armidale Regional Council councillors based on the values of transparency and democracy their campaigns were founded on.</p> <p>In discussions about this media policy, the term “cohesion” has come up a number of times. I feel it’s important to point out the difference between cohesion and coercive silence.</p> <p>These councillors were elected democratically to represent the views of the public; this media policy treats them as public servants.</p> <p>It is by far one of the most restrictive media policies I have seen and I have to question the reasons for it.</p> <p>The role of a councillor is not to “protect and enhance” Council’s reputation. It is to represent the views of the public who elected them, to be a channel for honest communication.</p> <p>As a private citizen I find the wording of this document deeply disturbing and completely misaligned with Australia’s democratic process.</p> <p>This media policy should encourage councillors to openly engage with the community and confidently voice the opinions they were elected for.</p> <p>The adoption of this media policy can only have the opposite effect to “enhancing” council’s reputation, instead it depicts ARC as a closed-door, private institution with a complete lack of transparency to the public it was elected to serve.</p> <p>I sincerely hope you will reconsider this direction.</p>
#3 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01134]	<p>I’m writing in relation to the draft media policy and the outrage over it.</p> <p>I’m in support of the media policy as the quality of reporting and comments made by councillors shows that neither the media nor those councillors have actually read the policy and what it pertains to in terms of councillor statements.</p> <p>Councillor O'Connor made comments in the Express in relation to councillors' comments being stifled (which as a lawyer she should know better than believe that's the case if she actually read the policy.) Councillor O'Brien also made comments on Facebook on the Express' page making it quite clear she also had not read the policy.</p> <p>In terms of making it clear I'd recommend Mayor Murray actually run through it at the council meeting at which it will be proposed (including a full reading of it because I doubt they'll read it otherwise.)</p> <p>It will also be good if he can actually put out a statement and speak to the media more effectively than what he has to actually explain that the councillors are free to make comments to the media, just as long as they aren't claiming to be a spokesperson for the council.</p> <p>Honestly, anybody who actually thinks it will take away the ability for councillors to speak to the media or disagree with council decisions opinion should be ignored as it isn't grounded in reality.</p> <p>The outrage from sitting councillors in thinking that 'being a spokesperson' and being able to speak freely are the same thing is absurd and actually raises questions in terms of the quality of people we have on council.</p> <p>I have no personal issue with either of the named councillors but they were just the two I could easily find comments from.</p> <p>The problem is if they're arguing about this now when it's quite clear they're still able to make comments as a private citizen then they're not going to be happy with anything.</p>

	As such I recommend that this policy is approved by the council.
#4 individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01129]	I believe this would restrict a free press and impinge on the rights of democratically elected councillors.
#5 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/10178]	<p>I wish to make a submission regarding Council's draft media policy, and I wish to address primarily the section entitled "Councillors", containing six dot points.</p> <p>Overall, I think that this section is draconian and heavy-handed, seeking to restrict and hinder what I consider to be not only the rights but indeed the duties of Councillors, and is thus not in the best interests of the community, which Councillors are elected to serve.</p> <p>[Policy Extract – inserted by Council for reference purposes]</p> <p><i>"Councillors</i> <i>The Councillors engage with the community through various forums including media. Councillors have the responsibility to ensure that their interaction with media (including on social media) is appropriate and compliant with this policy. This includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>making it clear they are expressing their personal opinion and not purporting to represent the position of Council or a committee of the council.</i> • <i>supporting Council's official decisions</i> • <i>supporting Councils official release of information rather than releasing information independently.</i> • <i>not disclosing information classified as confidential to the public or media.</i> • <i>not disclosing information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings to the public or media.</i> • <i>refraining from using the media to make negative personal reflections on each other, or Council staff, or Council generally that could be interpreted as such and which are reasonably likely to undermine public confidence in the Council]"</i> <p>I will address each of the six points separately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is (or should be) self-evident, and I have no problems with this. 2. Not sure what this means. Of course a Councillor has to realise (and make clear to constituents) that a Council decision becomes "law", and as such has to be abided by until or unless it is changed. However, this should not restrict the right of a Councillor to continue to be against a particular decision, and to call for and actively seek repeal or changes. (Example: Council introduces Pay for Parking. Of course it has to be abided by while it is in force, but Councillor X should be able to keep opposing it, and seek to change it.) 3. This is again seeking to curtail a Councillor's right of expressing his opinion. If a Councillor disagrees with a Council information release for whatever reason, he/she should be able to say so in no uncertain terms, bearing in mind of course that it is a personal opinion (as outlined in point 1). 4. Like point 1, this seems a given, as it is already not permitted under the Local Government Act and associated regulations. 5. This again seems like an attack on free speech. The Local Government Act clearly defines what may and may not be dealt with in private (see point 4), and unless the subject matter of any workshop or informal meeting or similar is covered by the relevant sections of the Act, I believe it would be illegal for anybody to prohibit dissemination of such information. 6. This is a very dangerous clause, and again seems designed to muzzle free speech. If a Councillor has reason to disagree with say the Mayor, or the GM, he/she should be able to articulate this. Situations may hypothetically arise, such as corruption, gross mismanagement or abuse of power, which could lead to undermining public confidence in Council, and in such a situation, it would be the duty of a Councillor to expose and/or comment on such a situation. And this dot point in particular is one where either management or the majority faction in Council could intimidate and silence any Councillors who wish to speak out on any contentious issue. For example, a current controversial issue is the proposal for traffic in the Mall. Arguably, a Councillor asking awkward questions, or having a dissenting view, could be silenced by being accused of undermining public confidence in the operations of Council. <p>In the interests of public accountability, full transparency, and the right to free speech, Council should delete all of these dot points, except for 1 and 4.</p>
#6 Individual	I would like to take the time to address the new draft media policy Armidale Regional Council is proposing.

<p>[TRIM Ref AI/2018/01447]</p>	<p>Citizens of Armidale elected a diverse group of councillors to represent their interests, and to be the voice of the community. By essentially putting a gag order on them, council is stating two things. Firstly, that council does not want to hear what the community has to say, and secondly, that they do not want the community to know what is going on behind the closed doors of the council executive. Why?</p> <p>My conclusion would immediately be the Mayor and CEO have something to hide.</p> <p>This is a very poor start to the new year for the council. Promising a lack of transparency, untrustworthy management and as a result will lead to a greater divide within an already disgruntled community.</p>
<p>#7 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01446]</p>	<p>I am horrified to learn that Armidale Regional Council's new draft media policy will prevent elected councillors (our democratic representatives) from speaking freely about policy issues. I completely agree that Council staff should be required to follow the official line when speaking to the media, but I am horrified that you are considering requiring councillors to do so - this undermines the very foundations of free speech and public debate that underpin our democracy.</p> <p>I urge you to abandon this horrifying draft, and to ensure that our democratic rights to free speech and healthy public debate are protected.</p>
<p>#8 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01445]</p>	<p>This is a submission concerning the Media Policy endorsed by Council in late November and released to the public on 1 December. Tomorrow is the final date, I understand, for submissions.</p> <p>Much of the document seems reasonable, but I have strong reservations about parts of one section, which concerns 'Councillors' on page two of the document. I paste the relevant section here and intersperse it with comments:</p> <p>"The Councillors engage with the community through various forums including media. Councillors have the responsibility to ensure that their interaction with media (including on social media) is appropriate and compliant with this policy. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making it clear they are expressing their personal opinion and not purporting to represent the position of Council or a committee of the council. [This is fine by me and standard practice.] • supporting Council's official decisions [If I read this correctly it comes straight of a handbook written by Vladimir Putin or Kim Jong-un. In a vibrant democracy like ours it is the responsibility of elected members to protest majority decisions, explain the reasons for their disagreement, and seek to have decisions reversed. But such protests should be conducted civilly. Through such action the wider community may then bring further legitimate pressure to bear on Council to reverse all manner of decisions concerning policy, strategy, investments in community facilities, finances and so on. There is an interesting addendum to this perspective. In a complex, fast-moving and uncertain economic and social environment like the one we're in, where a host of transformative technologies are massively rewriting economy and society, optimal decisions by Council are highly likely to be influenced and indeed determined by a mass of on-going vigorous and often dissenting debate within and between Council and the community they represent. Many leading corporations are now, as a matter of common practice welcoming internal or external dissent and disruption to drive them forward.] • supporting Councils official release of information rather than releasing information independently. [My feelings here relate to the concerns voiced in the previous section. If the accuracy or veracity of information realised by Council is in question, or indeed if vital information is missing that should be there and is being accidentally or intentionally withheld, then individual Councillors must absolutely have the power to be whistle-blowers and unmask what would amount to a form of official corruption. This blanket provision requires considerable clarification.] • not disclosing information classified as confidential to the public or media. [This runs into similar difficulties as the previous dot-point. Information can falsely classified as confidential when it's not to stifle debate and lead people – the public at large – to not question the machinations of Council. If roting of decision-making is to be avoided we need to provide both Councillors and indeed staff the ability to speak-out on issues without fear of reprisal on being side-lined.] • not disclosing information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings to the public or media. [I am more comfortable with this for reasons given above. We need Councillors and indeed staff to have access to as many ideas and approaches to their task as openly as possible – to help them in framing strategies and tactics in both big-picture and more focused situations.] • refraining from using the media to make negative personal reflections on each other, or Council staff, or Council generally that could be interpreted as such and which are reasonably likely to undermine public confidence in the Council." [I agree strongly with the need to keep conversations civil, with perhaps one exception: unmasking deception and other malfeasance. However, in doing so one would certainly need robust evidence for one's case.]

	<p>In short the Media Policy as it currently stands is much too simplistic and requires subtle reframing in many directions. As it stands the document seems to impose a straightjacket on Councillors and, perhaps too, staff. The message comes across as don't rock the boat or else! But calm seas may be a thing of the past with transformative technologies about to rewrite most assumptions about economy, society, the nature of work, and so on. And in this imminent world we need to remove many constraints on how people think and act in engaging with each other. The less we engage, the worse our decisions!</p>
<p>#9 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01443]</p>	<p>This policy is an appalling infringement on democratic accountability of elected representatives, to the people who elected them!</p> <p>It is more designed to avoid both transparency and accountability. Councillors and Local Council is still legally accountable to the people, not above the law or an independent corporation!</p> <p>How much of a neoliberal police state do you intend to become? Totalitarianism is the antithesis of western democracy, and the people will not stand for it.</p>
<p>#10 New England Greens [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01442]</p>	<p>Please accept this submission opposing the adoption of the draft Media Policy for Armidale Regional Council (ARC).</p> <p>In our view the Policy is contrary to the principles and requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1993 {LGACT}</i>, contrary to the Model Code of Conduct 2015 and contrary to the implied freedom of political communication found in the Australian Constitution.</p> <p>We note that Armidale Regional Council does not appear to currently have a media policy. We welcome the initiative to produce a written policy to provide guidance for Council staff and Councillors. However, it appears that the draft was written from a perspective which is applicable to a private corporation rather than to an elected body politic.</p> <p>The shortcomings of this draft policy are such that it is not suitable for adoption, even in an amended form, and therefore a new draft, which does not restrict freedom of speech, should be presented to Council for further consideration prior to a new public exhibition period.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Staff authority and delegation</p> <p>1. The policy designates the Mayor as the spokesperson for Council with the authority to sub- delegate to any other Councillor.</p> <p>This should be amended to require the sub-delegation to be made to the Deputy Mayor if they are available and another councillor only if the Deputy Mayor is not available. The reason for this is that the position of Deputy Mayor is to stand in for the Mayor when the Mayor is not available (see Section 231 of the LG Act). The Mayor or Deputy Mayor can then delegate to a senior member of Staff should that be appropriate.</p> <p>2. The policy designates the General Manager (GM) as the spokesperson on operational matters. This is inappropriate. The Mayor is the civic leader of the Council and principal spokesperson, it is their role to keep the community informed and provide leadership (see Section 226 LG Act). The role of the GM is to conduct day to day management according to the adopted plans and policies of Council; implement the decision of Council without undue delay and provide the Mayor and Councillors with timely information and advice to effectively discharge their function (see Section 335 LG Act).</p> <p>Therefore it is inappropriate for the GM to be a spokesperson for the Council unless delegated by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Councillors' public statements</p> <p>3. The policy aims to require Councillors to make clear they are speaking in their personal capacity and not on behalf of Council. This is not appropriate and appears to be a reverse of convention which requires a Councillor or</p>

