



## BUSINESS PAPER

### ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

To be held on

Wednesday, 24 August 2022  
4pm

at

Armidale Council Chambers

#### **Members**

Councillor Sam Coupland (Mayor)  
Councillor Todd Redwood (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Paul Gaddes  
Councillor Jon Galletly  
Councillor Susan McMichael  
Councillor Steven Mephram  
Councillor Debra O'Brien  
Councillor Margaret O'Connor  
Councillor Paul Packham  
Councillor Dorothy Robinson  
Councillor Bradley Widders

AGENDA

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***(General Manager's Note: The report considers a tender and is deemed confidential under Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature which, if disclosed, confers a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business).***

- 15.2 Debt Write-Off Request - Sundry Debtor

***(General Manager's Note: The report considers hardship and is deemed confidential under Section 10A(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it deals with the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer).***

- 15.3 New England Regional Art Museum's Capital Works Program - Request for Support

***(General Manager's Note: The report considers NERAM and is deemed confidential under Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret).***

## **Ethical Decision Making and Conflicts of Interest**

### ***A guiding checklist for Councillors, officers and community committees***

#### **Oath or Affirmation of Office**

Councillors are reminded of the Oath or Affirmation taken of office, made under section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* when elected.

#### **Ethical decision making**

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Do you stand to gain personally at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

#### **Conflict of interest**

A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict:

- ***Pecuniary*** – regulated by the *Local Government Act 1993* and Office of Local Government
- ***Non-pecuniary*** – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only). If declaring a Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest, Councillors can choose to either disclose and vote, disclose and not vote or leave the Chamber.

#### **The test for conflict of interest**

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of 'corruption' – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest.

#### **Identifying problems**

**1st** Do I have private interests affected by a matter I am officially involved in?

**2nd** Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?

**3rd** Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

#### **Local Government Act 1993 and Model Code of Conduct**

For more detailed definitions refer to the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 14 Honesty and Disclosure of Interest and Model Code of Conduct.

#### **Disclosure of pecuniary interests / non-pecuniary interests**

Under the provisions of Section 440AAA(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (pecuniary interests) and the Model Code of Conduct it is necessary for you to disclose the nature of the

interest when making a disclosure of a pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary conflict of interest at a meeting.

**A Declaration form should be completed and handed to the General Manager** as soon as practicable once the interest is identified. Declarations are made at Item 3 of the Agenda: Declarations - Pecuniary, Non-Pecuniary and Political Donation Disclosures, and prior to each Item being discussed: The Declaration Form can be downloaded at [Disclosures and Declarations of Interest at Meetings](#).

**Item:** 5.1 **Ref:** AINT/2022/31712  
**Title:** Minutes of Previous Meeting held 27 July 2022 **Container:**  
ARC16/0001-7  
**Responsible Officer:** General Manager  
**Author:** Melissa Hault, Executive Officer  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft OCM Minutes - 27 July 2022

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 July 2022 be taken as read and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/33445</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>RRMS proposal for the West Armidale Medical Centre and access to GP services in New England rural communities</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0025-6</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Dorothy Robinson, Councillor</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>	

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Council to be held on 24 August 2022.

1. That council notes the problems caused by failure of Medicare rebates to keep up with inflation and the announcement by the Rural and Remote Medical Services (RRMS) to depart from five GP clinics in New England rural communities at the end of September, and RRMS' proposal to convert the West Armidale Medical Centre to a training centre for overseas doctors.
2. That, consistent with our Delivery Program Goal to "Ensure health and community service provision meets the needs of our growing and ageing population" that council consider what it could do to support RRMS' proposal and also lobby for realistic Medicare rebates for affected communities, e.g. bringing the problem to the attention of politicians, LGNSW and the New England Joint Organisation of councils.

Cr Dorothy Robinson

12 August 2022

### **Background Support Information**

See the Armidale Express article: <https://www.armidaleexpress.com.au/story/7856295/plans-to-convert-west-armidale-clinic-into-training-centre-for-overseas-doctors/>

### **Known Legal Implications**

None known.

### **Budget Implications**

Already provided in: "Advocate and lobby on behalf of the community to see more specialist and general health and community services (E1.1.1)".

This motion simply draws attention to a specific need and opportunity to help achieve this goal for minimal cost.

### **Strategic Implications**

The motion is consistent with ARC's Delivery Program Goal to "Ensure health and community service provision meets the needs of our growing and ageing population".

**Policy Implications**

None known.

**General Manager's Comment**

I do not have enough information or knowledge on the matter at hand to be able to advise Councillors, nor present a cogent argument on behalf of ARC, should this motion be passed.



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<b>Item:</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/31710</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>LGNSW Annual Conference 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0144</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Melissa Hault, Executive Officer</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. 2022 Motions Submissions Guide	

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to appoint a voting delegate for the LGNSW Annual Conference and to endorse motions for submissions to the Conference.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- a. That in addition to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager, one Councillor be appointed as Council's third attendee and voting delegate for the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference, to be held in the Hunter Valley on from Sunday 23 October to Tuesday 25 October 2022
- b. That the process for appointment be by show of hands.
- c. That council votes, in seriatim, on the following LGNSW Motions that have been received from Councillors;

#### i. Motion

Motion submitted by Councillor Robinson:

"That LGNSW supports and works towards the introduction of a standard for wood heaters that will protect public health."

#### Background

An expert [position paper on wood heater pollution](#), written by 11 health professionals from the Centre for Air pollution, energy and health Research (CAR, an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence) notes that "Current Australian wood heater standards are insufficient to protect health".

The paper recommends rigorous emissions standards for "real world" heater operation. Prof Fay Johnston's [Letter of Support](#) for a health-based standard explains:

*"Unbeknown to most, air pollution from wood heaters is a significant issue in Australia. It is the number one source of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) in both Sydney and Melbourne..... Researchers affiliated with CAR have estimated that in the Greater Metropolitan Region of NSW, long-term exposure to PM2.5 from wood heaters causes 100 deaths per year. This is more than deaths from PM2.5 exposure coming from power stations (45 deaths) and traffic pollution (72 deaths)*

*...While the current standards may appear to be adequate, they do not reflect 'real world' wood heater operation."*

There was also general agreement at the Healthy Environments and Lives Conference, 18 November 2021, that the current AS/NZS 4013 is grossly inadequate (<https://heal2021.com.au/recordings/>). The presentation by Dr John Todd (who resigned in 2019 as Chair of the Standards Australia Committee on Solid Fuel Heating) "stated: our Standards are out of date".

The NSW Government's Clean Air Strategy states that "day-to-day management of wood

heater emissions is at the local government level". A nationally-representative survey conducted by Asthma Australia in November 2021 found that "People who are exposed to woodfire heaters said they are **largely unable to protect themselves from the smoke**"

The lack of a health-based standard for wood heaters not only contributes to substantial ill-health, but also adds to the workload of local councils. A new health-based standard for wood heaters would not only help protect public health, it would also reduce the time and effort needed to deal with complaints by people whose health is compromised by other people's wood smoke that, as revealed by Asthma Australia's study, are very difficult to resolve.

## ii. Motion

Motion submitted by Mayor Coupland:

"That Local Government NSW;

1. Requests the NSW Government assist Regional Councils to make more simple adjustments to their planning documents in order to bring forward suitable "Logical Inclusion Housing areas" especially adjacent to the existing urban fabric of their towns and centres.
2. Requests technical support be provided by Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to assist Regional Councils to find and deliver suitable housing areas without the necessity to undertake major review and structural changes to their planning documents.
3. Requests the NSW Government direct DPE not to exclude "Logical Inclusion Housing areas" for consideration because they have not already been identified in high level planning Council planning documents. It is acknowledged that processes would be conducted in accordance with accepted site planning assessment criteria and principles."

## Background

Council understands that the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) is looking at means and pathways for accelerating housing delivery as part of a deliberate program. Armidale Regional Council supports the logic behind this move by the State but would like to have available to it more simple pathways to enable early activation where it can be demonstrated areas are logical inclusion for housing without the necessity of needing to go back to the first principles and complete major reviews of high-level planning documents.

Certain areas in regional councils could be "Logical Inclusion Housing Areas" and supported for rezoning without requiring detailed planning studies. A process can be created where logical extensions to the city boundary can occur without the need to do a Housing Strategy which would provide land supply to meet the needs for the next 2-3 whilst work continues on the 20 year housing strategy

iii. **Motion**

Motion submitted by Mayor Coupland:

“That Local Government NSW;

1. Requests the NSW Government assist Regional Councils to identify and utilise council-owned land for housing.
2. Requests technical support be provided by Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to assist Regional Councils to reclassify appropriate community land to operational land to support use for housing purposes.
3. Requests the NSW Government provide funding for infrastructure to activate suitable council-owned land for housing.”

**Background**

The Regional Housing Taskforce Findings Report (page 30) noted that a number of regional councils indicated their willingness and intention to utilise council-owned land for social and affordable housing. Limited supply of suitable council-owned lands without reservations and restrictions was raised as a barrier with some councils suggesting that excess community land (which is subject to restrictions in use and cannot be sold or leased on a long term basis) could be reclassified to operational land to support use for housing purposes.

A number of council blocks that are pocket parks or other under-utilised parcels and could be used for housing. The process for reclassifying this land from community to operational (to allow sale or development) requires amendment to the LEP one parcel at a time. If all land were done as one package councils could bring blocks to the market quickly within the existing footprint of the towns.

iv. **Motion**

Motion submitted by Mayor Coupland:

“That Local Government NSW;

1. Requests the NSW Government commit to ensuring that Regional Housing initiatives that bring forward new housing opportunities be prioritised for Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and Special Activation Precinct areas.
2. Requests the NSW Government direct Department of Planning and Environment to require all State Significant Development proposals within the Renewable Energy Zones to supply temporary housing for construction workers unless they have demonstrated adequately that there is sufficient housing supply in the local area and that such assessment be required to consider the cumulative on housing demand of concurrent projects.”

**Background**

The Councils within the New England Renewable Energy Zone are already experiencing considerable housing pressure with vacancy rates below 1%. There is a need to ensure effective Government and Developer led responses to current housing pressures that will be exacerbated by the unprecedented level of government and private investment in the REZ and SAP areas.

Renewable energy projects with the sort of construction jobs being espoused by

EnergyCo need to mitigate their impact on local housing and tourist accommodation markets in the host communities and be cognisant of the cumulative impact of multiple construction projects overlapping in the REZs.

Proponents should be required to provide accommodation for construction workers in the same way that major infrastructure projects (like Inland Rail) and major mining projects do. This should be required as part of the DA for REZ projects and should consider the cumulative construction worker housing task across multiple projects.

v. **Motion**

Motion submitted by Mayor Coupland:

“That Local Government NSW;

1. Requests the NSW Government direct Department of Planning and Environment to prepare a cumulative social, environmental and economic impact assessment for the full development scenario of each Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), both during construction and operation, which includes (but is not limited to) impact on agricultural land and employment and our way of life
2. Requests the NSW direct DPE to consult with individual councils as to the most appropriate zones within each LGA to host renewable developments and give preference to those developments that fall within an ‘approved’ zone.”

**Background**

In the REZ statement, the NSW Government claims it will “support around 830 operational jobs and 1,250 construction jobs.” The source and definition of these jobs number estimates is not clear.

