



BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 22 September 2021
4pm

at

Armidale Council Chambers

Members

Councillor Ian Tiley (Mayor)
Councillor Debra O'Brien (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Peter Bailey
Councillor Jon Galletly
Councillor Andrew Murat
Councillor Margaret O'Connor
Councillor Dorothy Robinson

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

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Item:	6.2	Ref: AINT/2021/32848
Title:	Mayoral Minute: 2021 New England/Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards	Container: ARC16/0025
Responsible Officer	General Manager	
Author:	Ian Tiley, Mayor	
Attachments:	Nil	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to congratulate the recipients of the 2021 New England/Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Award.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council convey congratulations to Gretel Kempster, Michael Kean and Community Radio 2ARM on their 2021 New England/Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards and their valuable contributions to community as volunteers.

3. Background

On 9 September I represented Council online at the annual New England/Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards and provided a brief address. There were four categories of Awards. It was exceptional to learn that Armidale secured all four awards.

The purpose of this Minute is to acquaint Council and the Armidale Regional community with the names of those who obtained awards and to enable Council to formally convey congratulations to these outstanding community members and organisation.

The Adult Volunteer of the Year recognised volunteers between the ages of 25 and 64 and was awarded to Mr Michael Keene for his involvement and contribution to local community radio. The radio station (2ARM) also was awarded the category of Volunteer Team of the Year, which recognises volunteer groups of two or more people.

Dear Gretel Kemster won the Senior Volunteer of the Year accolade and, to her profound surprise, was then announced as the New England/Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year.

Cr Ian Tiley

Mayor

15 September 2021

Item:	6.3	Ref: AINT/2021/32863
Title:	Mayoral Minute: First Nations Men's Behaviour Change Program - Armidale Community Taskforce	Container: ARC16/0025
Responsible Officer	General Manager	
Author:	Ian Tiley, Mayor	
Attachments:	Nil	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Mayoral Minute is to establish a First Nations Men's Behavioural Change Program.

2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:

That Council convey its support of the current initiative to establish a First Nations Men's Behavioural Change Program and the Mayor of the day be Council's delegate to the Taskforce.

3. Purpose

On 14 September I was invited as Mayor, and participated in an online meeting of this newly established Taskforce which is under the auspices of the Primary Health Network, Hunter, New England and Central West.

The Primary Care Pathways to Safety pilot is funded by the Primary Health Network and is delivered by Armidale Women's Shelter. The pilot was established to build capacity in General Practice to Recognise, Respond and Refer (RRR) Domestic Family Violence (DFV). At present Armidale has no community based DFV Men's Behaviour Change Program, and many First Nations women are thus reluctant to disclose DFV when there are no support programs in place,

The purpose of the Taskforce is to help pilot and facilitate the establishment of a community centred, culturally safe domestic violence program for First Nation's men in the Armidale region. The Taskforce will have members from a broad cross section of stakeholders including the Armidale Council, Aboriginal Medical Service, General Practitioners, Police, other agencies and interested community organisations, who can provide strategic direction and develop a sound advocacy plan to attract further funding to implement and evaluate the proposed community model.

Responsibilities of the Taskforce include providing strategic and operational support to the Cultural Governance Steering Committee to enable development of a support program for Aboriginal men by Aboriginal men.

The Taskforce Terms of Reference propose that I as Mayor be a member of the Taskforce. I have willingly accepted this position for the remainder of Council's term and advised the Taskforce that this role should pass to the incoming Mayor after the forthcoming Council election.

Given that the pilot is funded, there would be no financial contribution required of Council.

4. Conclusion

The Taskforce will be able to play an important role in helping design this program which has the vital objective of addressing local Domestic Family Violence. Council can show leadership by its participation in the role of the Taskforce. I encourage Council to support this important initiative.

Cr Ian Tiley / Mayor / 15 September 2021

Item:	6.4	Ref: AINT/2021/33167
Title:	Mayoral Minute: Developer Infrastructure Contributions Container: ARC16/0025	
Responsible Officer	General Manager	
Author:	Ian Tiley, Mayor	
Attachments:	Nil	

1. Purpose

As outlined below.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council make urgent representations to the NSW Treasurer, Hon Dominic Perrottet, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon Rob Stokes, and Council's State Parliamentary Representative and Minister for Agriculture Hon Adam Marshall, conveying Council's opposition to the proposed legislative changes to developer infrastructure contributions and requesting that the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill as it stands be withdrawn.