	<p>Mayor to expressly declare they are speaking on behalf of Council rather than expressing their personal point of view. The policy should be amended accordingly.</p> <p>4. The draft policy would require Councillors to 'support' Council decisions and not release information regarding Council decisions independently of Council. There are several problems with these requirements:</p> <p>Firstly while the LG Act requires a Councillor to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body (See Section 232, LG Act) this is not equivalent to support. To the extent that the draft policy means anything greater than an accurate representation of Council decisions, the draft policy is beyond power and cannot require Councillors to conduct themselves in a more restricted fashion than the LG Act requires.</p> <p>Further in the likelihood that the word 'support' will be interpreted to mean something more than an accurate representation it should be reworded as it is otherwise misleading to the public and to Councillors.</p> <p>Secondly we note that Council is required by the LG Act to record the way each Councillor voted on planning decisions (see Section 375 of LG Act). A requirement for a Councillor to publicly support a decision they voted against, and are on the public record as voting against, would require the Councillor to engage in an act of dishonesty and potentially constitute a breach of the <i>Model Code of Conduct 2015</i>.</p> <p>Thirdly a requirement to not release information independently of Council (which we assume could reasonably include: a media release, an email to constituents, comment on social media, or providing comment to a journalist) is a restriction on the implied freedom of political communication found in the Australian Constitution.</p> <p>As Council will be aware, the principle of the implied freedom of political communication is applicable to local and State political discussion, not just Commonwealth political commentary.</p> <p>In <i>Lange v Australian Broadcasting Commission</i> [1997] HCA 25 (Lange) the court not only reaffirmed the implied freedom of political communication supported by the Constitution as an integral part of representative democracy, it also found that that freedom extended to local government:</p> <p><i>Similarly, discussion of government or politics at State or territory level and even at local government level is amenable to protection by the extended category of qualified privilege, whether or not it bears on matters at the federal level. Of course, the discussion of matters at State, Territory or local level might bear on the choice that the people have to make in federal elections or in voting to amend the Constitution, and on their evaluation of the performance of federal Ministers and their departments. The existence of national political parties operating at federal State, Territory and local government levels, the financial dependence of State, Territory and local governments on federal funding and policies, and the increasing integration of social, economic and political matters in Australia make this conclusion inevitable. 1</i></p> <p>Further Lange also established that the implied freedom did not just apply in election periods.</p> <p>While the implied freedom is not an individual right, a law which impinges on the freedom must meet the test of being suitable, a requisite and necessary in balance. 2 In our view restricting the public comments on the governance and operations of Armidale Regional Council by elected representatives is unlikely to meet the test required to overcome the implied freedom. Indeed it could be said the proposed policy is directly contrary to the implied freedom and it is hard to see how it is necessary to maintain a representative democracy.</p> <p>Consequently it is our opinion that even if Council adopted the draft Media Policy restricting public comments from Councillors any attempt to enforce the policy would fail.</p> <p>It is surprising that Council has put forward a policy as draconian as the draft considering that even the Office of Local Government acknowledges the implied freedom of speech in its <i>Councillor Handbook 2016</i>³:</p> <p><i>The requirement to uphold the policies and decisions of the council should be read in the context of the implied</i></p>
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	<p><i>freedom of political communication under the Australian Constitution. In practical terms, councillors remain free to speak about the policies and decisions of the council but they must accept and must not misrepresent them.</i></p> <p>Not disclose information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings to the public or media.</p> <p>5. The proposed requirement to not disclose information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings is contrary to the LG Act which requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notice of meetings and copies of the agenda and business papers to be made available to the public prior to a meeting (see Section 9) • Councils to ensure all meetings are open to the public (see Section 10) • There are tough limitations on when and why a meeting can be closed to the public (see Section 10A) • An opportunity for the public to address a Council which proposes to close a meeting to the public (see Section 10A (4), LG Act) • Public access to all reports or correspondence which were tabled at a meeting without notice (or without having been included in the business papers (see Section 11 LG Act) • Public exhibition of community strategic plans • Public exhibition of an annual operational plan and consideration of submissions <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation [1997] HCA 25 2. McCloy v NSW [2015] HCA 34 3. Councillor Handbook 2016, NSW Office of Local Government p.18 <p>The LG Act encourages community participation by 'active engagement' with residents.</p> <p>In view of the intention of the LG Act to establish local government which has open meetings and which is transparent and accountable, it is inconsistent to restrict Councillors providing information to the public, the majority of which is required to be publicly available by the LG Act.</p> <p>Unlike confidential information, for which the Act specifically authorises non disclosure, all other information provided in Council reports, briefings and meetings has no requirement for non-disclosure.</p> <p>Further this proposed restriction seems to ignore the important statutory role of a Councillor to <i>facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body</i> (see Section 232).</p> <p>In our view this proposal to restrict information being provided to the community (apart from properly characterized confidential information) is contrary to the purposes and principles contained in the LG Act and likely to be unenforceable in addition to being undesirable.</p> <p>Refrain from making negative comments about Council</p> <p>6. The draft policy further proposes to restrain Councillors from making any comment which could be interpreted as negative and which is likely to undermine confidence in the Council.</p> <p>As local government is part of the system of representative government identified by the High Court it is our view that is proposed requirement is also unconstitutional in that it seeks to restrict the implied freedom of political communication.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>It is our view that the draft Media Policy currently on exhibition contains proposals which attempt to restrict the freedom of political communication necessary for a healthy representative local and national democracy. It is also contrary to the purpose of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> to provide democratic local government which is accountable to the community and which makes transparent decisions.</p> <p>Therefore, we request Council withdraw the draft policy and develop a new draft which supports healthy</p>
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	community debate and democracy in accordance with the community expectations, the law and the Constitution.
#11 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01441]	<p>I write to support the draft media policy in principle, but raise concerns about some of the specific points and its corporate tone. My main concern is access to media by our councillors. A minor point: the opening 'Purpose' should include 'truthful'.</p> <p>Council represents the views of the community in formulating policy. These views are inevitably diverse. To get elected to Council, candidates set forth their position on a variety of issues and presumably it is on this basis and their reputation that they get elected. So once elected, it is important that they are allowed to continue to represent their identified positions.</p> <p>In the policy draft councillors are permitted to "express their personal opinion" which may well differ from the majority view of Council but may represent the view of a segment of the community. What does it mean, then, to 'support Council's official decisions'? Certainly we don't want councillors undermining council but shouldn't they have the right to differ even when a decision has been passed? Of course, it is important they note when their views differ from official policy but I don't want the media policy to gag councillors.</p> <p>It is more transparent and democratic simply to state that when councillors speak to media, they should be clear about the difference between their views and the policies already adopted by Council. When an issue is before the Council, Councillors ought to be able to state their preferred position to the media, while again making it clear that this is not necessarily the majority view and a decision is still pending.</p> <p>I believe the councillors should be permitted to 'disclose information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings' to the community unless there is a pressing reason why the material should be confidential and if it is, this should be made very clear to the councillors. Councillors are responsible to the community and increasingly Government at many levels is claiming confidentiality which erodes our democracy.</p> <p>I hope you will drop 'key messages'. They are mind-dumbing. Surely we want people to be coherent and consistent, but 'key messages' suggests a lack of imagination or trust. Just listen to the politicians on radio. They use 'key messages' to avoid answering questions.</p> <p>Re: media releases arising from Council meetings it is unclear what the sentence: "<i>Councillors are encouraged to share this information at the conclusion of the Council meeting</i>" means. Is this an opportunity for them to qualify the mayor's interpretation and broaden the release by the communications officer?</p>
#12 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01440]	<p>I am writing as a member of the Armidale public and a ratepayer to strongly object to this draft policy. It is a gag on council staff and, particularly, councillors (who are elected representatives of the people).</p> <p>This is undemocratic and akin to fascism.</p>
#13 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01493]	<p>I strongly object to this policy. It is an unacceptable attack on free speech. Councillors are elected representatives and therefore represent the views of their constituents. Allowing them to speak to media as "their own opinion" is likely to be unworkable.</p> <p>This is totally unreasonable, unjust and undemocratic.</p>
#14 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01503]	<p>I am concerned about the effect of the Draft Media Policy under consideration. The policy will restrict the communication of diverse views from our recently elected representatives on council. It is not in the interests of an open democracy. I want to hear the range of views on matters being discussed that affect our towns and region. It is far better that more is discussed than less; more discussion is not a slight on respect for the position of mayor but an essential part of a healthy democracy.</p> <p>Please vote to reject this policy proposal. In doing so you will not be alone, and will gain respect. The mechanism from the Office of Local Government that allows this possibility is not compulsory. The draft policy would result in the effective muting of other views of our representatives, and is counter to the goals of informed community engagement and representation. If the community do not understand where people sit and their records, we can not make informed decisions come election time.</p> <p>Other councils have opted to not impose such a filter that would only allow a "a pretty steady line of answers" from other councillors. Any such communications will only too often give a false impression of a singular line of thinking that does not represent community feelings.</p> <p>I hope that you see that the community deserves the respect of being allowed to hear a plurality of views.</p>
#15 Individual [TRIM Ref]	In light of the Draft Media Policy please take into consideration the importance of transparency and enabling open discussion between the media and the elected officials of council.

AI/2018/01509]	<p>The Draft Media Policy aims to protect council reputation and create a process based procedure in which governance can be assigned via a top down approach. This could potentially remove the trust of people in the council elect, regardless of the issues at hand. The provision of a policy signifies that there is a lack of trust and a lack of respect to the Councillors within council and this is concerning.</p> <p>Please consider an open media strategy in which could foster the communities support and understanding as opposed to a controlled process which limits freedom of speech.</p>
#16 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01510]	<p>The Draft Media Policy is strongly condemned as an appalling and outrageous attempt at silencing any dissent or even commentary from any elected Councillor or group of elected Councillors raised against any action, decision or policy of a controlling or ruling bloc of Councillors. Thus the Draft Media Policy constitutes an unacceptable attack on our basic democratic principles and freedoms which must be vigorously opposed now, through this public submission, and later in many other ways, until this outrage is defeated. To do otherwise would be to surrender to the creep of Fascism into Armidale - my home, my birthplace and that of my children. The rise of policies like this are an accepted part of the history of Germany in 1932-33. They are not accepted as having any place whatsoever in Armidale in 2018.</p> <p>Council is a democratic forum comprised of individuals elected as representative Councillors. They are not elected to always be in agreement, they are not elected to always be a unified team but they are elected to publicly state their views as elected Councillors, to engage in vigorous debate, having differing points of views and to fight long and hard for policies they believe as elected Councillors to be important for their voters and their community as a whole. That includes the ability to criticise long and loudly as a Councillor any Council action, decision or policy they see fit to before, during and after any vote in the chamber. That is a fundamental right not only for each Councillor, but for each voter the Councillor is there to do their best to represent. The Draft Media Policy, in aiming to curtail these rights of elected Councillors, constitutes a direct attack on the rights of every voter.</p> <p>As a democratic forum, Armidale Regional Council has much similarity with a Parliament in that individuals are elected and almost always a majority grouping is generally in control of decision-making. Fundamental to our democracy is the freedom of oppositional or dissenting voices to speak up publicly as recognised elected representatives - not just a private citizens who happen to coincidentally fulfil those representative roles. The Draft Media Policy is akin to a law that the Opposition Leader or any Opposition Member in the Australian Parliament could not criticise any legislation once made law by the majority vote; that the only comment on it from the Parliament could come through the Prime Minister or be precisely the same as the Prime Minister's view. We would quite rightly recognise any such situation as thoroughly undemocratic and therefore utterly incompatible with our modern Australian democracy. Likewise, the Draft Media Policy is unacceptable to our local democratic institution of Armidale Regional Council.</p> <p>The Draft Media Policy establishes the situation where those in control of Council will have great power to punish Councillors they choose to for breaching the Policy. This provides for a great abuse of power where Code of Conduct provisions, ostensibly intended to curtail corruption and excessive power, are actually used as weapons by those in control to crush Councillors perceived as being in opposition to them. For those in control will have the purview to interpret if something said publicly was precisely consistent with the Council view/policy/line or not, or if it was said by the Councillor as an elected representative or as a private citizen.</p> <p>No justification whatsoever has been provided for why Armidale now needs such a draconian, authoritarian and anti-democratic assault on our local democracy. The Draft Media Policy is the most appalling action I have ever observed from Armidale Regional Council and that really is saying something. It must be scrapped immediately before it begins to consume an enormous amount of time and energy of both the proponents of this outrage and those of us who must stand up to fight the campaign to defeat this Fascism.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this submission.</p>
#17 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01440]	<p>Please accept this submission opposing the adoption of the draft Media Policy for Armidale Regional Council (ARC).</p> <p>I am opposed to the Draft Media Policy for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local council is a democratic and political body whose members represent the diversity of the local community. • The policy seeks to restrain Councillors from keeping the public informed of Council activities and decisions. • The policy seeks to restrain democratically elected Councillors from making public comment on Councils activities and decisions. • The policy unacceptably seeks to silence healthy and democratic public debate. • The policy is in conflict with the Local Government Act 1993 by seeking to reduce transparency and accountability of the Council • The policy is contrary to the Australian Constitution • The policy authorises the General Manager as a spokesperson for the Council when it is appropriate that an