A number of the New England solar farm operators’ proposals have given an indication of their expected number of operational jobs which equates to around 22 jobs for each one gigawatt of solar farm capacity. This translates to 170 operations and maintenance jobs for 8 gigawatts. Including indirect jobs (about 130), it is consistent with a total of about 300 jobs arising from the REZ. Significantly these estimates, even including indirect jobs, are well below the claimed 830 operational jobs.

The estimated amount of prime agricultural land required to host the renewable energy projects within the NE REZ is 32,000ha. Depending on the type of project and its location there will be significant social impact on members of the community including, but not limited to, devaluation of neighbouring properties, environmental concerns, health concerns and visual pollution.

The individual State Significant Developments (SSD) within the NE REZ are required during the SSD process to assess the social impact and give consideration to the cumulative impacts of multiple projects. This is not sufficiently independent or robust to satisfy host communities.

vi. **Motion**

Motion submitted by Cr Robinson:

“That LGNSW formally supports ALGA's call for a Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200 million’ be endorsed for submission to LGNSW.”

### **Background**

LGNSW's policy platform on Climate Change includes many useful initiatives. Support for ALGA's call for a Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200 million would be a useful addition.

#### **vii. Motion**

Motion submitted by Cr Robinson:

"That LGNSW formally supports the introduction in NSW of subsidies such as those available in Victoria and the ACT for residents to improve energy efficiency and replace gas and wood heating with modern, energy reverse cycle systems that can deliver 4 or 5 times as much heat to the home as they use in electric power and will be increasingly powered by renewable electricity' be endorsed for submission to LGNSW."

### **Background**

According to the government of Victoria: "A reverse-cycle air conditioner is one of the most cost-effective and energy-efficient ways to provide heating and cooling for your home in one system, for year-round comfort" - see <https://www.heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au/>

Victoria offers subsidies of \$1000 to install energy-efficient reverse cycle systems, plus an additional \$500 if the switchboard needs to be upgraded. Households with annual incomes below \$90,000 are eligible, as are owners of properties rented for less than \$500 a week. THE ACT Government offers subsidies of up to \$1250 under its 'Climate Choices' program to replace wood heaters with efficient reverse cycle systems and also offers subsidies to replace gas heaters - <https://www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/policy-programs/wood-heater-replacement-program>.

The schemes in Victoria and the ACT represent an extremely cost-effective way to improve the thermal comfort of homes, reduce energy poverty and reduce global warming, and would be consistent with the NSW Government's commitment to a 50% reduction in NSW's contribution to global warming by 2030.

#### **viii. Motion**

Motion submitted by Cr Robinson:

"That LGNSW acknowledges finding one of the NSW parliamentary inquiry into rural health that people living outside of the city have "significantly poorer health outcomes, greater incidence of chronic disease, and greater premature deaths" and advocates for rapid implementation of all 44 recommendations in the final report' be endorsed for submission to LGNSW."

### **Background**

1. Final report of the parliamentary inquiry: [Report no 57 - Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales](#) (see finding 1, page 14).

2. ABC report on the NSW Rural Health Inquiry Findings: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-05-05/regional-health-inquiry-findings-handed-to-nsw-government/101031564>.

## 2. Background

The LGNSW Conference is an annual policy-making event for NSW general-purpose councils. It is the pre-eminent event of the Local Government year where local councillors come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way we are governed. Business is conducted at the Conference by way of consideration of motions. Motions passed become Resolutions, which LGNSW takes forward as part of their sector's advocacy agenda. Participating councils who are financial members are able to nominate their delegates who are to have voting rights.

Further information is available at <https://lgnswconference.org.au/>

## 3. Discussion

As an Ordinary member, Armidale Regional Council has three voting delegates and is required to advise LGNSW of the names of nominated voting delegates for the Annual Conference, for voting on Standing Orders and the Treasurer's Report along with the Board election, by 5pm (AEDT) on Sunday 25 September 2022.

Councillors were asked to submit their proposed motions to the General Manager by 15 August 2022 so they could be considered at this Ordinary Council Meeting.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1. Strategic and Policy Implications

Community Plan Pillar – Strong Region

Goal One – Create partnerships between our community, levels of government and businesses that contribute to our growth and development.

### 4.2. Risk

Motions submitted by Councillors have varied risks and implications for Council.

### 4.3. Sustainability

Nil.

### 4.4. Financial

<b>Budget Area:</b>	Executive Office						
<b>Funding Source:</b>	General						
<b>Budget Ref: (PN)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Total Forecast Expenditure</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
210650 - GM	LGNSW Conference	210650 \$35,875	210650 - \$4,481	\$0	\$4,500	\$8,981	\$26,894
210653 - Councillors	LGNSW Conference	210653 - \$85,000	210653 - \$3,327	\$5,886	\$1,500	\$10,713	\$74,287

**5. Consultation and Communication**

LGNSW is asking for any motions to be submitted by 25 September 2022 to ensure their inclusion in the LGNSW Annual Conference business paper. As such, Councillors were invited to provide proposed Motions for the Conference to the General Manager to be considered at this Ordinary Council Meeting for endorsement.

**6. Conclusion**

Member Councils are required to advise LGNSW of the names of their voting delegates for the Annual Conference being held on Sunday 23 October to Tuesday 25 October 2022.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32059</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Council Actions Report January - July 2022 Container: ARC16/0001-7</b>	
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Jessica Bower, Executive Officer</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. InfoCouncil Actions as at 16 August 2022	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors on the work carried out by Council Officers to implement Council resolutions.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes the report summarising the actions taken on the resolutions of Council.

### **3. Background**

This is a standard monthly report.

### **4. Discussion**

The resolutions outlined in the attachment have been previously adopted by Council. This report is designed to track progress on implementation from January 2022. Actions marked complete will be reported to Council once and then removed from subsequent reports.

### **5. Implications**

#### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

The strategic and policy impacts of each of the resolutions are varied and were outlined in the original reports to Council.

#### **5.2. Risk**

The risks of each of the resolutions are varied and were outlined in the original reports to Council.

#### **5.3. Sustainability**

The sustainability impacts of each of the resolutions are varied and were outlined in the original reports to Council.

#### **5.4. Financial**

The financial impacts of each of the resolutions are varied and were outlined in the original reports to Council.

### **6. Consultation and Communication**

This report informs Councillors and the community and increases transparency.

### **7. Conclusion**

The information is for noting only.



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<b>Item:</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32773</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Council input into development of Lobbying Guidelines by the Office of Local Government</b>	<b>Container: ARC22/5047</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Corporate and Community</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Simone Mooketsi, Manager Governance and Strategy</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform the Council of recommendations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) as a result of recent investigations undertaken which considered the risks in relation to the lobbying of councillors (Operation Dasha, Operation Eclipse and Operation Witney); and to

seek Councillors views as to whether:

- the Councillors intend to provide feedback, either individually or as a collective, to the Office of Local Government (OLG) on the content of the proposed Lobbying Guidelines to be developed by OLG; and
- the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011* (the LOGO Act) should apply to NSW councils.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the ICAC recommendations and provide collective feedback via the General Manager by Wednesday 31 August 2022 to inform a formal submission by Council to the OLG by 5 September 2022 on the collective view of Council as to whether:

- the LOGO Act should apply to NSW local governments; and
- what should be included in the proposed Lobbying Guidelines and model policy to be drafted by the OLG.

### **3. Background**

On 8 August 2022 the OLG announced via circular, that as a result of recent investigations undertaken by ICAC which had considered the corruption risks associated with the lobbying of councillors, the OLG will be developing Lobbying Guidelines and a model policy on the lobbying of councillors. Thus the OLG is undertaking consultation with councils to seek their views on what should be included in the proposed guidelines and to identify existing best practice in the local government sector in managing corruption risks associated with the lobbying of councillors. OLG is also seeking the views of councils on whether the LOGO Act should apply to local government.

Specifically the OLG is seeking feedback via formal submission by 5 September 2022 on:

- councils' views and suggestions on ICAC's recommendations on the content of the proposed guidelines
- suggestions on what issues, behaviours and risks need to be addressed in the guidelines and model policy; and

- information about what measures councils currently take to enhance transparency and promote honesty around the lobbying of councillors, and copies of or links to councils' existing lobbying policies.

For context, ICAC has made the following recommendations in relation to section 23A guidelines on the lobbying of councillors:

### **Operation Dasha**

(Recommendation 8) That the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), following a reasonable period of consultation, issues guidelines under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA) to introduce measures to enhance transparency around the lobbying of councillors. The guidelines should require that:

- councils provide meeting facilities to councillors (where practical) so that they may meet in a formal setting with parties who have an interest in a development matter;
- councils make available a member of council staff to be present at such a meeting and to prepare an official file note of that meeting to be kept on the council's files (any additional notes made by the member of council staff and/or the councillor should also be kept as part of the council's records);
- all councillors be invited when a council conducts formal onsite meetings for controversial re-zonings and developments; and
- council officers disclose in writing to the general manager any attempts by councillors to influence them over the contents or recommendations contained in any report to council and/or relating to planning and development in the local government area.

### **Operation Witney**

(Recommendation 9) That DPE ensures any guidelines issued pursuant to section 23A of the LGA regarding the lobbying of councillors (see Operation Dasha recommendation 8 above) include advice about:

- the nature and frequency of meetings between councillors and interested parties, including the need to ensure transparency around these interactions
- how and where to report concerns about lobbying practices
- the receipt of submissions outside of formal processes, including the transmission of material to specific councillors in a way that excludes other councillors and staff
- councillors' attendance at staff meetings with parties interested in an outcome
- councillor representations to staff arising from lobbying interactions; and
- the lobbying of councillors by interested parties with whom they have a pre-existing relationship.

(Recommendation 10) That DPE updates the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW to refer to any councillor lobbying guidelines and to reflect the substantive advice contained in the guidelines.

### **Operation Dasha**

(Recommendation 7) That the NSW Government amends the LOGO Act to ensure all provisions apply to local government.

### **Operation Eclipse**

(Key finding 5) The local government sector faces considerable risk of undue influence and should be regulated by the LOGO Act. Investigations conducted by ICAC and interstate anti-corruption commissions indicate that local councils are often the target of improper lobbying. However, local government officials are not “government officials” as defined by, and for the purposes of, the LOGO Act. The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW does not explicitly refer to lobbying; however, it does contain general obligations in relation to ethical and honest conduct, as well as more detailed material covering:

- improper and undue influence
- inappropriate interactions
- use and security of confidential information
- record keeping.

Extending the provisions of the LOGO Act to local government would, among other matters, allow the lobbying regulator to provide guidance about the appropriate policies and procedures that would best suit the circumstances of local councils, particularly regarding matters about planning, land use, the environment and community amenities.

## **4. Discussion**

The LOGO Act does not currently apply to NSW local governments. The objects of the LOGO Act are to promote transparency, integrity and honesty by:

- (a) ensuring that lobbyists comply with ethical standards of conduct and other requirements set out in the Lobbyists Code;
- (b) conferring on the Electoral Commission the function of enforcing compliance with the Lobbyists Code and the provisions of this Act;
- (c) enabling the Electoral Commission to investigate alleged breaches of the Lobbyists Code, this Act and the regulation and impose sanctions;
- (d) banning success fees for lobbying; and
- (e) restricting lobbying by former Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Practically this is implemented through, amongst other things, the:

- The requirements for lobbyists to be registered;
- The implementation of the Lobbyists Code of Conduct;
- Restrictions on lobbying;
- Bans on success fees; and
- The Lobbyist Watch List.