Background

NSW Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes, with support from the Treasurer, is proposing to amend a number of planning rules, including the rules governing developer contributions. The Infrastructure Contributions Bill, and associated regulations, introduced to Parliament on 22 June 2021, and then referred to an Upper House Committee for inquiry and report, could inter alia: -

- a. Reduce the type of community infrastructure that could be funded by developer contributions; and
- b. Place developer contributions into four Treasury- controlled regional funds, with no guarantees that the money would be directed back into projects in the local areas where the levies had been collected.
- c. Dictate to councils on what and how they spend their contributions – through Ministerial directions.
- d. Enable future governments to make further potentially damaging changes to the system without parliamentary scrutiny.

The Upper House Committee rejected the Bill and recommended that it be withdrawn and that there be consultation with councils before any changes are made. The matter is to come back to Parliament on 12th October 2021.

On 14 September I participated in an LGNSW conducted webinar on this issue. Participants were advised that the reforms would remove the right of local communities to ensure the development in their area is matched by the community infrastructure they wanted and needed. Without at least existing levels of developer contributions, councils will be forced to either forgo the infrastructure or raise rates. Funding could be taken from areas of greatest need, placed in a fund which could be dispersed anywhere by the State Government with no

accountability on where or on what funds are expended. The LGNSW regards the Bill as deeply flawed.

The LGNSW has assessed that a reduction in developer contributions would have a significant impact on any council's ability to deliver community infrastructure. For example, a 50 per cent reduction in developer contributions over a ten-year period would cost about \$3 million for a small local government area and more than \$1 billion for a large local government area. Modelling by the Centre for International Economics estimates that this Bill would give the NSW Government an additional \$793 million per year in revenue (averaged over 20 years)

Issues

Infrastructure contributions are made by developers to help deliver the infrastructure needed as communities grow. They are a means of financing public infrastructure that is required as a result of new development. In this way new development makes a contribution towards the cost of infrastructure that will meet the additional demand it generates and from which it benefits.

The government is no doubt wanting to secure more development by these measures, but at what cost to ratepayers? Passage of this legislation would provide too much freedom for any future government without consulting. This is another form of cost shifting and would create a need for rate increases, which most certainly would not be supported by ratepayers. It would move costs from developers to landowners.

This is a vital matter for Council. My view is that the changes if implemented would undercut the financial future of local government in NSW. The issue of Council's sovereignty is also in question. Very little consultation has occurred. There would be impacts for housing affordability – a major concern. Land releases could also diminish.

23 metropolitan councils have launched a campaign in the national media demanding that the NSW Government abandon these proposed changes. Five of the Mayors have met with the Premier. These councils are attempting to create public awareness of the detrimental impact the developer levy changes would have on their communities. The strong argument is that developer levies should be spent where they are raised to ensure new development is accompanied by appropriate investment in the surrounding area. The proposed legislation would break the nexus between where contributions are made and where they are spent.

Covid has highlighted the importance of community access to public parks, footpaths and vital community infrastructure that local governments provide. Liveable communities for our future are threatened by this Bill. Cutting of contributions made by profit-taking developers is unfair to our ratepayers. Council needs a guarantee that it and its community will not be worse off as a result of the proposed reforms.

On 16 September, councillors received an email from the Deputy Group Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in which five key aspects of the proposed reforms were stated.

1. The Department will ensure that Regional Infrastructure Contributions support new growth and local investment in high growth areas.
2. It will ensure Councils have a sustainable revenue stream to fund infrastructure.
3. It will ensure the settings contained within the reforms strike the right balance.
4. It will work to overcome the structural challenges of rates and infrastructure contributions; and

5. It will continue to partner with Councils to ensure the reforms are delivered.

In my view these undertakings from a Group Deputy Secretary are unconvincing and do not engender confidence but rather scepticism.

On 16th September I was able to personally convey these concerns to Hon Adam Marshall and on 20th September provided him a copy of this Minute.

I trust that Council will support the recommendation in the interests of its ratepayers.

Cr Ian Tiley

20 September 2021