	<p>elected representative of the residents of the Armidale Region speaks on behalf of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy is so compromised it should be scrapped and a new policy which is respectful of the local community complies with the law and is not unconstitutional, placed on public exhibition. This policy can be seen as an attack on the fundamental rights that ALL elected officials have under the provisions of living in a democracy where ALL voices are to be heard and considered. One the face value this policy may be drafted for good purposes BUT has the ability to turn the council into a dictatorship under the control of the General Manager, and if this was to happen due to the wording of the policy the other elected officials would not be legally allowed to speak out against it being so. <p>Due to the above reasons provided, this proposal should be scrapped on behalf of democracy.</p>
<p>#18 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01513]</p>	<p>Please accept this submission opposing the adoption of the draft Media Policy for Armidale Regional Council (ARC).</p> <p>I am opposed to the Draft Media Policy for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local council is a democratic and political body whose members should represent and reflect the diversity of the local community. The policy will restrain individual members of Council from informing the public of Council activities and decisions. The policy will restrain democratically elected Councillors from making public comment on Councils activities and decisions. The policy unacceptably seeks to silence healthy and democratic public debate. The policy is in conflict with the Local Government Act 1993 by seeking to reduce transparency and accountability of the Council The policy is contrary to the Australian Constitution The policy authorises the General Manager as a spokesperson for the Council when it is appropriate that an elected representative of the residents of the Armidale Region speaks on behalf of the Council. The policy is so compromised it should be scrapped and a new policy which is respectful of the local community complies with the law and is not unconstitutional, placed on public exhibition. This policy can be seen as an attack on the fundamental rights that ALL elected officials have under the provisions of living in a democracy where ALL voices are to be heard and considered. This policy, under the exclusive control of the General Manager, threatens to silence democratic decisions and communication with local residents. This policy will undoubtedly restrict all aspects of good and equitable governance. <p>Due to the above reasons, this proposal should be scrapped immediately.</p>
<p>#19 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01529]</p>	<p>I am writing to convey my dismay and concern at the proposed media policy.</p> <p>I am a 23 year old student and thoroughly understand the form and function of media outlets (including social media). I also understand the concept of democracy (the foundation of Australian government) and what the function of our ELECTED officials (councillors) should be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firstly, the phrase most associated with “democracy” is “for the people, by the people”. The proposed media policy effectively silences the Elected councillors, leaving the dispersal of information and media to the organisation’s staff (“official Spokesperson”), leaving said information open to manipulation by the spokesperson/staff. The dispersal of information should be determined in consultation with all members of the Elected council in conjunction with the Communications Officer and CEO, this way transparency is maintained and not hamstrung by those seeking to spread propaganda amongst the community. Secondly, in the section pertaining to “Reputation and Risk” it states that “media enquiries will be addressed by the staff member delegated...” such enquiries should be addressed by a delegated Elected councillor (who should be appropriately briefed by staff and prepared before-hand) as the media representative will be publishing content that is directly consumed by the community who voted for and elected them. <p>In conclusion the staff shouldn’t be dictating what the Elected councillors publish to the community! The staff need to be working in conjunction with the Elected councillors on media dispersal and releases in order to maintain transparency when communicating with their public.</p>
<p>#20 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01550]</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the issue of the Media Policy.</p> <p>I am opposed to the draft Media Policy for the following reasons:</p> <p>The draft policy states: “The Mayor is the official spokesperson for the Council on Council affairs The CEO is the official spokesperson on operational matters.”</p>

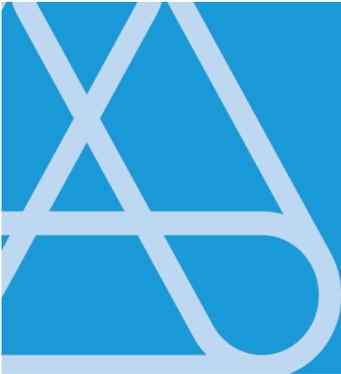
	<p>This has the effect of closing down the voices of other Council members, and in so doing eliminates the chance of healthy open debate on council issues. It undermines Council representatives and robs Armidale and regional residents of insights into Council decisions.</p> <p>The draft allows for Council members to express “personal opinion and not purporting to represent the position of Council.”</p> <p>This is disingenuous, as a clear distinction cannot be made between the two; again closing down the voices of Council members.</p> <p>The majority of new Council members acknowledged in their campaigns the residents’ desire to see a open, transparent Council.</p> <p>This media policy is not the answer.</p>
<p>#21 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01551]</p>	<p>I write to support the draft media policy in principle, but raise concerns about some of the specific points and its corporate tone. My main concern is access to media by our councillors. A minor point: the opening 'Purpose' should include 'truthful'.</p> <p>Council represents the views of the community in formulating policy. These views are inevitably diverse. To get elected to Council, candidates set forth their position on a variety of issues and presumably it is on this basis and their reputation that they get elected. So once elected, it is important that they are allowed to continue to represent their identified positions.</p> <p>In the policy draft councillors are permitted to "express their personal opinion" which may well differ from the majority view of Council but may represent the view of a segment of the community. What does it mean, then, to support Council's official decisions'? Certainly we don't want councillors undermining council but shouldn't they have the right to differ even when a decision has been passed? Of course, it is important they note when their views differ from official policy but I don't want the media policy to gag councillors.</p> <p>It is more transparent and democratic simply to state that when councillors speak to media, they should be clear about the difference between their views and the policies already adopted by Council. When an issue is before the Council, Councillors ought to be able to state their preferred position to the media, while again making it clear that this is not necessarily the majority view and a decision is still pending.</p> <p>I believe the councillors should be permitted to 'disclose information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings' to the community unless there is a pressing reason why the material should be confidential and if it is, this should be made very clear to the councillors. Councillors are responsible to the community and increasingly Government at many levels is claiming confidentiality which erodes our democracy.</p> <p>I hope you will drop 'key messages'. They are mind-dumbing. Surely we want people to be coherent and consistent, but key messages' suggests a lack of imagination or trust. Just listen to the politicians on radio. They use 'key messages' to avoid answering questions.</p> <p>Re: media releases arising from Council meetings it is unclear what the sentence'. "Councillors are encouraged to share this information at the conclusion of the Council meeting" means. Is this an opportunity for them to qualify the mayor's interpretation and broaden the release by the communications officer?</p>
<p>#22 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01552]</p>	<p>I have read with interest the Draft Media Policy, and fully appreciate the need for Council to have policies and guidelines so that only designated Council staff can speak on behalf of Council.</p> <p>However, Councillors have been elected by the whole community to find things out, consider complex matters, and make decisions on our behalf. Clearly when they speak as Councillors they need to acknowledge official Council policies and decisions as such, but also should be free to have and give opinions about Council matters provided they don't infringe specific confidentiality or privacy obligations, or local government laws or regulations.</p> <p>The 'tone' of the draft policy seems to me corporate rather than community focussed. The four opening lines set that tone, with the Purpose being "an effective working relationship with the media" rather than transparency and open communication with the public.</p> <p>Surely the purpose of a 'media policy' is not to make the Council look like an organisation with a product that has to be marketed, but an organisation that is an important part of our democracy run by representatives of the people to deliver services to the community.</p>

	<p>Accordingly, I think that the draft media policy should be revised to make its purpose to be communication with the public, and a clear distinction made between the roles of staff and Councillors in relation to media. Of particular concern is the 5th dot point under 'Councillors': "not disclosing information provided during briefings, workshops or meetings to the public or media."</p> <p>I have read the equivalent policy for Coffs Harbour Council, and believe it strikes a balance between the need for guidelines when dealing with the media, and the operations of an arm of government in a democracy.</p> <p>I have attached the Purpose and Policy sections of the Coffs Harbour Council Media Policy below, for information.</p> <p>Coffs Harbour Council Media Policy (POL-075) – Adopted 24/08/2017 - Resolution No: 2017/181</p> <p>1 Purpose</p> <p>Communicating with the media is an important part of achieving council's broader objectives and commitment to transparency and open, honest communication with the public. Media coverage is a key driver of organisational reputation - hence the need for a positive framework for interaction and engagement.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities of Council workers with regard to engaging with the media.</p> <p>2 Policy</p> <p>2.1 Council Workers (not including Councillors)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council will openly discuss matters of interest with the media unless disclosure of certain information contravenes Council's obligations of confidentiality or privacy, duty of care, or could infringe other laws or regulations that govern its operations. 2. The Mayor and the General Manager are the official spokespeople on council affairs, as per the NSW Local Government Act (1993). 3. All media enquiries received by workers without media delegation should be directed in the first instance to Council's Senior Communication Officer. 4. Media enquiries received by workers with media delegation are to be dealt with promptly by that worker or directed to Council's Senior Communication Officer. 5. Only the General Manager, Mayor, Directors, Communication Officers and workers with the relevant media delegation have permission to speak to the media. 6. Council workers with a professional expertise, but without delegated authority, are allowed to speak to the media on a specific subject within their field - on specified occasions - with the permission of the General Manager and in consultation with Council's Senior Communication Officer. 7. No contractor employed by Council is allowed to speak to the media regarding Council business without the express permission of the General Manager. 8. Council workers have an obligation to support Council decisions and shall not use the media to damage Council's reputation, undermine public confidence in the Council or local government generally. 9. As members of the community, council workers are entitled to offer their personal views on matters which are the subject of community engagement, bearing in mind the point above. Workers who are uncertain in this matter should seek the guidance from Council's Senior Communication Officer. 10. Council workers must not make political or controversial statements in or to the media relating to Council affairs, decisions and/or events, or about council officials that are likely to generate negative publicity and damage the reputation of Council. 11. Council's Senior Communication Officer is responsible for coordinating and distributing media releases, articles, columns, statements, newsletters and other media material on behalf of the Mayor and Council. 12. The Media Policy and Social Media Policy also apply in emergency and public alert situations. <p>2.2 Councillors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillors may openly discuss matters of interest with the media unless disclosure of certain information contravenes Council's obligations of confidentiality or privacy, duty of care, or could infringe other laws or regulations that govern its operations. 1. The Mayor and the General Manager are the official spokespeople on Council affairs, as per the NSW Local Government Act (1993). 2. Councillors have an obligation to support Council decisions and shall not use the media to damage Council's reputation, undermine public confidence in the Council or local government generally. 3. As members of the community, Councillors are entitled to offer their personal views on matters which are the subject of community engagement, always bearing in mind how that may be perceived given their substantive role with Council. Councillors who are uncertain in this matter should seek guidance from the General Manager or Directors.
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<p>#23 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01576]</p>	<p>I am writing to you to express my extreme concern at the Draft Media Policy for the Armidale Regional Council.</p> <p>My concerns are based on several fundamental principles for living in a free and democratic society which are violated by the proposal distributed.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Armidale Regional Council arose through amalgamation forced by the New South Wales Government, without the population of the affected councils having any effective say. The fact that several former councils successfully challenged their forced amalgamations in court undermines the legitimacy in law of the structure of the current council.</p> <p>Leaving aside the question of the legality of the forced merger, it was a blow to democracy.</p> <p>The amalgamation, while representing a radical restructuring of local governance and administration, was not put to the vote, as would be mandatory in any democratic process. Quite the opposite, the Council elections due at the time were simply cancelled, another violation of democratic principles.</p> <p>The natural procedure for the newly formed Armidale Regional Council would have been to merge the councils, keeping all councillors to form a joint council to negotiate and lead the transition, comprising the 16 elected councillors (10 from Armidale-Dumaresq and 6 from Guyra) with established connections to those they represent, experience and knowledge of local conditions, problems and difficulties in their own shires and with the neighbouring shires. Instead an external administrator was appointed with a nominal, unelected and powerless "advisory committee", the composition of which was altered the moment there was danger of the "wrong" advice's being offered, making radical decisions on divisive and controversial matters.</p> <p>A new council structure was imposed without the electorate having any effective say in the matter, another radical departure from democratic procedure. The number of representatives for a geographically and demographically significantly enlarged, with different economic, transport and industrial structure, with more divergent view and interests was reduced from 16 to 11, a further attack on democratic structure and procedure.</p> <p>Moreover, the newly elected council has been burdened with the consequences of unpopular and questionable decisions unilaterally imposed by the interim administration, making its already difficult task even harder.</p> <p>The merger has increased the total population to about 30,000, yet it is the home, in Armidale itself to a University, a TAFE college, several research institutes six high schools, more than ten primary schools. Add to these the various other schools and TAFE facilities in the Council area, and it is an astonishingly high concentration. Education, training, scientific and technical services provide over 3,300 jobs, which is probably the highest proportion of any region in Australia. The next biggest numbers of employees are in health and social services, with over 1,800 (positions. Arts and recreational positions provide nearly twice as many jobs as mining (cf. http://economy.id.com.au/armidale/Employment-census).</p> <p>The region is also strongly agricultural, and the services, including retail trade to support these activities also make indispensable contribution to the welfare, fabric, viability and attractiveness of the region.</p> <p>However this diversity leads to frequent divergence of opinion, disagreement on priorities and best suited policies, often characterised in the region around the City of Armidale as "town vs gown".</p> <p>In addition to being a source of division, the strong presence of educational and research institutes means the presence of a large number of professionally critical people, are versed and professionally experienced in analysing difficult problems, not just of immediate personal concern, but also of a more inclusive, social nature, where intermediate and long-term thinking and planning are the order of the day. Consequently, there is a high proportion of critical voices and strongly held views, based not on personal advantage, but on more principled grounds.</p> <p>The dominant position of educational, research and health has also led to a heterogeneous population, with a large number of different nationalities, ethnicities, languages, religions as well as a strong atheist/agnostic presence, unparalleled in Australian rural cities, enhancing the richness of life here, but also adding to the diversity of needs and interests.</p> <p>The Armidale Regional Councillors task is to fairly and accurately reflect those who elected them, give voice to their views, needs and aspirations. The task of the Council is to synthesise policies and actions to best accommodate these, fostering a harmony and mutual respect in the community. This is no mean task, one which is inconceivable without frank and robust debate, with complete transparency and mutual respect even when in strong disagreement. It means that the power must rest with the Councillors, and administrative staff should be restricted to advising and executing</p>
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	<p>policies and decisions, with no power to make such decisions. Their actions must be fully transparent and they must be fully accountable to the Councillors and the electorate.</p> <p>Submission on the Draft Media Policy</p> <p>As I understand it, the effect of Draft Media Policy if adopted, would effectively to prevent individual councillors from commenting to/through the media and from making public statements on Armidale Regional Council matters that do not conform with statements made by the Mayor and/or the Chief Executive Officer, or, otherwise must first seek their approval.</p> <p>I urge you to reject without hesitation such an odious and despicable proposal.</p> <p>The proposal completely undermines the councillors' ability to fulfil their prime duties and to discharge their principal responsibilities, namely to represent and voice the views of those they represent. From time to time, this means speaking out critically of Council decisions. This is natural, normal and established practice - a minority reports by members of a committee in sufficient disagreement of the majority is normal practice.</p> <p>The Mayor represents, is bound by and answers to the Council. The CEO is an employee of the Council answering to the Council and whose duty is to carry out the instructions of Council, advise when requested, and advise when decisions are in potential conflict with current laws. The Draft Media Policy reverses the roles of Mayor and Chief Executive Officer on the one hand, and the Councillors on the other.</p> <p>The draconian content is completely unwarranted. There is more than adequate legal protection currently available for breaches of confidentiality, for slander, libel and for incitement. Moreover, the electorate has, in the past, punished those who have been in sufficient breach of discretion about council matters.</p> <p>Thus is represents a serious assault on democratic procedure.</p> <p>Finally, the Draft Media Policy, if adopted, would severely restrict transparency and limit the opportunity for informed debate in the population.</p> <p>2018 is the centenary of the end of the First World War. We are taught at school that it marked the forging of our nation and alliance with neighbouring New Zealand, with large individual and national sacrifice fighting for democracy. This tradition is what justified our participation in World War II, the Korean War and in Viet-Nam. More recently, we have been party to the invasions of Afghanistan, Iraq, etc. with the expressly stated purpose of introducing transparent democratic government accountable to the people. The Draft Media Proposal is incompatible with these highly cherished ideals.</p> <p>I urge you to vote against this Draft Media Policy.</p> <p>I would be pleased to discuss with you any aspects or matters arising from this letter of concern.</p>
<p>#24 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/01804]</p>	<p>I am rather concerned about the Council's proposed Media Policy, particularly as it relates to the freedom of councillors to comment on Council matters.</p> <p>In the draft policy it states that:</p> <p><i>Council will actively engage with media to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>protect and enhance Council's reputation.</i> • <i>promote the projects and services of Council.</i> • <i>inform the community about projects, policies and activities.</i> • <i>engage the community on key decisions Council might be making</i> <p>Given the recent lack of transparency and community consultation over the application to the Stronger Country Communities Fund (e.g. the hard-to-accept statement from the executive that <i>Council Executives found themselves in an extraordinary situation in which the usual community consultation and engagement practices could not be performed</i>), it is of concern that now that we have returned to a democratically-elected Council, councillors will not have the freedom to express their concerns about important issues such as lack of transparency.</p> <p>A separate concern related to Council communications is that certain members of the community appear to be privy to Council decisions before they are made public. It is not obvious that such communication would be stopped by preventing councillors from speaking out, and apparent leaking of privileged information is anyway a significant issue of governance and transparency.</p> <p>A new, democratically-elected and open Council is an important step and opportunity in renewing confidence and optimism in our Community, and the Councillors have an important role to play in engagement with the community,</p>