Extension of the LOGO Act to local governments in NSW would encumber Armidale Regional Council with some additional governance obligations, however the community and Councillors would have greater transparency and accountability with dealings with lobbyists.

Council currently has in place a range of mechanisms to detect and manage fraud and corruption, including but not limited to:

- Model Code of Conduct Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Risk Management Policy and supporting enterprise risk management framework.
- Pecuniary and conflict of interest declaration requirements
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy
- Internal audit and external financial audit functions
- Independent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

Councillors are requested to consider this information and provide feedback via the General Manager for the purposes of providing a formal submission to OLG on the extension of the LOGO Act by Wednesday 31 August.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

No changes will need to be made to any existing policies at this time, however should a model policy and guidelines be developed by OLG it is recommended Council consider the content of those documents at that time and determine if the content needs to be customised for the context of Armidale Regional Council.

### **5.2. Risk**

Council has adopted the following primary risk appetites that may inform feedback to the OLG:

Reputational risk – accept

Public liability/ professional indemnity – resistant

Financial – resistant

Economic development – receptive.

Councillors have a key leadership role in fraud and corruption prevention and risk management in establishing the policy and governance frameworks and contributing to the cultural tone at Council, therefore Councillors are strongly encouraged to be transparent and accountable in all dealings with lobbyists even in the absence of a model policy or guidelines at this time. Councillors are reminded of their obligation to declare conflicts of interest, including perceived conflicts of interest.

### **5.3. Sustainability**

Nil

#### 5.4. Financial

Budget Area:	N/A						
Funding Source:	N/A						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

#### 6. Consultation and Communication

This paper forms the basis for consultation with Councillors.

#### 7. Conclusion

The lobbying of councillors has been identified as key fraud and corruption risk by ICAC. Councillors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the ICAC reports on operations Dasha, Whitney and Eclipse available on the ICAC website and the content of the LOGO Act in order to provide feedback via the General Manager which will be used to draft a formal submission to the OLG.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/33010</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Tabling of Updated Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest - Councillor Packham</b>	<b>Container: ARC19/3543</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Corporate and Community</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Stacey Drew, Executive Policy Advisor</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Cr Packham updated Disclosure - redacted	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to table the updated Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and Other Matters returns for Councillor Packham.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the tabling of updated Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Other Matters provided by Councillor Packham as required by the *Model Code of Conduct*.

### **3. Background**

Cause 4.21 of the *Model Code of Conduct* states officials are required to disclose their personal interests in publicly available returns of interest. These operate as a key transparency mechanism for promoting community confidence in Council decision making, whether by Councillors or by staff or others under delegation.

### **4. Discussion**

All Councillors are required to lodge their return with the General Manager within three months of their election.

Returns lodged at any other time must be tabled at the first Council meeting after the return was lodged. Councillors and staff may update their Disclosures at any time.

Among other things, Councillors and others who are required to complete returns of interests must disclose the following types of interests in their returns:

- interests in real property
- gifts
- contributions to travel
- interests and positions in corporations
- whether they are a property developer or a close associate of a property developer
- positions in trade unions and professional or business associations
- dispositions of real property
- sources of income
- debts.

## 5. Implications

Council officials must not lodge a return that they know or ought to know is false or misleading. Complaints about breaches of these requirements are to be referred to the Office of Local Government.

### 5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications

This report contributes to the delivery the Advancing our Region Community Plan 2022-2032 Goal S2.1 Provide strong, transparent, sustainable and responsive governance to our region and Goal S2.4 Make open and transparent decisions that are informed by stakeholders, leading practices, systems and technologies.

Council must make all returns of interests publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009* and any guidelines issued by the NSW Information Commissioner.

### 5.2. Risk

In accordance with *the Model Code of Conduct*, if a council official becomes aware of any new interests that need to be disclosed, the Council official must submit a new return within three months of becoming aware of the interests.

Council's risk appetite for legal, governance and compliance risk is "avoid" and reporting of pecuniary interests is in line with this risk appetite.

### 5.3. Sustainability

### 5.4. Financial

Budget Area:	NIL						
Funding Source:	NIL						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## 6. Consultation and Communication

Completed returns of Councillors will be included in Council's register of returns, and are available for public viewing via the administration building customer service desk.

## 7. Conclusion

The tabling of updated return (attached) satisfies Council's obligations under the *Model Code of Conduct*. Completed returns of Councillors are redacted for privacy before being placed on councils website contained within the Register of Returns.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/31900</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Planning Agreement with Oxley Solar Farm</b>	<b>Container: ARC21/4544</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Sustainable Development</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Daniel Boyce, Chief Officer Sustainable Development</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Oxley Solar Farm VPA Offer	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the general terms of a proposed Planning Agreement received from the proponent of Oxley Solar Farm, which is State Significant Development Application Number SSD-10346.

Council can either accept or reject the general terms of a proposed Planning Agreement. If Council chooses to reject the offer, then it should determine an offer that it would accept if it were made.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- a. Accept the following general terms of the Planning Agreement proposed by the proponent in relation to the Oxley Solar Farm:
  - i. Lump sum of \$2,790,000 (adjusted annually for CPI) on commencement of construction.
  - ii. Annual payment of \$139,500 (adjusted annually for CPI) for 20 years from commencement of construction.
  - iii. An agreement to provide assistance with purchasing solar panels and steel components on behalf of Council at Oxley Solar Farm corporate rates.
  - iv. Annual sponsorship of Project Zero30 of \$20,000 (adjusted annually for CPI) for 10 years from commencement of construction.
  - v. Provision of four electric vehicle charging stations at agreed locations no later than commencement of operation.
- b. Advise the proponent of Oxley Solar Farm and the NSW Government of its decision.

### **3. Background**

Oxley Solar Farm proposes a 225 MW solar farm with up to 50 MW of battery energy storage and associated infrastructure (Figure 1).

State significant development (**SSD**) have to go through a comprehensive assessment process. The main steps in this process are outlined below:

- Request (SEARs)
- Prepare EIS
- Exhibit DA
- Respond to submissions
- Assess DA

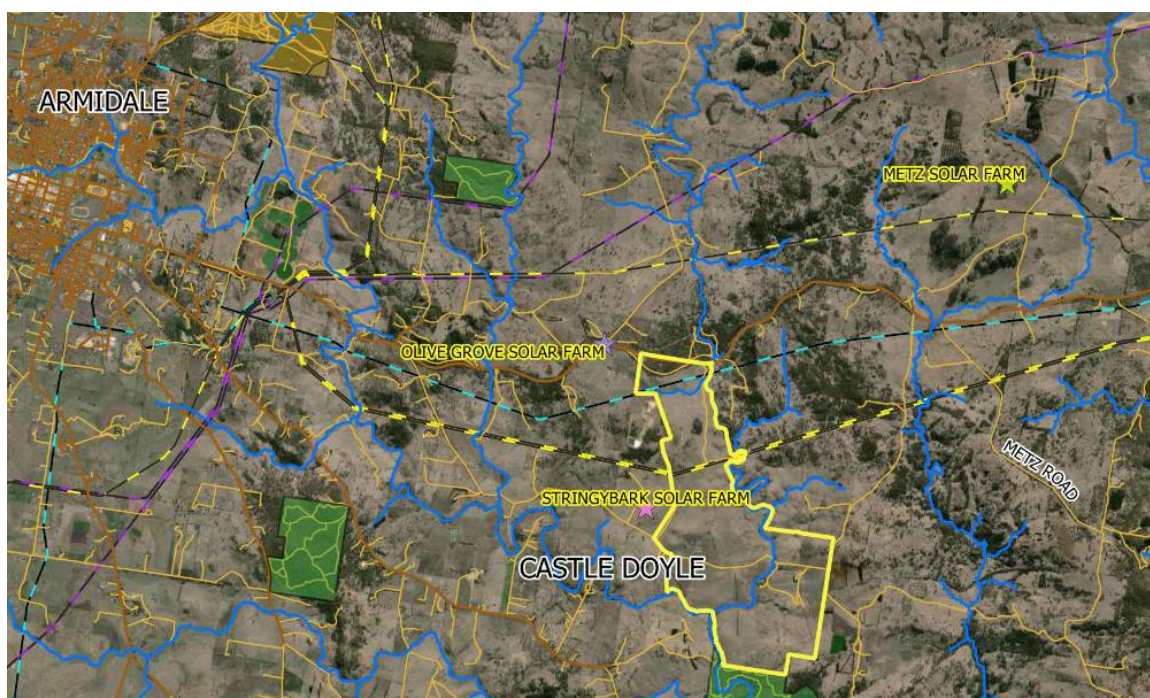


- Determine DA

The Independent Planning Commission is the consent authority for a development application (**DA**) for SSD if any of the following apply and the applicant is not a public authority:

- the local council has made a submission objecting to the application,
- the department has received 50 or more public objections in response to the exhibition of the application (petitions and submissions that contain substantially the same text count as one objection), or
- the applicant has made a reportable political donation.

The Minister for Planning is the consent authority for all other DAs for SSD. The Minister has delegated power for certain decisions to senior officers of the department.



*Figure 1 Oxley Solar Farm*

The application for SSD, Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) and accompanying documents for Oxley Solar Farm were exhibited from Wednesday 17 March 2021 until Wednesday 14 April 2021.

The Department received 79 submissions from the public on the project.

The proponent is preparing a response to submissions report (**RTS**) to submit to the NSW Government (**DPE**) and is also preparing additional information at the request of DPE on matters including:

- Visual impacts residences and public viewpoints (including Oxley Wild Rivers National Park),
- Details of surface water management controls,
- Proposed vehicle access route,
- Biodiversity,
- Bushfire.

Council will have the opportunity to review the RTS and provide further comment on the SSD.

#### 4. Discussion

As Council is not the consent authority this removes a perceived conflict that exists in many planning agreement negotiations where Council is also required to determine whether to support a DA or planning proposal as well as whether to accept an offer to enter into a planning agreement.

The acceptability test for planning agreements requires that they:

- Are directed towards legitimate planning purposes, which can be identified in the statutory planning controls and other adopted planning strategies and policies applying to development.
- Provide for the delivery of infrastructure or public benefits not wholly unrelated to the development.
- Produce outcomes that meet the general values and expectations of the public and protect the overall public interest.
- Provide for a reasonable means of achieving the desired outcomes and securing the benefits.
- Protect the community against adverse planning decisions.

The general terms of the Planning Agreement proposed for the Oxley Solar Farm are:

<b>Oxley Solar Farm 225 MW</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Lump sum of \$2,790,000 (adjusted annually for CPI) on commencement of construction.	2,790,000
Annual payment of \$139,500 (adjusted annually for CPI) for 20 years from commencement of construction	2,790,000
An agreement to provide assistance with purchasing solar panels and steel components on behalf of Council at Oxley Solar Farm corporate rates.	-
Annual sponsorship of Project Zero30 of \$20,000 (adjusted annually for CPI) for 10 years from commencement of construction.	200,000
Provision of four electric vehicle charging stations at agreed locations no later than commencement of operation.	160,000 (estimated)
<b>VPA Offer</b>	<b>5,940,000</b>

As a guide for Council, the Clean Energy Council (**CEC**) suggests that for large-scale solar projects, the contribution range has been \$130-\$800 per MW (AC) per year over 10 to 25 years, with the higher amounts being deployed across shorter timelines.

*Table 1 Clean Energy Council Guidelines for benefit sharing*

<b>Oxley Solar Farm 225 MW</b>			
<b>Contribution/MW (\$)</b>	<b>Contribution/Year (\$)</b>	<b>Contribution/10yrs(\$)</b>	<b>Contribution/25yrs(\$)</b>
<b>130 (CEC Low)</b>	<b>29,250</b>	<b>292,500</b>	<b>731,250</b>
200	45,000	450,000	1,125,000
400	90,000	900,000	2,250,000
500	112,500	1,125,000	2,812,500
600	135,000	1,350,000	3,375,000
700	157,500	1,575,000	3,937,500
<b>800 (CEC High)</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>4,500,000</b>
900	202,500	2,025,000	5,062,500
900	202,500	2,025,000	5,062,500
1000	225,000	2,250,000	5,625,000
<b>1056 (VPA Offer)</b>	<b>237,600</b>	<b>2,376,000</b>	<b>5,940,000</b>

Whilst planning agreements can be structured as annual or one off up-front payments (the Oxley Solar Farm offer contains both) the table below has been prepared to provide a comparison with other SSD solar farm approvals. Some agreements referenced below are structured as annual payments with no up-front amount and some are a combination of up-front and annual payments (as with Oxley Solar Farm). For the purposes of comparison it has been assumed that the average life of the projects is 25 years.

*Table 2 Comparison of benefit sharing arrangements for NSW SSD solar farms*

<b>Project</b>	<b>MW</b>	<b>Capital Value (CV)</b>	<b>Determination Date</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Contrib. (\$) (assumed 25 yr life)</b>	<b>Contrib. (% CV)</b>
Sapphire Solar Farm	180	\$280 m	16/08/2018	Inverell Shire	-	-
<b>Metz Solar Farm</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$130 m</b>	<b>21/12/2018</b>	<b>Armidale Regional</b>	-	-
Orange Grove Solar Farm	110	\$94 m	25/07/2019	Gunnedah Shire	-	-
Maryvale Solar Farm	125	\$188 m	04/12/2019	Dubbo Regional	-	-
New England Solar Farm	720	\$768 m	09/03/2020	Uralla Shire	-	-
Walla Walla	300	\$399 m	27/11/2020	Greater Hume	2,200,000	0.55

Solar Farm				Shire		
Tamworth Solar Farm	65	\$104 m	30/11/2020	Tamworth Regional	-	-
Bonshaw Solar Farm	200	\$237 m	03/12/2020	Inverell Shire	-	-
Yarren Hut Solar Farm	28	\$42 m	28/01/2021	Bogan Shire	500,000	1.19
Stubbo Solar Farm	400	\$418 m	29/06/2021	Mid-Western Regional	3,000,000	0.72
<b>Tilbuster Solar Farm</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>\$152 m</b>	<b>03/03/2022</b>	<b>Armidale Regional</b>	<b>1,529,000</b>	<b>1</b>
Silverleaf Solar Farm	120	\$191 m	21/04/2022	Narrabri Shire	-	-
<b>Oxley Solar Farm</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>\$370 m</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Armidale Regional</b>	<b>5,940,000</b>	<b>1.61</b>

The general terms offered by Oxley Solar Farm compare favourably to the CEC guidance (Table 1) and other NSW SSD projects (Table 2).

## 5. Implications

### 5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications

#### T1.1 Attract new job creating investment to the region

Leverage our status as a Renewable Energy Zone to attract new engine room industries and negotiate community benefit sharing arrangements that deliver a long-term dividend for the region (T1.1.4)

The general terms of the planning agreement align with the above strategic direction set by Council as part of the new Delivery Program.

### 5.2. Risk

**Financial Risk:** Should Council and the proponent not be able to agree on the terms of the Planning Agreement, based on a review of the above SSD projects (Table 2) it is unlikely that DPE will include a condition requiring the payment of a 1% contribution under Councils Section 7.12 Contribution Plan.

This would result in the community not receiving any payment from the Proponent for the development.

**Reputational Risk:** There is some potential reputational risk, should Council not agree to the Planning Agreement and DPE not levying the 1% contribution. As this would result in the development not making any monetary contribution to the local community.

**Operational and Governance Risk:** The process of Planning Agreement is governed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Regulations and requires community consultation prior to Council entering into the agreement. The purpose of this report is for

Council to agree the general terms of the planning agreement prior to the determination of the development by the NSW Government.

### 5.3. Sustainability

Entering into a Planning Agreement may provide funding for community projects.

### 5.4. Financial

Budget Area:	Sustainable Development						
Funding Source:	N/A						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 6. Consultation and Communication

Should Council resolve to agree to the general terms of the Planning Agreement DPE will place a condition on the final determination requiring the proponent to enter into the Planning Agreement with Council.

Once the DA is determined the Planning Agreement will be drafted and will be the subject of a future Council report for endorsement to proceed to public exhibition in accordance with statutory period of not less than 28 days.

## 7. Conclusion

Council has received general terms of a proposed Planning Agreement from the proponent of Oxley Solar Farm, which is State Significant Development Application Number SSD-10346.

The general terms offered by Oxley Solar Farm compare favourably to the CEC guidance and other projects. It is recommended that Council agree to the general terms offered.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32199</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>YMCA Partnership - Update on Pilot Project for the operation of Council's Armidale and Guyra Pools</b>	<b>Container: ARC21/4976</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Assets and Services</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Tom Bower, Coordinator Town &amp; Public Spaces</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Armidale Regional Council Swimming Pool Review - Options Assessment - YNSW (Note: Commercial in Confidence)	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Memorandum of Understanding arrangement with YMCA NSW and their report findings following a strategic and operational review of all aspects of Council's pools in Armidale and Guyra.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- a) Endorse an extension the MOU for a further three months to appropriately review options, continue community consultation on the Y NSW report and enter into negotiations with the Y NSW for the ongoing management of the two Aquatic Centres.
- b) Note the Report from the Y NSW and endorse the findings of the Armidale Regional Council's Swimming Pools and the recommendation to engage external consultants to assist in the creation of a business case; and
- c) Delegate authority to the General Manager to commence negotiations into the ongoing management of the two Aquatic Centres for an initial two-year interim management model incorporating the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 pool seasons at the conclusion of the MOU.

### **3. Background**

YMCA NSW is a not-for-profit organisation committed to empowering and inspiring young people by creating inspiration through gyms, recreation centres, and aquatic centres and outside school hour's care.

On 27 October 2021 Council adopted to enter a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with YMCA NSW, with the focus on maximising the operation of Council's pool assets in Armidale and Guyra.

The intention of the MOU is to ensure the potential of the existing Aquatic Centres is realised, that existing Council staff and the community will have input into the way to improve the programs and services are delivered and to work together on the concept of a new aquatic and leisure centre for the Armidale region that may be funded by a combination of Council and Government funding.

The major emphasis surrounding the development of the Armidale Aquatic Centre will be to seek to integrate a warm water pool into the facility as part of the broader wellness precinct at the Monkton Centre.

#### **4. Discussion**

In Armidale Regional Council's **2022-2023 Operational Plan** there is provision for Council to "Consider and implement the Y NSW report on the optimisation of our pool facilities including future viability and enhancements".

Measures to be undertaken are;

- Provide a safe and enjoyable aquatic facility for the community.
- Compliance in accordance with the Royal Lifesaving NSW Operation Manual.
- 0 major safety incidents.
- 100% of lifeguard qualifications maintained annually.
- Provide facilities for at least 5 months per year.

Over the past seven months, the Y NSW has reviewed the delivery of Councils facilities not only through an operational lens but from a strategic perspective. From community consultation, comparisons to like regional communities and a review of the historical performance, their recommendations are that Council should:

- Explore alternate management models to maximise community participation and activation of both facilities through an initial two-year interim management model incorporating the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 pool seasons;
- Progress with design development phase to determine capital and ongoing cost implications. That Council develop a business case for further consideration and Council engage a Specialist Leisure Planner, Architect and Quantity Surveyor to undertake this work. The Y has outlined three alternate options for a redevelopment of the Monckton Aquatic Centre; and
- Continue to maintain Guyra Swimming Pool and explore alternate management models to maximise community participation and engagement. There are no major capital works proposed for the Guyra Swimming Pool, beyond any existing maintenance and capital replacement program.

To appropriately assess the whole of life costs, capital expenditure and return on investment with Councils financial status and community expectations, it is recommended that further time is granted to this MOU to explore the options presented.

#### **5. Implications**

##### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

The MOU between ARC and the Y NSW and proposed options in this report align with Council's adopted Community Strategic Plan Advancing our Region Community Plan 2022-2032:

##### **Liveable Region Places & Spaces**

- L1 Public spaces and infrastructure that facilitate health, community connections and opportunities
  - L1.4 Enhance and maintain sporting facilities to meet the needs of our local community and neighbouring regions, and to entice regional, state, and national events
  - L1.5 Enhance and maintain recreation spaces to offer quality of life, entertainment and family-friendly activities to residents and visitors

### **Strong Region Engagement & Responsibility**

- S1 an informed and actively engaged community, that builds partnerships and shapes its future
  - S1.1 Help the community to be informed and have input into decisions about its region and future
  - S1.3 Empower the community and our leaders to make positive change and to unify the region
  
- S2 Strong governance and leadership that supports our region to grow and prosper - Strategies:
  - S2.1 Provide a strong, transparent, sustainable, and responsive governance for our region
  - S2.2 Ensure that strategic directions are informed by, and with, the community and are delivered in consideration of available resources
  - S2.4 Make open and transparent decisions that are informed by stakeholders, leading practices, systems, and technologies

### **5.2. Risk**

As discussed in the original YMCA Partnership - Pilot Project for the operation of Council's Armidale and Guyra Pools Council report presented to Council in October 2021's Ordinary Council Meeting, the nature of the MOU being non-binding and being extended for three months limits risks.

Council Officers require further planning and review of the options presented due to best serve our community and select the most financially sound option for the future. It is necessary, as forecasted in the original report to Council in October 2021 that an extension of the MOU be granted to appropriately conduct the planning process of this capital works proposal.

To minimise risk, and consistent with the original MOU, the extended MOU terms will be consistent with the original. This includes provision for the agreement to be terminated at any time and for any reason, without penalty; with one months' notice.

### **Sustainability**

The YMCA NSW Report:

- Promotes more efficient and improved service delivery through collaboration and innovation; and
- Provides potential efficiencies to be gained through service delivery.

### **5.3. Financial**

Under the MOU between Council and The Y NSW, the monthly cost has been agreed to as \$1,250 per month. The ongoing costs for the extension of the MOU has been included in the operational budget adopted for 2022/2023 Financial Year.



Budget Area:	Assets and Services						
Funding Source:	Swimming Pool Operations						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
240001	Consultants	\$15,000	Nil	Nil	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$11,250

A budget of \$200,000 has been adopted as part of the Capital Works Budget for the 2022/2023 Financial Year. It has been indicated by the Y NSW as sufficient for the engagement of consultants to support the Monkton Aquatic Centre concept development and development of a business case.

## 6. Consultation and Communication

### Consultation to Date

The community aspirations have been collected and are outlined in the review to support the recommended directions. Consultation processes included community survey and extensive community and stakeholder engagement conducted between mid-February and the end of March 2022. The findings of these engagements can all be found in the review.