	<p>as part of their role as the "Board" of the Armidale community body corporate.</p> <p>I hope you can give consideration to these concerns.</p>
<p>#25 Individual [TRIM Ref AO/2018/01739]</p>	<p>My comments relate to the section headed COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Local government is our third tier of government and as such those democratically elected to represent the community should be free to communicate to the people items which are before the council for debate and discussion. I would expect that when councillors do make a statement it would be their opinion and I have the right to know their opinion. Not all councillors will agree all of the time and I want to know which councillors agree and disagree on issues being debated. Otherwise how will members of the community know what each individual stands for and whether or not to re-elect in the future.</p> <p>On the final point in the draft policy, 'refraining from using the media to make negative personal reflections on each other or council staff'</p> <p>I would think that this behaviour is covered in a general code of conduct already, 'or council generally'</p> <p>I expect councillors to be able to make a negative comment about council if necessary(Perhaps this would be a more appropriate requirement for Council employees but NOT democratically elected representatives in our third tier of government)</p> <p>Most of the currently elected councillors were elected on a platform of transparency and they should be allowed to be the conduit between the council body and the community.</p> <p>Furthermore I could understand why an organisation such as a political party might want the members to 'tow the party line' but the council body is not a political party. In this particular instance too, 9 of the 11 councillors are independents.</p> <p>Everyday on state and federal politics we hear members of parliament express their dissatisfaction with a particular issue being debated or other members of parliament. This too should apply in local government - the third tier of our democratic government in Australia.</p>
<p>#26 Individual [TRIM Ref AI/2018/06358]</p>	<p>I make the following submission in relation to the draft media policy currently under submission by Armidale Regional Council.</p> <p>Limiting the rights of Councillors to speak to the public about Council business, with the specific exception of commercial-in-confidence matters, undermines the principle of democratic representation.</p> <p>I understand the desire of Council, and some Councillors, to represent a consistent and cohesive image of Council and its operations, including promotion of its activities.</p> <p>However, that approach is more suited to a business where authority is vested for a single purpose.</p> <p>Council is different. It is our Council, elected by us, and we are entitled to hear the opinions of our elected representatives. That helps to inform us of the operations and decisions made by Council on our behalf, and it also helps to inform us of how well those elected representatives are performing in relation to the platform they stood on.</p> <p>Please do not adopt this policy. All Councillors should be trained and have the capacity to speak out. Once a decision has been made, then Councillors should act as a cohesive whole. Those Councillors that do a poor job can be voted out.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this submission. I understand that my name may be made public. I ask that my address be withheld, beyond the verification that I am an enrolled citizen within the Armidale Regional Council area. I also ask that my email address not be made public.</p>



Media Policy

Purpose

The Media Policy aims to ensure communication by Council with the media is consistent, well informed, timely and appropriate. The Policy establishes a framework for an effective working relationship with the media, including the identification of council's authorised spokespersons and the responsibilities of Council officials, including the Councillors.

Scope

This policy applies to communications between Council officials and the media, including social media.

Legislative Context

This policy is intended to be read and applied consistently with the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, the Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, and their conduct obligations under the Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

This policy is intended to be read and applied consistently with the implied right of freedom of political expression under the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, as interpreted by the High Court of Australia.

Policy Statement

Council is committed to connecting with the community using a wide range of traditional and contemporary mediums. Media is a key influencer of Council's reputation, it is therefore important that Council has an established framework for interaction with the media.

Council will proactively pursue media opportunities to connect in a genuine way with both the community and a broader audience.

Council will embrace the opportunities presented by the media and actively pursue media exposure. Media organisations and their representatives will be treated equally and without bias. All media enquiries coming into the organisation will be managed through Council's Communications Unit.

Council will actively engage with media to:

- promote the projects and services of Council.
- inform the community about projects, policies and activities.
- engage the community on key decisions Council might be making.
- provide essential updates to the community during a crisis or emergency.
- promote the local government area to visitors.

- protect and enhance Council's reputation.

Staff authority and delegation

The CEO is the official spokesperson on operational matters. The CEO may delegate other Council staff to speak on his/her behalf where appropriate.

Staff as private citizens are entitled to enter into public debate and make comment on civic affairs provided they do not give the impression they are speaking in their official position or on behalf of Council. Staff must also ensure that any comments to the media are not in breach of the Code of Conduct.

Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor is the principal spokesperson of the governing body on the affairs of the council. The Mayor has the discretion to delegate this role to other Councillors, for example, when the Mayor isn't available or where another Councillor is best placed to comment, because the issue is of particular interest to them or is within their particular area of expertise.

The Mayor can also authorise a Committee Chairperson to speak on issues concerning the deliberations and decisions made by that Committee.

The roles of Councillors include representing the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community, and facilitating communication between the local community and the governing body. In so doing, they engage with the community through various forums including media, where they make political or other comments about Council affairs.

When engaging with the media, Councillors should:

- allow the Mayor and the CEO to perform their principal spokesperson roles on Council affairs;
- make it clear they are expressing their personal, political or other opinions about Council affairs and are not purporting to be the official or principal spokesperson of the Council;
- uphold and accurately represent the policies and decisions of Council (S232(f));
- not release to the public or the media, without lawful authority, any Council information that is not already in the public domain, including but not limited to any information obtained during briefings, workshops or meetings that are not open to the public;
- not disclose to the public or the media, without lawful authority, any information that is in breach of copyright, or is classified by the Council as confidential, or is acquired by the Council on a confidential basis, or is inherently confidential in nature;
- not disclose to the public or the media any information in breach of any law;
- refrain from using the media to make negative personal reflections on each other, or Council staff, or Council generally that could be interpreted as such and which are reasonably likely to bring individuals or the Council into disrepute and undermine public confidence in the Council.

Reputation and risk

Council will openly discuss matters of interest with media unless disclosure of information contravenes Council's obligations of confidentiality or privacy, duty of care, or could infringe on other laws or regulations that govern its operations.

To ensure consistency of communication with media, key messages will be developed and used. Council acknowledges that not all media coverage will reflect positively on the organisation however it will seek to ensure that any media coverage of matters is balanced. Whilst it is not always appropriate or timely for Council to make comment on specific issues, Council will endeavour to provide a response to media enquiries.

Media enquiries and request for interviews should be directed to council's Program Leader – Media, Communications and Engagement.

Staff delegated to speak to the media and the process for escalation of issues will be identified in communications plans. Wherever possible, media enquiries will be addressed by the staff member with the appropriate delegation and responsibility for the matter, with escalation occurring when the matter becomes controversial, sensitive or crosses groups within the Council.

In addition, the CEO will be the spokesperson for the organisation in crisis situations, projects of a significant nature or where an individual communications plan identified the CEO as the spokesperson.

Council will collect, retain and dispose of media communication in line with Council's Records Management Policy.

Proactive engagement and transparency

Council will wherever possible proactively release information to media and make the Mayor, CEO or their approved delegate available for comment or interview in a timely manner.

It is the responsibility of all staff to identify media opportunities. The Communications Unit will foster productive relationships with the media, being respectful of media needs including deadlines. Conversely gaining media respect for the environment within which Council operates and which may limit Council's ability to fully respond to all matters.

Council meeting agendas

Media releases will be developed for matters of interest arising from the meeting and will be released following the Council meetings in consultation with the Mayor.

To ensure a central point of information dissemination, only the Communications Unit will provide real time social media updates regarding notable resolutions at Council meetings. Councillors are free to share this information at the conclusion of the Council meeting in accordance with this policy. It is acknowledged that the minutes of Council meetings remain the official record of resolutions.

Legislation and Associated Documents

- NSW Local Government Act 1993
- NSW Government Information Public Access Act 2009
- NSW Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998
- NSW State Records Act 1998
- Code of Conduct
- Complaint Management Policy
- Privacy Management Plan
- Interaction between Councillors and Staff Policy
- Records Management Policy

Definitions

“Council affairs” – includes matters before the council and other council affairs and business, policy, interpretation of policy, management of council business or staff, or other matters that may commit the council’s resources.

“Council official” – includes councillors, members of staff of council, administrators, council committee members, conduct reviewers and delegates of council.