### Further Community and Stakeholder Consultation

An alternate management model would require further assessment and confirmation of community needs and the opportunities for delivery must be incorporated into an ongoing management model. Following the adoption of recommendations above and the Y NSW and ARC entering into negotiations around a management model, there will be a need for the Y NSW to plan for and develop programs and engage with potential customer groups. A six month timeline for implementation should be allowed for this planning and engagement.

Upon acceptance of the recommendations of this report, the Y NSW proposes to engage with the community and stakeholder groups that assisted in the development of the vision to:

- Ascertain views of the three development options and determine a suitable option to develop detailed costings and plans; and
- Ensure the public have felt heard during the process and that their views have been taken into account.

It is anticipated that this process would six to eight weeks with a report being issued to Council in late 2022.

Another report to Council will be required to engage

## 7. Conclusion

The YMCA NSW has conducted a thorough review of the strategic and operational aspects of Council's pools in Armidale and Guyra and produced three recommendations for the redevelopment of the Monkton Aquatic centre, and proposed further consultation be

undertaken regarding the potential take-up of education and leisure programs at the two facilities.

Council are requested to review the information provided in YMCA NSW's Armidale Regional Council Swimming Pools Review report and endorse its recommendations;

1. That Council extend the MOU with Y NSW for an additional 3 months to allow further community and stakeholder consultation;
2. At the conclusion of the MOU that Council and the Y NSW commence negotiations into the ongoing management of the two Aquatic Centres consistent with the MOU entered into 26 November 2021. Together Council and the Y NSW will explore alternate management models to maximise community participation and activation of both facilities through an initial two-year interim management model incorporating the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 pool seasons;
3. That Council continue to maintain the existing condition of the Guyra Swimming Pool as the need to redevelop the site is not critical and note that Guyra residents would benefit immensely from a range of new programs and services aimed at encouraging physical activity which could be explored as part of an ongoing management model; and
4. That Council note the three options proposed in the report by the Y NSW and progress with design development phase to determine capital and ongoing cost implications. That Council develop a business case for further consideration and Council engage a Specialist Leisure Planner, Architect and Quantity Surveyor to undertake this work.

It is recommended that Council endorse the extension to the original Memorandum of Understanding for a further three months to allow Council Officers to consider the findings and prepare a final recommendation to Council on a proposed way to proceed.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32476</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2021-22 Draft Financial Statements - Refer to Audit</b>	<b>Container:</b>
	<b>ARC16/0001-7</b>	
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Acting Chief Financial Officer</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Brad Munns, Financial Accountant</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Draft Annual Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Draft 2021-22 Financial Statements for referral to audit.

In accordance with S416 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to pass a resolution to this effect along with the making of a number of other conformance statements.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Council endorse the 2021-22 draft financial statements as:
1. being prepared in accordance with:
    - the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended) and the Regulations made there under;
    - the Australian Accounting Standards; and
    - the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.
  2. presenting fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year; and
  3. being in accord with Council's accounting and other records.
- B. Council confirm it is not aware of any matter that would render the draft financial statements being prepared as being false or misleading in any way;
- C. Council endorse the Draft Financial Statements be referred to audit following completion of quality review by Council's Executive Leadership Team and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee;
- D. Council delegate authority to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer to sign the 'Statement by Council and Management' for inclusion within the draft financial report;
- E. Council delegate authority to the General Manager to finalise the date at which the auditor's report and financial statements are to be presented to the public;
- F. Council delegate authority to the General Manager to set the 'authorised for issue' date upon receipt of the auditor's report; and
- G. The Audited Financial Statements be presented to the October 2022 Ordinary Council meeting.

### **3. Background**

Each year, Council is required to complete year-end financial statements in accordance with S413 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. These reports are to be completed as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year in accordance with Australian Accounting

Standards and must include a general purpose financial report (Consolidated Fund), special purpose financial reports for all of council's business activities (Water and Sewer Funds), special schedules and the prescribed councillor's statement.

Council has four months from the end of the financial year to prepare, adopt and have audited the financial reports in accordance with S416 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

At the time of preparing this report, the draft financial statements are being finalised. Council's quality review process includes review of the draft financial statements by Council's Executive Leadership Team and Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee are next meeting on 20 September 2022. Due to the timing of this ARIC meeting, the draft financial statements have been issued to the ARIC Members out of session. Audit work papers are due to be provided to the Audit Office by 12 September 2022, ready for the audit to commence on 19 September 2022.

#### **4. Discussion**

In order to continue to progress toward lodgement of the financial statements with the appropriate bodies and presentation of such to the general public, it is required that Council refer the attached draft Financial Statements to audit for finalisation and that it make a resolution in accordance with S413 (2c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, that the statements are in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made there under, the Australian Accounting Standards, and
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting, that the Statements present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- that the Council is not aware of any matter that would render this report false or misleading in any way, and
- the report accords with Council's accounting and other financial records.

Council is also required to delegate authority to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, General Manager and Responsible Accounting Officer to sign the 'Statement by Council and Management' that forms part of the financial report in accordance with Clause 215 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

Given the timeframes within which the audited financial reports need to be lodged with the Office of Local Government and the timing for the auditor's report to be presented to the general public, it would also be prudent at this time to delegate authority to the General Manager to execute the following:

- Finalise the date at which the auditor's report and financial statements are to be presented to the public in compliance with S418 (1) of The Act.
- Set the authorised for issue date upon receipt of the auditor's report.

Following the completion of the processes above, a report will be presented to Council containing the final audited Financial Report for analysis and information.

## 5. Implications

### 5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications

- *Local Government Act 1993;*
- *Local Government Regulations (General) 2005;*
- *Australian Accounting Standards;*
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.*

### 5.2. Risk

Nil

### 5.3. Sustainability

Results for key macro financial indicators will be provided in the report to Council along with the Audited Financial Report once completed.

### 5.4. Financial

Budget Area:	FINANCE						
Funding Source:	General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Trust Fund						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
210815	Audit Expenses  The Overall Finance Team Budget includes employment costs associated with preparation of financial statements.	\$108,379	\$29,700	\$78,679	Nil	\$108,379	Nil

## 6. Consultation and Communication

Once finalised the financial statements are to be publicly exhibited in accordance with the Local Government Act, including advertising of the key results in the local print press and on Councils website.

Council's external auditor is also required to present their reports to Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting in November, following the completion and audit of the statements. A presentation will also be made to Council.

**7. Conclusion**

The purpose of this report is for Council to endorse the Draft 2021-22 Financial Statements for referral to audit.

<b>Item:</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32504</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Cash and Investment Report 31 July 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC20/4311</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Corporate and Community</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Brad Munns, Financial Accountant</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil	

### 1. Purpose

The Cash and Investment report provides an overview of cash and investments for the month to 31 July 2022 and certifies compliance with Council's Investment Policy and the *Local Government Act 1993* and Regulations.

### 2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Cash and Investment Report for July 2022.

### 3. Background

As at 31 July 2022, Council held \$77,326,478 in investments (market value) and \$25,941,453 in cash, giving a combined total of \$103,267,931.

### 4. Discussion

#### Cash and Investments

Balances are as follows:

<b>Item/Account</b>	<b>July 2022</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>Movement</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b><u>Cash at Bank</u></b>			
NAB General Account	2,079,845	-	2,079,845
NAB Cash At Call	20,544,202	19,277,098	1,267,104
AMP Saver Account	2,016,839	2,016,008	831
NAB Trust Fund	1,300,567	1,299,177	1,390
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>25,941,453</b>	<b>22,592,283</b>	<b>3,349,170</b>
<b><u>Investments</u></b>			
NSW Treasury Corp (T-Corp) Investment Management (IM) Funds	9,986,178	9,951,166	35,012
Term Deposits	67,340,300	72,281,409	(4,941,109)
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>77,326,478</b>	<b>82,232,575</b>	<b>(4,906,097)</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>103,267,931</b>	<b>104,824,858</b>	<b>(1,556,927)</b>

Summary of investment movements for July 2022:

<b>Investment Maturities/Movements</b>		<b>New Investments</b>	
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
BOQ Term Deposit	(5,000,000)	NAB Term Deposit	<b>20,000</b>
NAB Term Deposit	(20,000)		
Movement in Interest Receivable on Term Deposits	58,891		
Market Movement T-Corp IM Funds	35,012		
<b>Total</b>	<b>(4,926,097)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>

Funds from term deposit maturities are held in the NAB Cash At Call account, currently earning 0.70% pa. Term deposit rates continued to increase during July 2022 from 3.5% to 3.8%. During July 2022, there were two term deposit maturities, a \$5m Term Deposit with Bank of Queensland and a \$20,000 Term Deposit with National Australia Bank (for Bank Guarantee security). The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) increased the official cash rate from 0.85% to 1.35% on 5 July 2022 and from 1.35% to 1.85% on 2 August 2022. The next term deposit maturities are \$6M in August 2022 (AMP, BOQ). With the Cash at Call Account balance of \$20.5M at 31 July 2022, and given the continued rise in term deposit rates into August 2022, we shall review cash-flow requirements and consider investing a further \$5M to \$10M in term deposits during August 2022.

Long term interest rate forecasts appear to have stabilised in investment markets. This resulted in a positive impact on the capital value of the T-Corp Short Term Income Fund investment in July 2022.

Council continues to monitor investment markets and the impact on the T-Corp IM Fund investment. While investment markets appear to have peaked with long term interest rates stabilising, Council continues to take a conservative position holding cash reserves along with reviewing longer term investment options to take advantage of higher returns.

Investment Revenue Earned

	<b>July 2022</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>Movement</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
NAB General Cash Account	84	33	51
Term Deposits	84,098	81,575	2,523
NSW T-Corp IM Funds (Note 1)	35,012	(10,196)	45,208
NAB High Interest Account	18,728	14,538	4,190
AMP Saver Account	856	828	28
NAB Trust Account	1,390	871	519
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,168</b>	<b>87,649</b>	<b>52,519</b>



Note 1: NSW T-Corp IM Funds are unitised investments, so the investment revenue consists of interest distributions credited by way of additional units issued, plus the movement (either upwards or downwards) of the underlying unit value. The value of the T-Corp investment fund units have been negatively impacted by the movement in interest rates during the past 9 months which resulted in a negative investment revenue amount for those months.

Investments are diversified across a range of institutions, with funds invested to ensure the portfolio is aligned with the Investment Policy.

<b>Issuer</b>	<b>Short Term Rating</b>	<b>Market Value \$</b>	<b>% Total Value</b>
AMP Bank	A2	5,030,875	6.51%
Bank Of Queensland	A2	5,021,822	6.50%
Bendigo & Adelaide Bank	A2	5,013,952	6.48%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	A1+	5,019,863	6.49%
Regional Australia Bank	Unrated	2,010,225	2.60%
ING Bank	A1	20,114,617	26.01%
National Australia Bank	A1+	10,059,479	13.01%
Westpac Banking Corporation	A1+	15,069,467	19.49%
NSW T Corp – IM Funds (Cash and Short Term Income Fund)	AA+	9,986,178	12.91%
<b>Total</b>		<b>77,326,478</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Investment Yield

<b>Term of Investment</b>	<b>July 2022</b>			<b>June 2022</b>		
	<b>ARC</b>	<b>BBSW rate</b>	<b>Out/(under) performance</b>	<b>ARC</b>	<b>BBSW rate</b>	<b>Out/(under) performance</b>
6 months	0.79%	2.78%	(1.99%)	0.61%	2.65%	(2.04%)
12 months	0.67%	3.01%	(2.34%)	0.58%	3.03%	(2.45%)

The Armidale Regional Council Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 identifies the importance of Leadership for the Region. In particular:

L2 – Council exceeds community expectations when managing its budget and operations.

L2.1 – Financial sustainability is maintained through effective short and long term financial management.

L2.1.3 – Develop effective financial management systems.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

All of Council's investments for the period are in accordance with:

- Council Investment Policy
- *Local Government Act 1993* – Section 625
- *Local Government Act 1993* – Order of the Minister dated 12 January 2011
- *The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* – Reg 212

The investment of surplus funds must remain in line with Council's Investment Policy. This will ensure sufficient working capital is retained and restrictions are supported by cash and investments that are easily converted into cash. Cash management complies with the *NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

The Investment Policy relates to:

- Council's Community Plan 2022-2032 theme category of "Strong Region – Engagement and Responsibility" and related strategy of "Manage public resources responsibly and efficiently for the benefit of the community."
- Council's Delivery Program 2022-2026 includes initiatives S2.3.2 "Maintain financial sustainability by meeting Performance Ratios and Fit for the Future Benchmarks, while ensuring sustainable cash reserves to support service levels and assets" and S2.3.5 "Manage our assets responsibly to ensure greater lifespan and usability and to reduce financial burden".
- Council's Operational Plan 2022-23: Asset Management, Finance and Procurement, Governance, Strategy and Risk.

## **5.2. Risk**

Council invests in Term Deposits, Cash and NSW Treasury Corporation Investment Management (IM) Funds. Rates of return on these investments are generally higher than the Bank Bill Swap (BBSW) Index however the recent increase in fixed interest rates has resulted in the BBSW index moving ahead of Council's returns. For the month of July 2022, the 1 year BBSW rate decreased from 3.03% to 3.01%. Council's 1 year return to July 2022 of 0.67% is less than the 1 year BBSW rate of 3.01%.

The BBSW has moved to 3.01% recently (up from 0.59% in Jan22). The BBSW is influenced by forward looking returns in the market/where the market is pricing future interest rate movements in the short term, while Council's returns are based on historical term deposit rates (ie backward looking) that were invested in (eg 0.45% return for 12 month Term Deposit in August 2021).

Council's investment return was above the RBA Official Cash rate of 0.35% prior to 7 June 2022, when the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) increased official cash rates from 0.35% to 0.85%. On 5 July 2022, the RBA increased the official cash rate a further 0.5% from 0.85% to 1.35% and on 2 August 2022, the RBA increased the official cash rate a further 0.5% from 1.35% to 1.85%.

Council's responsibility is to ensure working capital is retained and restrictions are supported by cash.

Council considers effective risk management practices exist over its cash and investment holdings.

## **5.3. Sustainability**

Council utilises an online Portfolio Platform to manage its investments and investment register. The number of investments has been rationalised allowing for more efficient internal investment management to be performed. Communication is performed by electronic means, resulting in efficiencies of processes and a reduction in the use of paper.

#### 5.4. Financial

<b>Budget Area:</b>	Financial Services						
<b>Funding Source:</b>	General Fund (untied revenue) Water Fund (externally restricted) Sewer Fund (externally restricted)						
<b>Budget Ref: (PN)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approved Budget (Revised)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Total Forecast Expenditure</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
210815.1.1760. 165.1670 260005.3.2590. 165.1660 280010.2.3310. 165.1650	Interest Income on Investments	(\$715,000)	(\$140,168)	Nil	Nil	Nil	(\$574,832)
210815.1.1760. 333.2430	Subscriptions	\$10,700	\$500	\$5,500	Nil	\$6,000	\$4,700

#### Comparison of Actual Interest Income Earned with Year To Date (YTD) Budget

<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
YTD July 2022	\$140,168	\$59,583	\$80,585

There is a YTD favourable budget variance of \$80,585 to 31 July 2022 (including accrued interest). Term deposit rates have continued to increase during July and August 2022. Council continues to closely monitor investment markets and returns.

#### Restricted & Unrestricted Funds

As at 31 July 2022, total restricted and unrestricted funds were fully funded by cash and investments. Between the reported (audited) amounts as at 30/06/2021 and the projected year end result for 30/06/2022 as reported in the 2021/22 Third Quarter Budget Review, it is projected there will be an increase in externally restricted cash of \$5.04m, an increase in internally restricted cash of \$4.12m and a decrease in unrestricted cash of \$114k, giving an overall net increase of \$9.04m. The current cash and investment position as at 30 June 2022 adequately covers forecast totals.

#### **Actual Result at 30 June 2021 (audited)**

<b>\$'000</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>	<b>Total</b>
External Restrictions	18,329	23,244	19,511	61,084
Internal Restrictions	16,813	-	-	16,813
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	<b>35,142</b>	<b>23,244</b>	<b>19,511</b>	<b>77,897</b>

Unrestricted	3,408	-	-	3,408
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>38,550</b>	<b>23,244</b>	<b>19,511</b>	<b>81,305</b>

**Projected Year End Result at 30 June 2022 (as at QBR3 – presented to Council May 2022)**

<b>\$'000</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>	<b>Total</b>
External Restrictions	17,707	27,377	21,041	66,125
Internal Restrictions	20,928			20,928
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	<b>38,635</b>	<b>27,377</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>87,053</b>
Unrestricted	3,294			3,294
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>41,929</b>	<b>27,377</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>90,348</b>

**Movement from June 2021 to Forecast June 2022**

<b>\$'000</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>	<b>Total</b>
External Restrictions	(623 )	4,133	1,530	5,040
Internal Restrictions	4,116			4,116
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	<b>3,493</b>	<b>4,133</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>9,156</b>
Unrestricted	(114 )			(114 )
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>4,133</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>9,042</b>

**6. Consultation and Communication**

An Investment Report is required to be tabled at the monthly Ordinary Meeting of Council.

**7. Conclusion**

The Cash and Investment Report provides an overview of cash and investments as at and for the month ended 31 July 2022 and demonstrates compliance with Council policy.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/33152</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Adoption of Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032</b>	<b>Container: ARC21/4652</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Assets and Services</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Mark Byrne, Manager Utilities</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. ARC Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032 2. NEG - ARC Water Quality 27 July 2023 - Response to CWQSP	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council Adopt the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032

### **3. Background**

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 June 2022, Council resolved to endorse the Draft Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032 being placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

### **4. Discussion**

Immediately following the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 29 June 2022, the Draft Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan was placed on public exhibition.

During the exhibition period one submission was received which supports the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032 relating to Council's existing water sources, but also urges Council to consider catchment water quality for all sources including the proposed water security options feeding into the Macleay Catchment from either the Oaky or Styx Rivers.

### **5. Implications**

#### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

The development of a Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan - Final Advancing our Region Community Plan 2022-2032 as part of the key pillar Future Region.

Strategic Goal - F2. - A clean, green, and responsible region

- F2.5 - Ensure the community is provided with safe and accessible water and that our water availability is sustainably managed now and into the future.
  - Work with Southern New-England Landcare, under a Memorandum of Understanding and the 10 Year Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan to improve the environment and water quality around ARC water catchments (F2.5.3)

## 5.2. Risk

- **Economic risk** – Use of more chemicals in treatment process to meet drinking water standards leading to increased treatment costs if water quality is poor or gets worse.
- **Social risk** – Poor water quality leading to lack of basic social water needs and more frequent algal blooms restricting recreational use at reservoirs.
- **Operational risk** – Unable to treat the raw water delivered from the storage reservoirs due to poor water quality.
- **Reputational risk** – Taste, odour and aesthetic issues with the treated water leading to customer complaints.
- **Corporate risk** – Fines through non-compliance.
- **Legislative and Regulatory Risk** – Potential breaches of Australian Drinking Water Guideleine (ADWG) and NSW Public Health requirements as a result of contaminants in the water.

## 5.3. Sustainability

The vision for this Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is:

**“Healthy water for people, communities, and their natural environment”**

The CWQ Strategic Plan includes a broad range of goals and specific priority projects to be implemented over the next 10 years that will provide healthier, sustainable and resilient river systems and water catchments for the benefit of town water supplies derived from the Malpas, Guyra and Puddelock Dams, the surrounding businesses, communities, and natural environments. While the focus of the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan is the Gara and Commissioner’s Waters catchments, this Strategic Plan provides the framework that can be used to improve water quality in other water catchments across the Armidale Region.

The goals of the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan will be achieved through a variety of collaborative activities including supporting landholders to increase ground and tree cover, reducing erosion and pollution from industry, create awareness and skills in catchment management and connecting groups and individuals to funding and citizen science opportunities to improve catchment health.

The priority projects within this Strategic Plan will assist ARC and partners adopt a targeted approach to provide a healthy water and catchment for the environment and humans into the future.

## 5.4. Financial

Budget Area:	Water						
Funding Source:	Water Fund - Operational						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
280010	Water – Business Administration	\$100,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00

Forecast expenditure relates to proposed actions from the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

## **6. Consultation and Communication**

A community forum was held in December 2021, letters sent to all property owners within the catchment areas, 910 letters in total, with QR code to a Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan survey and an invitation to a second community forum held in Guyra on 10 May 2022.

Additional consultation included a survey on Council's website for two weeks and an information stand at the recent Nature Conservation Council conference at Echidna Gully and being on public exhibition for 28 days.

Following adoption of the plan, individual actions in the plan will require stakeholder engagement specific to each action. Further clarification can be provided in the plan as to the identified stakeholders and the engagement required to achieve the actions in the plan.

The plan once adopted will be placed online for public access.

## **7. Conclusion**

This report seeks adoption of the Catchment Water Quality Strategic Plan 2022-2032 which has been reviewed in accordance with community feedback.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/33457</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ARC Renewable Energy Action Plan for Public Exhibition</b>	<b>Container: ARC21/4551</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Darren Schaefer, Chief Officer Corporate and Community</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. ARC Renewable Energy Action Plan Final August 2022	

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) as authored by environmental consulting firm Constructive Energy. It comes as part of Armidale Regional Councils commitment to reduce its own carbon emissions to zero by 2030, and in recognition of the broader Project Zero 30 community initiative.

### **2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

- a. Endorse the Renewable Energy Action Plan noting the recommendations and priorities contained in section 7.2 of the report, including:
  - Increase energy awareness: ARC understands and controls energy usage to optimise productivity.
  - Move towards energy autonomy: ARC generates and supplies renewable energy to itself at a known and affordable price.
  - Engage carefully with Retailers: ARC is serviced by flexible, fair retail arrangements.
  - Electrify vehicles, plant, and equipment: Ensuring ARC fleet, plant and equipment is low-emission, affordable and effective.
  - Lead energy innovation: ARC becomes known as an attractive place for R&D, trials and implementation of new technology.
  - Have a stake in energy asset ownership: ARC receives additional revenue streams through the provision of utility services (micro grids, embedded networks, and alike).
  - Plan for energy security and climate resilience: Consider the relative importance of energy security at key sites and factor this into considerations for Behind the Meter installations
  
- b. Place the Renewable Energy Action Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days to obtain community feedback before returning to Council for adoption.