“Media” - includes broadcast, print and online outlets including social media and freelance journalists.

Authorisation

Adopted by Council:



The General Manager
Armidale Regional Council
P.O Box 75A
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

BGUCJ

16 January 2018

Attention: Renata Davis

Dear Renata

**RE PROPOSED DEDICATION OF LAND RESERVED FOR ROAD WIDENING
AT GUYRA
Being LOT 7 DP 1204137 MALPAS STREET**

I refer to previous correspondence and telephone conversations regarding this matter.

The subject land is a narrow strip of land of 830m² located between the front boundary of privately owned lots 1,2,3 & 4 DP237379, being 27-33 Malpas Street (New England Highway) in Guyra.

The land was reserved from titles to the adjoining sites, as it was understood that it may be required for road widening purposes, however the proposed road widening has never eventuated.

The Corporation proposes to dedicate this land to Council as "Public Road". Dedication will alleviate the present position of nos. 27-33 not having frontage to a roadway.

All costs associated with the dedication will be borne by the Corporation.

We look forward to receiving Council's concurrence to the roadway dedication. Upon receipt of Council's agreement the Land and Housing Corporation will arrange for the dedication in the Government Gazette.

It would be appreciated if Council officers could expedite the approval of dedication. I can be contacted on 66592507 or at david.curry@facs.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

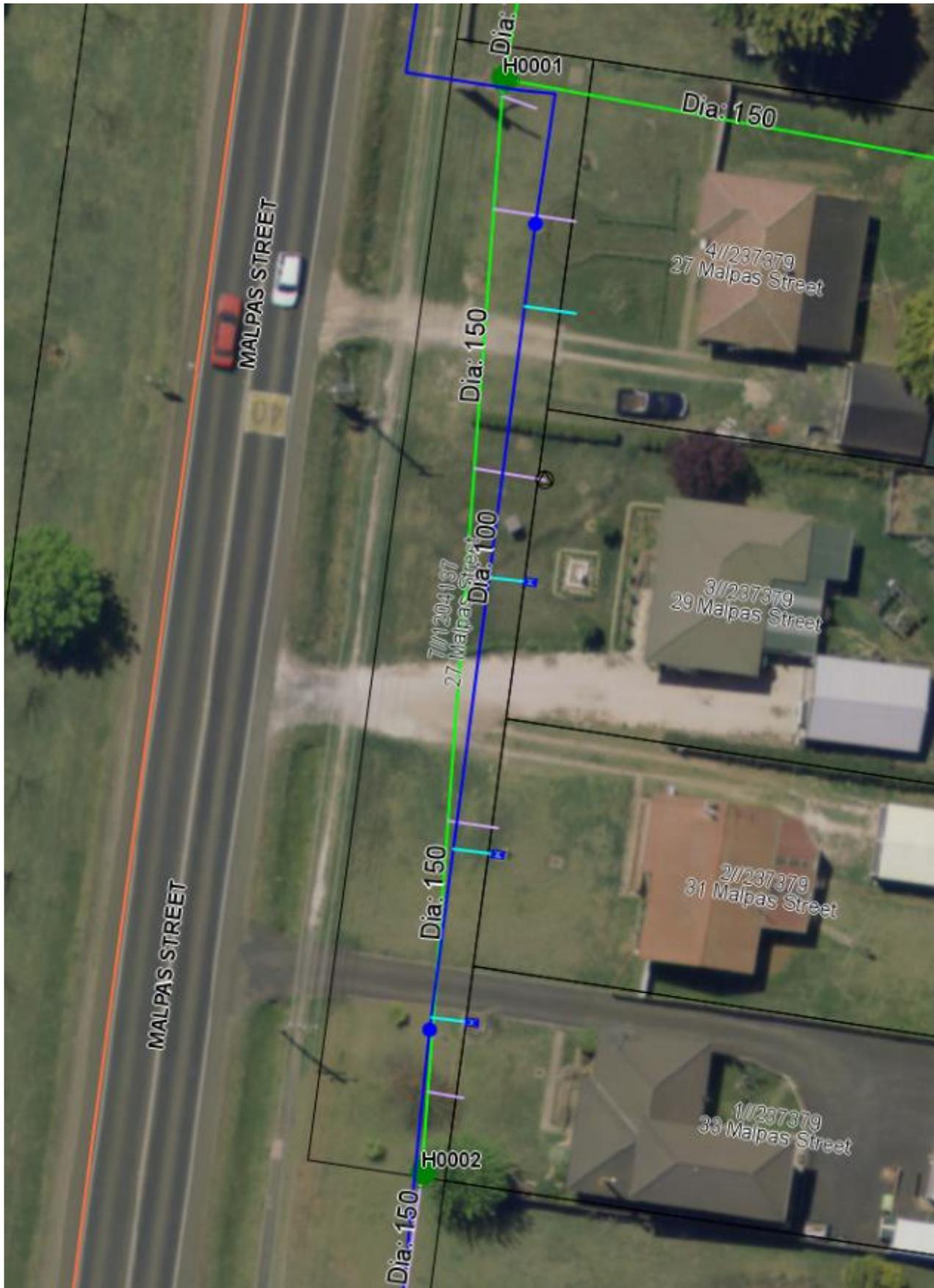


David Curry
Senior Property Officer
Commercial Transactions

16
1
18

Department of Family and Community Services, Land and Housing Corporation
Postal address .P.O Box 550, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
W www.facs.nsw.gov.au | **E** facsinfo@facs.nsw.gov.au
T (02) 6659 2507







Rowan Donnelly B.Eng.
Director
Registered Surveyor

Sean Doodson B.Surv.
Director
Registered Surveyor

Your Ref: DA-19-2009A
Our Ref: 20150109
6 December 2017

Mr John Goodall
Senior Town Planner
Armidale Regional Council
PO Box 75A
Armidale NSW 2350

**Re: DA-19-2009A, 72 Lot Low Density Residential Subdivision of
No. 241 Grafton Road, Armidale
Lot 682 in DP 871827, Lot 8 in DP 240862, Lot 70 in DP 755808 & Lot 69 in DP 755808**

Dear John,

On behalf of our client, we wish to lodge an application for review of a modification decision relating to DA-19-2009/A, pursuant to section 96AB of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*.

History

When the original development consent DA-19-2009 was approved by Council on 22 March 2010, it was resolved that an easement be created for a future shared public pathway between Tombs Road and Inces Road. The wording of the Council resolution was:

That an additional consent condition be included that an easement be provided for future construction of a shared pathway for public access from Tombs Road to Inces Road.

When the development consent was issued, condition 36B contained an additional requirement that the future shared pathway be located adjacent the alignment of Dumaresq Creek. The wording of the condition was:

36B. That the development incorporate an easement 6 metres wide for a future shared path for public access adjacent to the alignment of Dumaresq Creek, at an exact location to be determined in consultation with Council's Director of Engineering and Works or nominee, to connect Tombs Road and Inces Road.

The application for modification of the consent for DA-19-2009 submitted to Council on 25th July 2016 requested deletion of condition 36B. This matter was considered at the Ordinary

Page 1 of 5

Surveying the New England since 1955

R. Donnelly Pty Limited ATF Donnelly Bell Family Trust and
Millmaya Pty Ltd ATF S & E Doodson Family Trust
T/A New England Surveying & Engineering ABN 62 120 404 972

1 / 161 RUSDEN STREET
PO BOX 656
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

P: 02 6772 3141
M: 0429 123 735
info@nese.com.au

www.nese.com.au

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Council meeting held on 7th December 2016 where it was resolved (contrary to the staff recommendation) that condition 36B be retained, and this condition was carried forward to the amended consent DA-19-2009/A as condition 7 in the consent modified on 20 February 2017, per the condition below:

7. *The development shall incorporate an easement 6 metres wide through the northern part of proposed reconfigured Lot 3 in DP 340862 for a future shared path for public access directly adjacent to the alignment of Dumaresq Creek to connect Tombs Road and Inces Road.*

Justification

We respectfully request that Council reconsider the imposition of condition 7 of DA-19-2009/A and offer the following justification.

1. **Strategic Planning** – Armidale Regional Council maintain a comprehensive suite of planning documents including a *Local Environmental Plan (LEP)*, *Development Control Plan (DCP)*, and *Armidale Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan*. Neither the versions of these documents current at the time of original approval at 22 March 2010, nor current versions of the relevant planning documents, require public open space along this southern section of Dumaresq Creek.

The imposition of ad-hoc conditions which are not identified in strategic plans creates additional cost to development, undermines developer confidence in the planning process, and is a deterrent to new development.

Council may consider in future iterations of planning documents whether in fact it is in the best interests of the public to have pedestrian access alongside Dumaresq Creek, and could be considered in future acquisition programs following appropriate community engagement and consultation.

2. **Legal Risk** – The dedication of land for a community purpose is not considered to be a justifiable condition of consent except where it is the subject of a Voluntary Planning Agreement, gifting by the developer, or part of an adopted Council contributions plan or strategy (such as an LEP or DCP). The land owner is not amenable to the creation of public access over their private lands (without satisfactory compensation).
3. **Questionable Public Benefit** – Armidale is already endowed with significant lengths of footpath and cycleway, and the low-density subdivision development consent requires the construction of an approximate 2.5 kilometre length of new shared pedestrian and cycle path including:

Condition 34:

- A 2.5m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path from the subdivision entry to Grafton Street, along the western side of Tombs Road;
- A 2.5m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path along the northern side of Grafton Road, west to Lara Avenue.

Condition 35:

- A 1.2m wide bitumen pedestrian path along the full frontage of Lots 1, 4 to 9, 69 and 36.

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Condition 51:

- A 1.2m wide bitumen pedestrian path along the full frontage of Lots 20 to 35 inclusive.

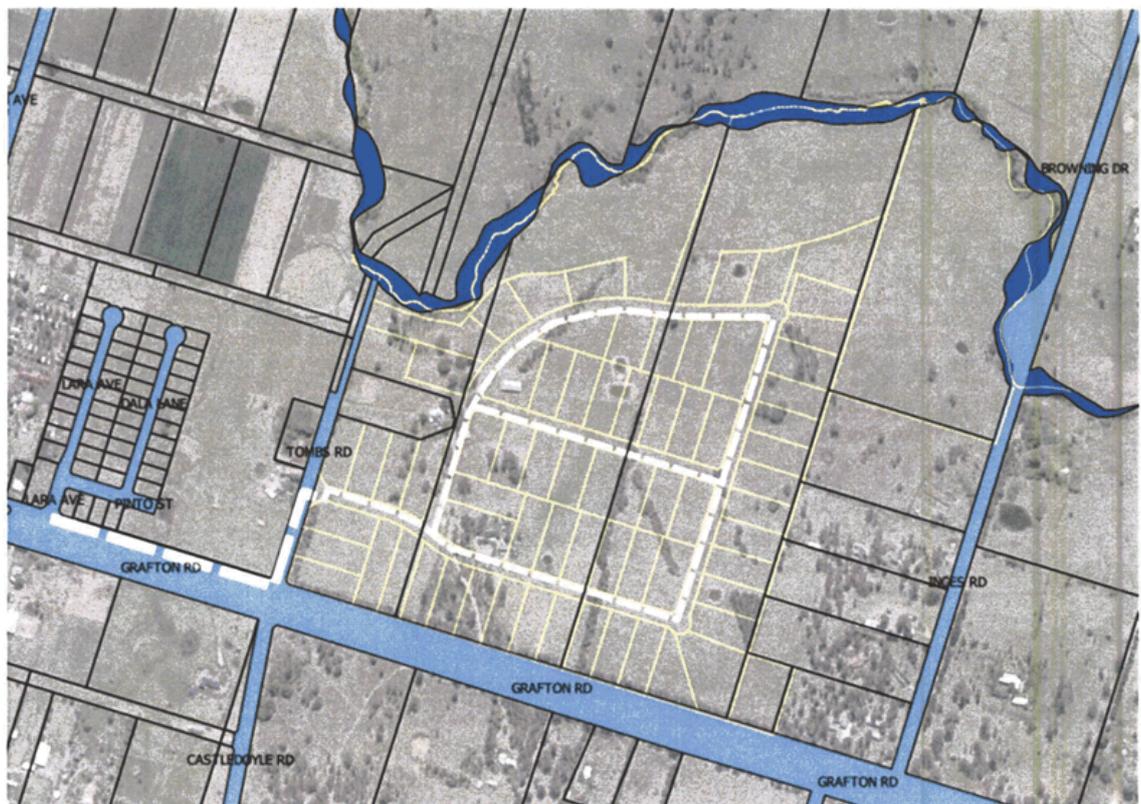
Condition 55:

- A 1.2m wide bitumen pedestrian path along the full frontage of Lots 45 to 52 inclusive.

Condition 58:

- A 1.2m wide bitumen pedestrian path along the full frontage of Lots 10 to 19 inclusive.