### **3. Background**

The Renewable Energy Action Plan comes to Council after their recent adoption of the outcomes of the 'Look Up! Leadership Program and the reaffirmation of Armidale Regional Councils commitment to the Project Zero 30 at the Ordinary Council Meeting 27 July, 2022. In adopting these initiatives, Council is demonstrating necessary civic leadership to help build local community resilience when adapting to the effects of climate change.



Armidale Regional Council engaged consultants Constructive Energy to prepare a draft Renewable Energy Action Plan. In doing so, a review of Councils strategic documents was undertaken including the ARC Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020, EcoARC and 2020 Climate Emergency Working Group Report. Constructive Energy have also facilitated at least three REAP workshops (one with the previous Council and two with the current Council) that have consisted of both Councillors and Staff to field any questions regarding recommendations and help prioritise initiatives. These workshops were held on 25 September 2021, 8 March 2022 and 1 August, 2022 respectively.

#### **4. Discussion**

Council has an overarching commitment to be carbon neutral (net zero emissions) by 2030. This goal necessitates Council examining all facets of its operations including its building and facilities energy consumption (both electricity and gas) as well as vehicles, plant and equipment.

The report recommends ARC first begin to understand and control energy usage, such that energy efficiency measures can be undertaken to reduce the investment required to achieve 100% renewable consumption. Smart metering, alterations to procurement policies and practices, as well as staff KPIs represent some of the first steps in achieving this.

Vehicles, plant, and equipment (blowers, mowers, etc.,) represent a challenge which can be largely managed through offsetting or substitution when leases expire or equipment approaches end of life. This will depend on financial factors, the appetite of Council for innovation/leadership and even the practicality of developing alternative fuels in Armidale.

The report also examines how Council may benefit from participating directly in the ownership and/or management of renewable energy technology. In addition, being located in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), is likely to see Council well positioned to bargain for competitive pricing with local renewable energy suppliers via an energy retailer. Further, as the renewable energy market evolves, new energy storage options are emerging at competitive cost which include large scale battery banks and hydrogen. All benefiting the energy consumption of Armidale Regional Council with the possibility to scale and extend initiatives so that they may benefit the wider community.

The following criteria was used to make the recommendations throughout the report:

- Carbon reduction – does the project contribute to Project Zero30?
- Benefit/Cost – does the project have positive financial impact?
- Community benefit – how does the wider community benefit from this project?
- Logic – is the project practical, defensible, sound, ethical, enduring?
- Leadership – will the project stimulate positive change in others?

Specifically related to point 4 'Logic', the following factors are worthy of including in a matrix to determine hierarchy.

- Speed – can this be designed, approved and operational in time?
- Complexity – in terms of both technicality and stakeholders
- Control – is ARC in the driving seat?
- Potential for funding support – grants, REZ proponents, etc.
- ROI – is it financially acceptable or compelling?

If Armidale Regional Council were to adopt this draft Renewable Energy Action Plan, it will be used to gain or leverage government and private investment, to assist in meeting the energy needs of the organisation, and the broader community.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1. Strategic and Policy Implications**

The Regional Energy Action Plan aligns with the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents as adopted in the Ordinary Council Meeting 29 June, 2022 in the following ways:

#### **Armidale Community Plan: (Future Region)**

Sustainability and Resilience F1-F6 – “We will enhance the natural beauty of the region, and will create a region that is sustainable and resilient”

#### **Delivery Plan (Future Region):**

Goal 1. A flourishing natural environment that is protected and enhanced F1.1-F1.3

Goal 2. A clean, green responsible region F2.1-F2.6

#### **Operational Plan 2022-2023 (Future Region):**

F2.1 – Proactively adapt to and mitigate the local impacts of climate change

F2.1.1 Review and deliver actions from Project Zero30 and Council’s EcoARC strategy

F2.1.2 Maintain Council’s commitment to the Climate Emergency Declaration and promote further community-led action

F2.2 – Promote and increase use of renewable resources and alternative energy sources

F2.2.1 Advocate for greater access to renewable energy for the local community as part of Renewable Energy Zone

F2.2.2 Attract further local investment in renewable energy in line with community expectations

F2.4 – Create a cleaner, healthier environment with good air quality F2.4.1

### **5.2. Risk**

#### **Economic risk.**

Capital cost for renewable infrastructure and operational cost for auditing, measuring, reporting and purchasing carbon offsets will impact on Councils financial position in the short term. The recommendations and initiatives outlined in the Renewable Energy Action Plan will be dependent on return on investment.

#### **Operational risk:**

Council will require a commitment of resources (both in time and money) across the organisation to implement, measure and report on efforts when transitioning to alternative forms of energy. For this to occur, all areas of the organisation will need to embrace and embed sustainability initiatives as part of their BAU requirements. Targets will need to be set such that initiatives are implemented and reporting requirements are achieved, including the development of a cost effective plan to be brought back before Council.

### 5.3. Sustainability

This initiatives and recommendations contained in this report deliver on many aspect of the “Future Region” initiatives in Councils Intergrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents.

### 5.4. Financial

The initiatives contained within the report will be costed separately and applied over several successive budget years. Appropriate financial scrutiny will need to be given for any recommended initiative with anticipated payback periods taken into consideration.

Budget Area:	NIL						
Funding Source:	NIL						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

## 6. Consultation and Communication

The draft Renewable Energy Action Plan was developed by Constructive Energy and as part of its prepartation, Constructive Energy facilitated three workshops to socialise and field any questions regarding recommendations and help prioritise initiatives. These workshops were held on 25 September 2021, 8 March 2022 and 1 August, 2022 repectively. Members for this Council term included five Councillor representatitives, including; Councillors Packham, Galletly, Gaddes, Coupland and Redwood as well as Executive Staff members James Roncon, Danial Boyce and Darren Schaefer.

The REAP will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days and include notification to special interest groups for review and comment.

## 7. Conclusion

The goal to become carbon neutral and being 100% renewable is achievable and will continue to make economic sense as the transition to renewable energy begins to increase. The draft Renewable Energy Action Plan is a mechanism by which Council can direct resources to help achieve its commitment to becoming net zero by 2030. It is recommend that Council review and note the recommendations in the draft Renewable Energy Action Plan, with the view to placing it on public exhibition for a period of 28 days before returning to Council for formal adoption.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32584</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes of Meetings held on 5 May 2022 and 9 June 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0605</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Corporate and Community</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Aimee Hutton, Coordinator Libraries, Museums and Visitor Information Centre</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Minutes - Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee - 09 June 2022 2. Minutes - Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee - 05 May 2022	

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee meetings held on 5 May 2022 and 9 June 2022 be noted.

#### **1. Purpose:**

This report is to provide Council with the minutes from the Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee meetings held on 5 May 2022 and 9 June 2022.

#### **2. Background**

The Armidale Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee was reinstated in early 2022 following the election of the Councillors in 2021. The first meeting for 2022 was held on 5 May 2022.

The responsibilities of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee include: -

- Providing advice to Council on issues relating to Aboriginal community development
- Promoting the status of Aboriginal people in the Armidale Regional Council LGA, and increasing Council's and the public's awareness of the needs of the Aboriginal community.
- Developing, implementing and consulting on strategies for Aboriginal people
- Actively participating in and promoting significant events.
- Facilitating positive relationships between Council and the local Aboriginal community.

#### **3. Report:**

At the meeting held on 5 May 2022 the committee discussed the following items: -

- The election of a Chair
- Reconciliation Bridge Walk
- NAIDOC Week activities

At the meeting held on 9 June 2022, the committee discussed the following items: -

- The election of a Chair

- Recommendations relating to Narwan Village
- NAIDOC Week activities

**4. Strategic Directions:**

<b>Key Direction</b>		Enriched Region Community & Culture
<b>Objective</b>	Goal 2	A proud, inclusive and cohesive community that celebrates our region in all its diversity and culture
<b>Strategy</b>		Celebrate our local Aboriginal history and traditions, and support cultural understanding and development

**5. Relevant Legislation:**

Not Applicable

**6. Financial Implications:**

Not Applicable

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/31454</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Sports Council - Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 June 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0330</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Assets and Services</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Ankur Jain, Sport &amp; Recreation Development Officer</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Agenda - Sports Council - 08 June 2022 2. Minutes - Sports Council Meeting 8 June 2022	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council note the Minutes of the Sports Council Committee meeting held on 8 June 2022.

**1. Purpose:**

This report is to provide Council with information regarding the agenda and minutes of the Sports Council meeting held on 8 June 2022.

**2. Background:**

In order to provide recommendations for the development of sports and recreation in the Armidale LGA, the Sports Council has been set up comprising of individuals from diverse sporting groups and backgrounds.

The Sports Council provides a link between Council and the sport and recreation community, providing key community engagement with regards to the development of sports infrastructure. The Committee provides ongoing support and advice relating to sports and recreation in the community.

**3. Committee Report:**

At its meeting on 8 June 2022, the Sports Council discussed:

- a) The Sports Council Priority List;
- b) an update on the Lynches Road Netball Courts Lighting project;
- c) an update on the final stage of the indoor cricket centre at Armidale Sportsground;
- d) an update on the Naming Rights Sponsorship of Armidale Sportsground;
- e) an update on the funds (\$33,000) committed for the three Armidale & District Cricket Association (ADCA) projects;
- f) The progress on the projects that were successful under the Stronger Country and Communities Fund;
- g) an update on the Sportsground Carpark;
- h) The procedure followed by Council for Field Closures during wet weather;
- i) the election of a new Chairperson for the Sports Council Advisory Committee;

Further details about these items is included below.

- a) The committee resolved to review the Sports Council's Priority List, make amendments as necessary and nominate projects to receive Sports Council funding at the next committee meeting.
- b) Lynches Road Netball Courts Lighting Project program of works was provided by the Project Manager, James Croft. According to the revised schedule, work is expected to

commence in a few weeks' time. The Project Manager also submitted a variation to the grant authority to include solar panels, CCTV cameras, and a new loud speaker system within the scope of the project.

- c) The DA application for Stage 2 of the Indoor Cricket Centre project at Armidale Sportsground was approved by the Council. ADCA also received a Construction Certificate to commence work. Council's Building Surveyor to inspect the site before work is commenced.
- d) Council and the Sports Council have been looking for a new Naming Rights Sponsor for Armidale Sportsground. Considering the current environment and situation of the economic market, businesses are finding it difficult to invest in this proposal.
- e) The ADCA projects and progress updates include:
  - Rologas Cricket Storage Shed: A new shed was installed at Rologas adjacent to the existing eastern shed at the Rologas Fields earlier this year in March.
  - Clubhouse extension: An initial decision to provide \$10,000 for a clubhouse extension at Armidale Sportsground needs to be reviewed as an increase in the cost of materials and labour has forced ADCA to request a new scope and quote from the contractor.
  - Electronic scoreboard replacement: ADCA advised the Committee that the funds allocated for this project (\$15,000) would be insufficient due to the rapid rise of costings and a requirement of Cricket and Soccer scoring being a non-negotiable. The new costings would be approximately \$27,000. ADCA is looking for grants to further finance this project.
- f) Clubs associated with the Council received a positive outcome for their application submitted in round 4 of the Stronger Country and Community Fund. The recipient clubs and associations, with the support of the Council will be managing their respective projects.
- g) The Committee was informed that Armidale Sportsground Carpark Project will be a part of Transport's 2022-23 budget. Once the dates are pinned for this project, Council and Councillor Galletly will inform the Sports Council Advisory Committee.
- h) Council's Town & Public Spaces Coordinator, after receiving an updated advice, informed the Sports Council about the recommended procedure followed by the Council staff in making a decision about field closure during wet weather.
- i) Steve McMillan was unanimously appointed as the new Chairperson of the Sports Council Advisory Committee.