The extent of proposed new shared pedestrian and cycle path, and pedestrian path, is shown by white dashed lines in the diagram below, and is expected to provide tangible benefit to any pedestrian traffic generated by the low-density subdivision:



However, a new easement for public access along the southern side of Dumaresq Creek linking Tombs Road and Inces Road:

- would not link to the public footpath network;
- would not provide the shortest route between any population centre and pedestrian generating development or service area, and demand for passive recreational pursuits is considered to be low;
- would require pedestrians to walk along busy roadways such as Waterfall Way to complete any walking circuit, with consequent safety implications. This section of Waterfall Way has traffic of approximately 2,000 vehicles per day, and no formed off-street footpaths.

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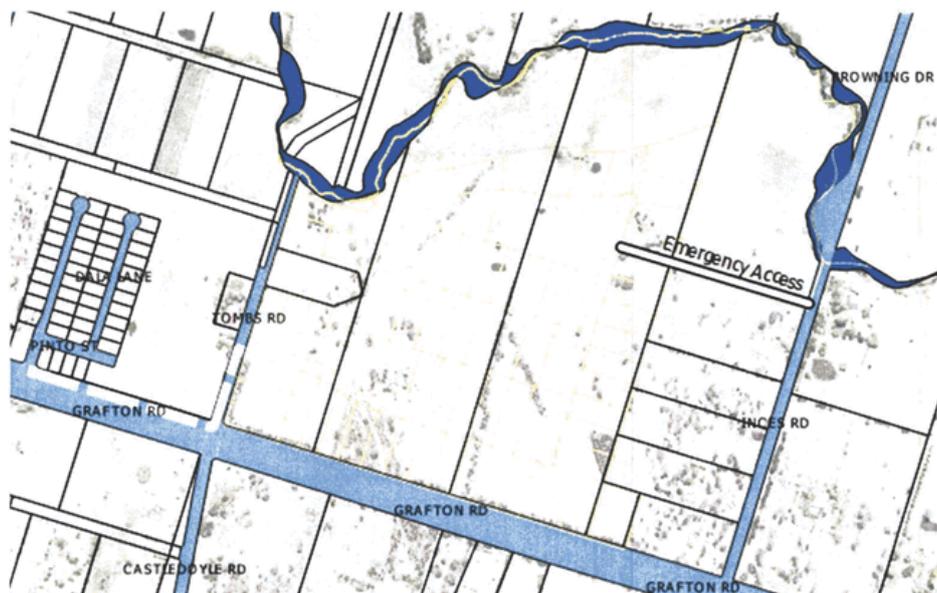
4. **Asset Management** – the provision of an easement for public access to a six (6) metre wide strip of land adjacent Dumaresq Creek would burden Council with high maintenance land having poor usability and questionable public benefit. There would be significant cost to Council in constructing a smooth footpath along the approximate 1.5km length of uneven surface adjacent the creek, and to avoid land use conflict it is likely that a fence would be required at additional cost. Such pathway is not identified in Council's capital works programme and so any future public benefit may not be realised for many years, if at all. Ongoing maintenance costs would also be significant in activities such as mowing and tree control, weed control, litter collection, signage, and removal of debris and restoration of surfaces and fences after flood events.

The business paper for Council's Ordinary Council meeting held on 7 December 2016 noted that Council's Civic and Recreational Services staff indicated that additional public land in this location is not desired due to the existing amount of open space controlled by Council and associated maintenance costs.

5. **Maintenance of Access Rights to Inland Waters** – Even without a new easement adjoining Dumaresq Creek, public will still have access to the subject length of Dumaresq Creek from the public road reservations off Tombs Road and Inces Road, consistent with public access entitlements to other inland waters in NSW. Section 38 of the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994* permits fishing in inland waters where the person is in a boat or on the bed of the river or creek (including any part of the river or creek which is alternately covered and left bare with an increase or decrease in the water level, other than during floods).

Alternative Offer for Public Pedestrian Linkage between Tombs Road and Inces Road

Instead of a public easement adjacent Dumaresq Creek, we offer instead an alternative solution which will provide a pedestrian and cycle link through from Tombs Road to Inces Road. Condition 48 of development consent requires that an emergency vehicle access four (4) metres wide is constructed between the internal subdivision road and Inces Road (as shown on the diagram below), and that this access is maintained by the owner.



Page 4 of 5

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If this emergency access is accessible to the public, then there will be a pedestrian and cycle linkage to the new subdivision network, which will not require Council funding for the capital cost nor for any ongoing access maintenance. While the developer prefers no public access through private lands to Inces Road, this alternative will provide similar community benefit to the

To progress Council's review of the modified determination, please find enclosed a Development Application & Associated Activities form, duly completed.

Would you please forward Council's fee advice for this application at your earliest convenience so that prompt payment can be arranged.

Kindly contact our office if you have any queries or if you require any further information or clarification in relation to this submission.

Yours faithfully,
New England Surveying & Engineering
per:



Rowan Donnelly

President: Max Tavener
Secretary: Kay Pell
Tel: 02 6771 1852



Email: rsl25pensions@bigpond.com
Address: P.O. Box 109, Armidale NSW 2350

Armidale RSL Sub Branch

Good morning Peter,

Further to my recent discussion the other day

The finding of the Justice Bergin inquiry has among other findings resulted in our authority to fund raising has been withdrawn and will most likely be reinstated early 2019.

My concern is Anzac Day which is a community event and cost the Armidale RSL sub Branch approx \$3000 to put on.

Owing to the fact that RSL can't fund raise or seek financial assistance direct, I'm seeking assistance from the Regional Council to hire and pay the cost of 500 chairs, 2 trestle tables and a red carpet for the stage and to be delivered and setup at the Memorial Fountain from 7am and picked up at midday.

Armidale RSL sub Branch will pay for the hire of the sound system for the Dawn and Main Service (\$1250)

Yours sincerely,

Max Tavener
0408 634 806



Cosmic Copy Ltd
t/a c2c Event Hire
Unit 1, 2 Bayldon Drive,
Raleigh via Bellingen 2454
Unit 7, 225 Mann Street,
Armidale NSW 2350

A.B.N. 28 103 227 452

Ph: 02 6772 8024
Country to Coast

North Coast New England
Mob: 0429 839 309
info@c2ceventhire.com.au
www.c2ceventhire.com.au

Tax Invoice

Armidale Regional Council 135 Rusden Street, PO Box 75A Armidale NSW 2350 Australia

Invoice No.	00012157
Invoice Date:	22/03/2018
Your Ref:	5188
Terms:	Net 7

Description	Total (inc-GST)
Deliver & bump in 6.30-7am 25/4/18 500 white stacking chairs 4 x 6' trestle tables 1 Red Carpet Runner	\$1,495.00 \$56.00 \$55.00

Event Date: 25/04/2018

Salesperson: Joshua Lockhart

Delivery Address:

Central Park

Subtotal Inc. GST	\$1,606.00
Freight & Labour	\$220.00
GST component:	\$166.00
Total (inc-GST):	\$1,826.00
Paid to Date:	\$0.00
Balance Due:	\$1,826.00

*** Terms and conditions apply**
All items returned clean.
Charges will apply

NOTE: Interest will be applied to overdue accounts

How to pay

Mobile EFTPOS available on install/delivery

By mail Detach this section and mail your cheque to...

c2c Event Hire
PO Box 103
URUNGA NSW 2455

Direct Deposit Details

Acc Name: C2C Event Hire
BSB: 932000 Acc Number: 737185

Credit Card by phone

Call 02 6772 8024 to pay via Bankcard, MasterCard or VISA.

Invoice #: **00012157** Amount Due: **\$1,826.00**



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Held on

Wednesday, 28 February 2018

at

5.30pm

Present:

Cr Dorothy Robinson, Cr Diane Gray, Cr Margaret O'Connor (Observer),
Ms Navjot Bhullar, Ms Jo Leoni, Ms Mahalath Halperin, Mr Bruce Whan,
Mr David Carr, Mr Enis Ruzdis, Ms Kathy Martin, Mr Ambrose Hallman,
Ms Nathalie Heaton (minute taker)

MINUTES

1 APOLOGIES

Mrs Maria Hitchcock and Ms Robyn Bartel were recorded as apologies.

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms Navjot Bhullar declared her involvement with the Uralla Zero Net Energy Town (Z-Net) project.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

5 ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

5.1 Terms of Reference

Ref: AINT/2018/02909 (ARC16/0864)

Discussion took place in relation to the Committee's Terms of Reference. It was agreed that the membership be revised to reflect the current membership. The amendments are considered to be minor.

The following amendments were suggested:

Purpose: The Committee has responsibility as its foremost purpose, the development **and implementation** of the Armidale Regional Council Sustainability Strategy.

Chairperson: The **Council** will determine the chairperson of the Committee.

Membership: The Committee will be comprised of the following representation

Community Groups (4) – Armidale Urban Rivercare Group (1), Armidale Tree Group (1)
Sustainable Living Armidale (2)

University of New England (3) – School of Behavioural Cognitive and Social Science (2) and
Environmental Sustainability Manager (1)

Community Member (1)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minor changes to the Terms of Reference be amended as discussed.

CARRIED

5.2 Meeting Times and Schedule*Ref: AINT/2018/02652 (ARC16/0864)***RECOMMENDATION:**

That meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee be held bi monthly on the third Wednesday of the Month at 5.30pm with the exception of the December meeting:

18 April 2018 at 5.30pm

20 June 2018 at 5.30pm

15 August 2018 at 5.30pm

17 October 2018 at 5.30pm

12 December 2018 at 5.30pm

CARRIED

5.3 GreenPrint and Sustainability Strategy (ARUP)*Ref: AINT/2018/03045 (ARC17/1993)***RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That Council's GreenPrint be developed to provide an overarching approach to guide and achieve sustainability goals for council and its community.**
- (b) That information from the Armidale Regional Council Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Action Plan 2017-2027 (ARUP, 2017) be considered for inclusion in relevant parts of the GreenPrint and any associated plans and actions.**
- (c) That Committee members be invited to provide feed back on GreenPrint.**

CARRIED

ACTION: That the Arup Report and Community Strategic Plan be circulated to members.
That relevant staff members be invited to present at the Committee meetings.
That the next meeting be set as a workshop to discuss the GreenPrint priorities.

5.4 GreenPrint Presentation*Ref: AINT/2018/03079 (ARC16/0864)*

Mr Hallman presented a power point presentation on GreenPrint.

ACTION: Slides to be circulated to members.

5.5 Approach to woodsmoke abatement*Ref: AINT/2018/03584 (ARC17/2442)*

The Committee considered its position on woodsmoke abatement.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council acknowledge there is no safe level of PM2.5 pollution and notes the health and community benefits of an effective woodsmoke reduction program.
- (b) Council continues and intensifies education and publicity efforts regarding the health effects of woodsmoke.
- (c) That Council improves and extends monitoring of woodsmoke emissions by purchasing 26 'Purple Air Monitors' and calibrate the 'Purple Air Monitors' in conjunction with the NSW EPA air monitor and current 'Dust Track' Monitor .
- (d) That Council reinstates and promotes the wood heater replacement program offering at least \$1500 to replace wood heaters with approved alternatives.
- (e) That Council should prioritise investigation of all possible sources of continued funding for demonstration projects.
- (f) That Council does not permit the installation of wood heaters in the urban area of Armidale in
 - (i) any new home;
 - (ii) in any renovation or extension where a wood heater did not previously exist.
- (g) That Council streamline and enforce compliance for excessively polluting households.

CARRIED

5.6 NSW EPA wood smoke workshop*Ref: AINT/2018/03618 (ARC16/0864)***RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee note the report the NSW EPA wood smoke workshop.
- (b) That Council staff attending the workshop report back to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

6 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair asked the Committee Members whether they would accept Cr O'Connor as a Committee Member. Ms Heaton advised that a report (Notice of Motion) would have to be presented to Council in this instance as the appointment of Councillors to Committees was resolved at the November 2017 Ordinary Council meeting.

8 AGREEMENT ON ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Workshop on GreenPrint priorities.

9 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 18 April 2018

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.38pm.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference

Name

The name of the Committee is the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Council Portfolio

Sustainability and Development

Establishment

The committee is established under section 355 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 which states:

A function of a council may, subject to this Chapter, be exercised: (b) by a committee of the council

Term of the Committee

The committee will function until the next Council election in September 2020. The Council reserves the right to dissolve the committee at any time by a resolution of the Council.

Delegations

The committee has no delegations from the Council.

Financial Arrangements

Unless expressly resolved by Council the committee has no powers to commit or expend any Council funds.

Purpose

The Committee has responsibility as its foremost purpose, the development **and implementation** of the Armidale Regional Council Sustainability Strategy.