#### **4. Strategic Directions:**

The function of the Sports Council is to provide advice and recommendations relating to Sports and Recreation on the strategic direction of the Armidale Regional Council. The activities align with Council's adopted Community Strategic Plan - Advancing our Region Community Plan 2022-2032:

#### **Liveable Region Places & Spaces**

- L1 Public spaces and infrastructure that facilitate health, community connections and opportunities

- L1.4 Enhance and maintain sporting facilities to meet the needs of our local community and neighbouring regions, and to entice regional, state, and national events
- L1.5 Enhance and maintain recreation spaces to offer quality of life, entertainment and family-friendly activities to residents and visitors

**Strong Region Engagement & Responsibility**

- S1 an informed and actively engaged community, that builds partnerships and shapes its future
  - S1.1 Help the community to be informed and have input into decisions about its region and future
  - S1.3 Empower the community and our leaders to make positive change and to unify the region
- S2 Strong governance and leadership that supports our region to grow and prosper - Strategies:
  - S2.1 Provide a strong, transparent, sustainable, and responsive governance for our region
  - S2.2 Ensure that strategic directions are informed by, and with, the community and are delivered in consideration of available resources
  - S2.4 Make open and transparent decisions that are informed by stakeholders, leading practices, systems, and technologies

**5. Relevant Legislation**

- Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government Regulation (General) 2021*

**6. Financial Implications:**

Detailed financial implications for recommendations to Council are included within the Sports Council Agenda and Minutes reports, if relevant. A summary of the financial position against Council budget has been included below.

Note the financial figures below refer to the 2022/23 Financial Year.

Budget Area:	Public and Town Spaces						
Funding Source:	FY22/23 Budget						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
240250	Sports Council Revenue	\$42,840	\$12,696	Nil	Nil	\$12,696	\$30,144
240250	Sports Council Operating Expenditure	\$42,840	\$1,750	Nil	Nil	Nil	\$41,090



240386	Sports Council Capital Expenditure	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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**7. Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council note the Minutes of the Sports Council Committee meeting held on 8 June 2022.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32671</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Traffic Advisory Committee - Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0168-7</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Chief Officer Assets and Services</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Graham Earl, Engineering Technical Officer</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Minutes - Traffic Advisory Committee - 2 August 2022 2. Agenda - Traffic Advisory Committee - 2 August 2022	

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That in relation to the report "Armidale Regional Council Traffic Advisory Committee Minutes – 2 August 2022", that Council:

- a) Endorse the change of the Taxi Zone to a Bus Zone in Ollera St Guyra and removal of the first two angle parking spaces to accommodate the bus zone.
- b) Endorse the change of the Taxi Zone in Bradley St Guyra to a Bus Zone used for the community bus.
- c) Endorse the change of the Taxi Zone in Moore St Guyra to a Bus Zone and monitored for use.
- d) Endorse the installation of a 'No Stopping' sign on the northern side of Kentucky Street Armidale opposite the Gymnastic Centre.
- e) Request TfNSW to investigate improving the intersection of Dangar and Kentucky Street Armidale to reduce traffic delays for turning traffic.

#### **1. Purpose:**

This report is to provide Council with the agenda, minutes and action list of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held on Tuesday, 2 August 2022 which details recommendations to Council for consideration and adoption.

#### **2. Background**

To consider the recommendation advice provided by the TAC, a Transport for NSW (TfNSW) committee comprising of experts from TfNSW, Police, State Member representative, ARC Councillor and ARC technical officers.

Council is not bound by the advice given by the TAC. However if Council does wish to act contrary to the unanimous advice of the TAC or when the advice is not unanimous, it must notify TfNSW & the NSW Police and wait 14 days before proceeding.

The TAC has no decision-making powers and is primarily a technical review committee. It only advises the Council on matters for which the Council has delegated authority, being certain prescribed traffic control devices and traffic control facilities.

The Council must refer all traffic related matters to the TAC prior to exercising its delegated functions. Matters related to State Roads or functions that have not been delegated to the elected Council and must be referred directly to TfNSW or relevant organisation. Such matters must not be referred to the TAC.

#### **3. Report:**

At its meeting on 2 August 2022 the TAC considered two items;

**a. Change of Use of Taxi Zones in Guyra.**

The Traffic Advisory Committee received a request to change 3 Taxi Zones in Guyra to a Bus Zones, as the taxi service no longer operates. The Community bus has seen a need for a service of some kind and decided to take help fill that need.

Investigation have shown that in one instance parking spaces will need to be removed to accommodate the size of the Community bus.

**b. Parking in Kentucky St, Faulkner St to Dangar St.**

The New England Visions 2030 Institute presented to Council their Kentucky St Precinct vision document. Within this document was a number of safety concerns that were discussed with officers and addressed by the Traffic Advisory Committee.

**4. Strategic Directions:**

The function of the TAC aims to maintain safe and effective traffic facilities on the road network to industry and legislative standards.

The activities and recommendations align with Advancing Our Region - Your Community Plan 2022-2032 and with Council Delivery Program 2022-2026 as part of:

**Connected Region – Transport and Technology**

- C1. Quality infrastructure makes it safe and easy to travel around our region
  - C1.1 Build and maintain quality, safe, and accessible road transport infrastructure including roads, footpaths, kerbs, bus stops and parking facilities.
- C2. Transport and technology that enable connectivity both locally and outside the region
  - C2.1 Provide access to public and private transport services that link our community to our local towns and villages, other regions, our local attractions, and lifestyle infrastructure.

**5. Relevant Legislation:**

- Roads Act 1993
- Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulations 1999
- Road Rules 2008, and
- A guide to the delegation to Council for the Traffic (Guidelines)

**6. Financial Implications:**

Detailed financial Implications for recommendations to Council are included within in the TAC reports, if relevant. A summary of the financial implications has been included below by recommendation.

- Recommendation a), b), and c) - The changes to the Taxi Zones will provided by Council at a cost of \$600. The cost for the signs will be funded by Transport for NSW Block Grants.

- Recommendation d) – Kentucky St, No Stopping zone will be provided by Council at cost of \$600. The cost for the signs will be funded by Transport for NSW Block Grants.

**TfNSW Block Grant**

TfNSW provides block grants to Council as a contribution towards the cost of works on Regional Roads, under the terms of the Block Grant Agreement. Block Grants may be spent on preservation, restoration and enhancement works to the extent provided for in the Block Grant Agreement.

Every council has entitlement to an annual block grant. The grant comprises a roads component and a supplementary component (both available for works on Regional Roads) and a traffic facilities component (which may be spent on works on Regional Roads as well as traffic facilities on Local Roads).

Budget Area:	Traffic Facilities						
Funding Source:	Traffic Facilities Block Grant						
Budget Ref: (PN)	Description	Approved Budget	Actual	Committed	Proposed	Total Forecast Expenditure	Remaining Budget
270219	(Recommendation a, b, c, and d) Sign installation	\$116,000	\$2,171.48	\$9,085.45	\$1,200	\$13,056.93	\$102,943.07

**7. Conclusion**

That Council note the minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held on Tuesday, 2 August 2022 and recommendations to Council be consideration and adoption.

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/32324</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>KPWG - Minutes of meetings held June - August 2022</b>	<b>Container: ARC20/4323</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Melissa Hault, Executive Officer</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Minutes - Future Region KPWG 16 June 2022 2. Minutes - Future Region KPWG 21 July 2022	

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the following Minutes of the Key Pillar Working Group meetings held from June 2022 to August 2022 be noted;

- Future Region KPWG meeting held 16 June 2022
- Future Region KPWG meeting held 21 July 2022

#### **1. Purpose**

This report is to provide Council with the minutes and action lists of the Key Pillar Working Group meetings held from June 2022 to August 2022 which details recommendations to Council for consideration.

#### **2. Background**

The role of the Key Pillar Working Groups is to advance the key objectives of the Region by working through each pillar of the Community Plan (CP), providing a policy direction and outcome, following engagement with the relevant interest groups that represent our community.

#### **3. Report**

At its meetings held 16 June 2022 and 21 July 2022 the Future Region KPWG considered the following items;

16 June 2022

- What projects will be the focus of this group.

21 July 2022

- Review Project Zero30 initiatives
- Projects agreed upon;
  - Plant 1 million trees to offset carbon usage (in addition to UNE's same initiative
  - 90% of riparian zones to be revegetated.

Meetings have been held for the following groups however their minutes are yet to be ratified and will be reported at the September Ordinary Council Meeting;

- Growing Region KPWG
- Connection Region KPWG
- Liveable Region KPWG

- Enriched Region KPWG
- Strong Region KPWG

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<b>Item:</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>Ref: AINT/2022/33378</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Question on Notice - Cr Robinson</b>	<b>Container: ARC16/0025-6</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>General Manager</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Dorothy Robinson, Councillor</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>	

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to submitted Questions on Notice as provided by Cr Robinson.

### 2. OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the response to the Questions on Notice submitted by Cr Robinson.

### 3. Costs and Financial Information

- a) ARC resolution 102/22 (May, 2022) was for Councillors and Council Staff to collaborate on the development of a format to provide financial information that is easy for councillors and lay people to understand.

Please provide a brief update on progress, noting the importance of this information to the Community Consultation on the Special Rate Variation, for which public meetings are scheduled for 13, 14 and 15 September.

- b) Item 10.2 of the June business paper provided information about the NSW Government Procurement's Electricity Contract for Small Sites, excluding network and regulated costs.

What are the network and regulated costs in terms of a) fixed daily charges and b) charges per kWh?

Charges listed under item 10.2, June business paper:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Flat</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Shoulder</b>	<b>Off Peak</b>	<b>Controlled Load</b>
2022/23	5.567	6.965	6.965	4.156	4.270
2023/24	5.785	7.236	7.236	4.346	4.432
2024/25	5.753	7.138	7.138	4.334	4.395

- c) At the November 2020 meeting, administrator Viv May approved expenditure of \$41,573 for Solar panels at Monckton Aquatic Centre from budgeted funding of \$60,000 for the Climate Emergency action plan.

What was the final cost of the PV System at Monckton?

What happened to the remaining budget allocation?

Background Support Information:

Nil

General Manager's Comment

- A. Staff resourcing and other imperatives as a result of resignations, interim appointments, CFO recruitment, staff and community engagement initiatives and end /start of financial year commitments that include ensuring the finalisation of the annual statements within the statutory timeframes has meant that this matter has not been able to be progressed following the meeting of late June 2022. It can be prioritised once ARC has achieved its statutory commitments, estimated to be towards the end of October 2022.
- B. As per the above, staff will seek to provide a response at the September 2022 meeting of council when previously advised workload commitment around staff and community engagement sessions are complete.
- C. As per the response provided to Cr Robinson on 8 August 2022, the PV system at Monkton is on track to achieve its budget forecast of circa \$41,500 (currently circa \$39500 with one outstanding invoice to come in totalling \$2000). Will seek further information re the remaining budget allocation and report to September 2022 meeting of council.