The core responsibilities of the committee are to:

- provide input to the Delivery Program Strategies (4 Year) and Operational Plan Actions (annual) aligned with the committee;
- consider the potential social, economic, environmental and financial impacts (sustainability) of the committee recommendations;
- engage the community and stakeholders on matters being considered by the committee;
- consider and advise the Council on any matter referred to the committee; and
- provide input into the strategic direction of the Armidale Regional Council.

The primary responsibilities of the committee are to:

- develop a sustainability strategy and implementation plan;
- provide advice on environmental sustainability issues such as water, air and soil quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable transport, local food, sustainable business, waste management, water management and local biodiversity management;
- provide input into Council's environmental sustainability projects;
- assist in the review and implementation of specific environmental and sustainability management plans; and

- provide advice on local aspects of regional plans and strategy as they relate to our strategic direction.

Membership

The Committee will be comprised of the following representation

Community Groups (4) – Armidale Urban Rivercare Group (1), Armidale Tree Group (1) Sustainable Living Armidale (2)

University of New England (3) – School of Behavioural Cognitive and Social Science (2) and Environmental Sustainability Manager

The Mayor may appoint other community representatives where appropriate.

The Chief Executive Officer and other Council staff may attend committee meetings, on the invitation of the Chairperson.

Chairperson

The Council will determine the chairperson of the committee or the position shall be determined by an election at the first meeting of a new term of the committee.

Executive Officer

The Executive Officer will be the Manager directly responsible for the organisational function.

The responsibilities of the Executive Officer are:

- provide executive support to the committee;
- be responsible for preparing the meeting agenda and minutes;
- be responsible for preparing a report to the council containing the minutes and, providing staff comment on the recommendations made by the committee;
- provide to the committee the outcome and resolutions of the Council regarding each recommendation

Reporting

The committee will report to the Council.

Frequency of Meetings

The committee will meet at least quarterly, with capacity for additional meetings as needed.

Meeting schedules will be determined by the Chairperson, in consultation with committee members.

Implementation Principles

- **Service:** maintain seamless service delivery to communities
- **Opportunity:** embrace opportunities to improve services and infrastructure for communities
- **Cohesion:** bring together and build on the strengths of strategies, structures, staff and systems
- **Engagement:** inform and involve communities, staff and other partners, in planning and implementing change
- **Integrity:** ensure ethical, open and accountable governance and administration

-
- **Respect:** value the knowledge and contributions of staff, communities and other partners.

Organisational Principles

- **Governance:** focus on the corporate governance processes and internal support services of council as an organisation. Governance includes the internal structures, information systems and policies that ensure an efficient and effective operation while being open and transparent to all stakeholders.
- **Infrastructure:** focus on the physical assets under council's care and management, which are necessary for the effective functioning of the community. These assets include utility and transport services, as well as public buildings and recreational facilities.
- **Services:** focus on the programs within the council aimed at our local people and communities. It is about maintaining and where possible improving people's social, cultural and economic wellbeing, through programs which contribute to making our community a healthy and prosperous one, where people enjoy a sense of belonging and security. This principle is also concerned with the care and custodianship of the physical environment of our area, and interactions with the environment beyond our boundaries.

Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct applies to the members of the committee.

Code of Meeting Practice

The Council's Code of Meeting Practice shall guide the meeting procedures of the committee.

Remuneration of Members

Members of the committee will not be remunerated for meeting attendance and no reimbursement of travel expenses will be payable, unless in special circumstances.

Media Liaison

The Mayor is the designated media spokesperson for the new Council.

Meeting Protocol

Arrangements for meetings will be as follows:

- the agenda and supporting material will be circulated at least three (3) business days prior to a meeting;
- any supporting material or papers that are confidential will be clearly marked as such and remain confidential to members;
- any general business items tabled during meetings will be short, requiring no more than five (5) minutes' presentation or discussion;
- meetings will be run in a fair and independent manner and support open and constructive dialogue;
- minutes will be circulated within seven (7) days of each meeting;
- minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Council as soon as possible after the meeting;
- and
- a quorum of members is required at all meetings and shall be 50% plus one of all voting members

Standard Agenda Items

Agendas will be determined by the Chairperson. As a minimum, agendas will include the following standard items:

- meeting open and apologies;
- confirmation of previous minutes and matters arising;
- declarations of interest;
- reports on priority actions;
- reports and advice on local views and emerging issues;
- specific items varying from meeting to meeting;
- review of relevant meeting actions or follow up requirements (action log); and
- formal close.



REGIONAL GROWTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on

Thursday, 1 March 2018
5:30 pm

at

Function Room, Armidale

PRESENT: Cr Peter Bailey (Chair), Cr Diane Gray, Mrs Aileen MacDonald, Mrs Maria Hitchcock, Mr Bruce Chick, Mr Alun Davies, Mr Anthony Fox, Mr Bob Ryan, Mr Bryn Griffiths and Mr Jock Mitchell

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Greg Lawrence and Ms Nathalie Heaton

MINUTES

Mrs MacDonald advised that she would have to leave the meeting at 6.30pm.

1. APOLOGIES

Nathan Axelsson
Peter Sniekers
Terry Whittley
Andrew Murat

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES -

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Mr Mitchell attended the meeting. The meeting was quorate.

Moved B Ryan

Seconded A Macdonald

Acacia Industry Park

That a directional sign for Acacia Industry Park be placed on the Grafton Road near Bunnings.

Carried.

Rail Trail

Moved A Fox

Seconded A Macdonald

That Service Leader Economic Development make enquiries necessary to get to the stage where parliament passes legislation.

That Council set precise timelines for the business case to be prepared.

That the consultants be given no more than two months to complete the brief.

Carried

ACTION: Service Leader Economic Development to provide update report at the next meeting.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Service Leader Economic Development presented a verbal report on the following matters:

Tourism Conference in Parkes 12-14 March. Service Leader Economic Development will be attending with Cr Bailey and Cr O'Connor.

19-21 March 2018 – Tourism Strategy Workshops are being planned over this time with stakeholders.

Mr S Mahoney visited Armidale, he is the General Manager Regional for Destination NSW.

Mr Ritch has resigned from Council. Progress has been made in recruitment.

The DA for Red Jewel Strawberry Farm has been approved earlier than anticipated. It will take approximately 8-12 to set up. The Service Leader Economic Development is working closely with Community Services with the potential for refugees to gain employment.

Funding is sought for Growing Local Economy – Airport Business Park.

The Autumn Festival is progressing well. Advertising has been extended to two television stations in an effort to raise the profile for the event. Mrs Hitchcock indicated that she had received concerns in relation to the name of the festival and suggested that it be changed to the Armidale Festival. Mr Lawrence confirmed that he was in agreement and he was looking into how to grow this event.

Cr Gray suggested that Council follow up with Mr Adam Marshall MP in relation to signage (Armidale) on the Pacific Highway.

The Chair noted that contact has been made with respect to the Qantas Pilot Training Academy.

Moved A Macdonald

Seconded M Hitchcock

That the Committee supports Council in setting up a Qantas Pilot Academy/Flight Training School.

Carried

The Service Leader Economic Development advised that he has been meeting with Transwest Fuel, a small independent supplier.

A CMCA Motor home event is in discussion.

The Chair requested members to provide him with contact names to establish a database of contacts. Mr Ryan stated that Council had previously undertaken this exercise and a list of contacts should be available.

Evocities:

Mr Anthony Fox declared a conflict of interest as a Director on the Foundation of Regional Development which is direct competition on Council with Evocities. Mr Fox remained in the room.

Cr Peter Bailey, Chair also declared a conflict of interest as he was the CEO of the Foundation of Regional Development. Mr Bailey remained in the room.

Discussion took place in relation to the value of the Evocities investments. Mr Fox asked what return on investment Council had with respect to Evocities. The Service Leader Economic Development responded advising that the cost of \$75,000 pa was under review.

Mrs MacDonald left the meeting at 6.34 pm. The meeting was inquorate after she left.

The Chair recommended that a review be undertaken within three months and a recommendation be put before the Committee.

The implementation of the economic development strategy is to be held over to the next meeting.

Mrs Hitchcock spoke on the Dumaresq Dam Report and advised that she had received a report on the matter.

ACTION: Service Leader Economic Development to circulate copy of the Dumaresq Dam (Mark Piorkowski supplied) report to members of the committee.

Mr Davies kindly thanked the Service Leader Economic Development and the Program Leader Marketing for the information packs he had been provided with. He also noted the warm letter signed by the CEO and Mayor.

Mr Griffiths provided verbal information in relation to a recent article on financial status of the University of New England.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.57 pm.



ARTS & CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on

Thursday, 22 February 2018

1pm

At

New England Art Museum

Present: Chair Cr Margaret O'Connor, Ms Caroline Downer (Arts NW), Mr Robert Heather (NERAM), Mr Les Davis (Saumarez), Mr Andrew O'Connell (Hoskins Centre), Ms Sophie Masson (NEWC), Mr Warren Bartik (ARPAC), Ms Lynne Chapman (Guyra), Ms Shirley Cooke (NE Art Society, Armidale Art Gallery), Mr Russell Bauer (NECOM from 1.48pm).

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Hayley Ward (ARC), Ms Kathy Martin (ARC), Mr Rob Shaw (ARC), Mr Velani Chakalisa (ARC), Mr Ralf Stoeckeler (ARC), Mr Jack Rappley and Mr Peter Ducat.

MINUTES

Welcome from new Chair Cr O'Connor and introduction of members.

1. APOLOGIES

Cr Dianne Gray, Mr Peter Creamer (UNE), Ms Tess Cullen (Armidale Art Gallery), Ms Susie Dunn (Community Member), Ms Cherene Spendelove (Community Arts), David and Anna Henderson (Guyra representatives).

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES -

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ARTS & CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2017

Moved: Caroline Downer

Seconded: Les Davis

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

CARRIED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

ACTION: HW to provide information about declaration of interest – see below:

56. Disclosure and Participation in Meetings (s451 Act)

Disclosure

(i) A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.

Cannot Take Part

(ii) The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:

(a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or

(b) at any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

5. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

5.1 PRESENTATION: Guyra Main Street Upgrade *Ref: AINT/2018/02271 (ARC16/0217)*

The committee considered the draft Guyra Main Street Upgrade plan and provided feedback. The public consultation period closes 16 March 2018. The project team have decided to hold a Guyra main street public art competition for Guyra Central School students with a budget of between \$20,000 - \$50,000. The committee suggested a working group should be formed to advise the project team on how to manage the competition.

ACTION: HW to organise a working group meeting to develop the Guyra Central School

student Guyra main street public art competition. The working group is Hayley Ward, Caroline Downer, Robert Heather, Lynne Chapman, Kathy Martin, Rob Shaw, GCS Principal and art teacher.

5.2 FOR DISCUSSION: Review of Terms of Reference *Ref: AINT/2018/02270 (ARC16/0217)*

Moved: Les Davis **Seconded: Robert Heather**

- a) That Council note the change of committee name to Arts, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee.
- b) That Council note the minor changes to the amended Arts, Cultural and Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED.

ACTION: HW to confirm that Lorina Barker would like to continue on the committee.

5.3 FOR INFORMATION: Planning documents for arts and cultural events/strategies

Ref: AINT/2018/02276 (ARC16/0217)

The committee noted the adopted Arts and Cultural Strategic plan 2017 – 2022 and the planning documents that support it.

5.4 FOR DISCUSSION: Review of the Armidale Regional Council Public Art Policy

Ref: AINT/2018/02282 (ARC16/0217)

The committee delegated a working group to review and update council's Public Art Policy 2013-2017 then report back to the committee.

ACTION: HW to organise a working group meeting to review and update the policy. The working group is Caroline Downer, Hayley Ward and Robert Heather.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 FOR DISCUSSION: Proposals and projects from community

Ref: AINT/2018/02352 (ARC16/0217)

6.1.1 Arts And Cultural Festival – Jack Rapley and Peter Ducat presented their idea for an Arts and Cultural Festival proposed for 2019. The committee gave their in principal support and discussed the options including highlighting the seasons of winter/spring Arts Festival. They also proposed that the festival link in with a current festival such as International Film Festival/Writers Festival/Black Gully Festival.

ACTION: HW to organise a working/steering group meeting to develop the concept. The working group is Robert Heather, Les Davis, Andrew O'Connell, Sophie Masson, Shirley Cooke, Russell Bauer, Caroline Downer, Hayley Ward, Peter Ducat and Jack Rapley.

6.1.2 ARPAC (Bruce Menzies Chair) re the idea of getting a dedicated performing arts theatre

for Armidale Region in Armidale.

ACTION: Caroline Downer Arts NW will contact ARPAC and discuss the options and report back to the next meeting.

6.1.3 Adjunct Prof (UNE) Tony Sorensen re developing a strategy to build a creative and imagination culture in Armidale region. This relates to building capacity for innovation and digital literacy and skills mastery.

ACTION: HW to invite Tony Sorensen to present this at the next committee.

6.1.4 Sophie Masson proposed a project of the Writers Centre working with refugee children and is requesting in kind support from Council.

ACTION: Sophie Masson to provide a written detailed proposal for the project to HW.

NEXT MEETING: 24 May 2018 1pm.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 2.49pm.

Applies to:	Arts, Cultural & Heritage Advisory Committee
Responsible Stream:	Service Delivery
Responsible Officer:	Hayley Ward – Cultural Projects Officer
Adoption Date/History:	Version II – 22 February 2018
CEO Approval Date	XX Month Year
TRIM File Number:	ARC16/0217
Review Date:	February 2020

Establishment

The committee is established under section 355 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 which states:

A function of a council may, subject to this Chapter, be exercised: (b) by a committee of the council

Term of the Committee

The committee will function until the next Council election in September 2020. The Council reserves the right to dissolve the committee at any time by a resolution of the Council.

Delegations

The committee has no delegations from the Council.

Financial Arrangements

Unless expressly resolved by Council the committee has no powers to commit or expend any Council funds.

Purpose

The core responsibilities of the committee are to:

- Provide advice on the strategic direction of the Armidale Regional Council.
- Provide advice on the Delivery Program Strategies (4 Year) and Operational Plan Actions (annual) aligned with the committee.
- Consider the potential social, economic, environmental and financial impacts (sustainability) of the committee recommendations.
- Engage the community and stakeholders on matters being considered by the committee.
- Provide advice to the Council on any matter referred to the committee.

The primary responsibilities of the committee are to:

- Act as the link between Council and the arts, culture and heritage sector and ensure open two way communication.
- Develop and promote collaborations and connections to allow for the advancement of arts, culture and heritage programs and initiatives.
- Foster the ongoing development of quality, diverse and innovative public and community art to enhance a sense of community identity and promote public access and experience of the arts.
- Identify funding opportunities for resources and programs that benefits the artistic and cultural life of the community.
- Provide ongoing support and advice in relation to the Armidale Regional Cultural Strategic Plan and its associated Action Plan.

Membership

The committee will be comprised of the following representation:

1. New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) – Representative
2. New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) - Representative
3. University of New England (UNE) – Representative
4. Guyra Locality – Representative
5. Arts North West – Representative
6. New England Writer’s Centre – Representative
7. National Trust, Saumarez – Representative
8. Hoskins Centre – Representative
9. Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place or Aboriginal Community Artist Representative
10. Armidale Musicians - Representative
11. Creative Industries – Representatives
12. Friends of the Library

The Mayor may also appoint other community representatives where appropriate.

The Chief Executive Officer and other Council staff may attend committee meetings, on the invitation of the Chairperson.

Chairperson

The Mayor will determine the chairperson of the committee or the position shall be determined by an election at the first meeting of a new term of the committee.

Executive Officer

The Executive Officer will be the Manager directly responsible for the organisational function.

The responsibilities of the Executive Officer are:

- Provide executive support to the committee.
- Be responsible for preparing the meeting agenda and minutes.
- Be responsible for preparing a report to the council containing the minutes and, providing staff comment on the recommendations made by the committee.

- Provide to the committee the outcome and resolutions of the Council regarding each recommendation.

Reporting

The committee will report to the Council.

Frequency of Meetings

The committee will meet at least quarterly, with capacity for additional meetings as needed. Meeting schedules will be determined by the Chairperson, in consultation with committee members.

Implementation Principles

- **Service:** maintain seamless service delivery to communities
- **Opportunity:** embrace opportunities to improve services and infrastructure for communities
- **Cohesion:** bring together and build on the strengths of strategies, structures, staff and systems
- **Engagement:** inform and involve communities, staff and other partners, in planning and implementing change
- **Integrity:** ensure ethical, open and accountable governance and administration
- **Respect:** value the knowledge and contributions of staff, communities and other partners

Organisational Principles

- **Governance:** focus on the corporate governance processes and internal support services of council as an organisation. Governance includes the internal structures, information systems and policies that ensure an efficient and effective operation while being open and transparent to all stakeholders.
- **Infrastructure:** focus on the physical assets under council's care and management, which are necessary for the effective functioning of the community. These assets include utility and transport services, as well as public buildings and recreational facilities.
- **Services:** focus on the programs within the council aimed at our local people and communities. It is about maintaining and where possible improving people's social, cultural and economic wellbeing, through programs which contribute to making our community a healthy and prosperous one, where people enjoy a sense of belonging and security. This principle is also concerned with the care and custodianship of the physical environment of our area, and interactions with the environment beyond our boundaries.

Code of Conduct

The Model Code of Conduct applies to the members of the committee.

Code of Meeting Practice

The Council's Code of Meeting Practice shall guide the meeting procedures of the committee.

Remuneration of Members

Members of the committee will not be remunerated for meeting attendance and no reimbursement of travel expenses will be payable, unless in special circumstances.

Media Liaison

The Mayor is the designated media spokesperson for the new Council.

Meeting Protocol

Arrangements for meetings will be as follows:

- The agenda and supporting material will be circulated at least three (3) business days prior to a meeting.
- Any supporting material or papers that are confidential will be clearly marked as such and remain confidential to members.
- Any general business items tabled during meetings will be short, requiring no more than five (5) minutes' presentation or discussion.
- Meetings will be run in a fair and independent manner and support open and constructive dialogue.
- Minutes will be circulated within seven (7) days of each meeting.
- Minutes of the meeting will be submitted to the Council as soon as possible after the meeting; and
- A quorum of members is required at all meetings and shall be 50% plus one of all voting members.

Standard Agenda Items

Agendas will be determined by the Chairperson. Committee members may also suggest matters for consideration.

As a minimum, agendas will include the following standard items:

- Meeting open and apologies
- Confirmation of previous minutes and matters arising
- Declarations of interest
- Reports on priority actions
- Reports and advice on local views and emerging issues
- Specific items varying from meeting to meeting
- Review of relevant meeting actions or follow up requirements (action log)
- Formal close



ARMIDALE REGIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on

Monday, 19 February 2018
4pm

at

Kent House

Attention: Youth Council Members

Present: Lily McCarthy, Lucy Fulloon, Noah Sanden-Roberts, Thurkka Jeyakumar, Aziz Winrow, Laura Murray, Myles Simmons, Manu Yarram, Fran Hebblewhite, Grace Paris

In Attendance: Councillor Brad Widders and Cara Barnes (ARC Youth Services)

MINUTES

1 Apologies

Lucy Finlayson,

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ARMIDALE REGIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2017****RECOMMENDATION:**

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

none

4 Business Arising

4.1 Brad Widders and ARYAC members all introduced themselves

4.2 Meeting dates were set for the third Monday of each month.

5 Administration Reports

5.1 Youth Week: Youth Week is officially April 13 – 22 with the theme “Unity Through Diversity”. ARYAC are planning the Youth Forum and inviting politicians and local magistrate and others to come and discuss youth issues. They discussed someone hosting the event with them such as Adam Blakestar who hosted it last time as well as a method of asking questions with the Q and A panel.

5.2 BAYSE conference: Youth Action in partnership with The Frank Team and ARYAC are organising the Building Armidale’s Young Social Entrepreneurs Conference on May 24 in the Town Hall.

5.3 Headspace Event: Head Space will be doing an event with ARYAC in Curtis park on April 13. This involves Head Space getting information from young people around their needs for mental health support and other fun activities.

5.4 Membership recruitment: ARYAC think that the youth forum will be useful to recruit members through

6 General Business

6.1 Some ARYAC members requested organising Laundromat Gigs such as with Slim Set

6.2 ARYAC members discussed being involved in the Autumn Festival

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5pm.



AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Held on

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

At 5.35pm

PRESENT:

Independent Members:

Michael O'Connor (Acting Chairperson)

Kate Woodland-Smith

Councillors:

Clr Diane Gray

Clr Margaret O'Connor

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nathalie Heaton, Service Leader – Governance, Legal & Corporate Planning

Keith Lockyer, Service Leader – Finance

Peter Wilson, Program Leader – Governance

James Sugumar and Cathy Wu - Audit Office NSW – Financial Audit Services
[Teleconference]

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES – Carolyn Cooper and Sebastian Hempel
2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2017

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Moved Michael O'Connor and Seconded Kate Woodland-Smith

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

Noted that Item 6.1 Committee Performance Review Assessment Form not yet actioned.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

[Note standing declaration from Michael O'Connor – Independent member of Tamworth Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council Audit and Risk Committees]

4. APPROVAL FOR MANAGEMENT TO BE PRESENT – Granted by Committee
5. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Note that Items 5.3 and 5.4 were brought forward for consideration

5.1 FOR DECISION: Resource Sharing of Audit & Risk Committee

Ref: AINT/2018/03121 (ARC16/0463-2)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved Michael O'Connor and Seconded Clr Margaret O'Connor

That the Committee recommend to Council that the request, to be appointed the Audit and Risk Committee for the New England Weeds Authority, be adopted.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Moved Clr Margaret O'Connor and Seconded Clr Diane Gray

That the Committee be provided with a copy of the New England Weeds Authority's Audit Report for 2016/17.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

5.2 FOR DECISION: Resignation of Internal Auditor *Ref: AINT/2018/01650 (ARC18/2526)***COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:****Moved Michael O'Connor and Seconded Clr Diane Gray**

- (a) That the Committee note the resignation of Thomas Noble & Russell Financial Services P/L as council's Internal Auditor, effective January 2018;
- (b) That the Committee express its appreciation to Kevin Franey and his staff for their professionalism and expertise in performing the internal audit services for the period 2012 to 2017; and
- (c) That the Committee recommend to Council to call a Request For Tender – Internal Audit Function.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

Next business Item 5.5

5.3 FOR DECISION: Audit Office Client Service Plan 2017-2018 - Key Audit Dates and Deliverables *Ref: AINT/2018/03346 (ARC18/2571)***COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:****Moved Michael O'Connor and Seconded Clr Diane Gray**

- a) That a Committee meeting be held on Tuesday 18 September 2018, commencing at 5.30pm, for the approval of the draft 2017-2018 financial reports to be signed off and submitted for audit, which is in line with the audit timeframe; and
- b) That a Committee meeting be held on Tuesday 23 October 2018, commencing at 5.30pm, for the signing off of the final 2017-2018 financial reports following audit, which is in line with the audit timeframe.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

5.4 FOR INFORMATION: External Audit Management Letter for the period 2016 - 2017 *Ref: AINT/2018/03351 (ARC17/1711)***COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:****Moved Clr Margaret O'Connor and Seconded Kate Woodland-Smith**

That the Committee note the External Audit Management Letter for Council for the period 13 May 2016 to 30 June 2017.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

Teleconference with James Sugumar and Cathy Wu ended

Next business Item 5.1

5.5 FOR INFORMATION: Release of AO Performance Audit - Council Reporting on Service Delivery 2017
Ref: AINT/2018/02965 (ARC17/2339)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Moved Michael O'Connor and Seconded Clr Margaret O'Connor

That the Committee note the findings and recommendations of the AO Performance Audit – Council Reporting on Service Delivery 2017.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

5.6 FOR INFORMATION: Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics Report 2017
Ref: AINT/2018/03115 (ARC16/1155)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Moved Clr Margaret O'Connor and Seconded Clr Diane Gray

That the Committee note the 2017 Code of Conduct Complaint Statistics Report for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

5.7 FOR INFORMATION: Quarterly Annual Leave Report as at 31 December 2017
Ref: AINT/2018/03383 (ARC17/1965)

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION:

Moved Clr Margaret O'Connor and Seconded Clr Diane Gray

That the Committee note the Annual Leave Balance Report, as at 31 December 2017, showing that 37 employees or 12.46% of total employees have a leave balance greater than 8 weeks.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 FOR DECISION: Resignation of Independent Member
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved Kate Woodland-Smith and Seconded Clr Diane Gray

- (a) That the Committee accept the resignation of Independent Member Ben Harris; and
- (b) That the Committee recommend to Council that the independent member vacancy not be filled, as the remaining four (4) independent members exceeds the suggested number of 2 or 3 under the OLG Internal Audit Guidelines.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

6.2 FOR DECISION: Financial Management and Reporting

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved Clr Diane Gray and Seconded Clr Margaret O'Connor

- (a) That the Committee recommend to Council that a Standing Committee – Finance be established; and
- (b) That the Committee recommend to Council that monthly financial reports be submitted to the Standing Committee - Finance

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

6.3 FOR DECISION: Professional Development for Committee Members

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Moved Clr Diane Gray and Seconded Clr Margaret O'Connor

That the Committee recommend to Council that the Professional Development Program be extended to committee members.

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED

6.4 FOR INFORMATION: Installation of solar at various Council sites

Action: Committee to be provided with an update on the installation program

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.10 pm.