



6 May 2024

To All Councillors

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, that the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 15 May 2024 at 6.30pm, for the purposes of transacting the undermentioned business.

AGENDA:

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(14) COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**(15) REPORT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING ON 15 MAY 2024**

‡ - Denotes that Report is for notation only.



Principles for Local Government

Exercise of functions generally

The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by Councils:

- a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- e) Councils should work co-operatively with other Councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

Council's Values

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Teamwork

Our Community's Vision

Cessnock will be a cohesive and welcoming community living in an attractive and sustainable rural environment with a diversity of business and employment opportunities supported by accessible infrastructure and services which effectively meet community need.

Cessnock – thriving, attractive and welcoming.

Our Community's Desired Outcomes

- A connected, safe and creative community.
- A sustainable and prosperous economy.
- A sustainable and healthy environment.
- Accessible infrastructure, facilities and services.
- Civic Leadership and effective governance.



Council Code of Conduct

Council adopted its current Code of Conduct on 1 November 2022. This Code provides details of statutory requirements and gives guidance in respect of the way in which pecuniary and conflict of interest issues must be disclosed. Councillors took an oath or affirmation at the commencement of their term of office under section 233A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and are therefore obligated under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage their conflicts of interest.

Generally, the Code outlines the following issues:

1. Councillors are under an obligation at law to disclose any interest they may have in any matter before the Council as soon as practicable and to refrain from being involved in any consideration or to vote on any such matter where required and out outlined in the Code of Conduct.
2. Councillors must disclose any interest in any matter noted in the business paper prior to or at the opening of the meeting.
3. The nature of the interest shall be included in the disclosure.
4. Councillors shall immediately and during the meeting disclose any interest in respect of any matter arising during the meeting which is not referred to in the business paper.
5. All disclosures of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
6. All disclosures of interest shall as far as is practicable be given in writing.
7. Any member having a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest shall leave the meeting and remain absent while the subject of the interest is being considered by Council.
8. The meeting shall not discuss any matter in which a Councillor has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest while the Councillor is present at the meeting.



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**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J Suvaal (in the Chair) and Councillors Dunn, Jurd, Hawkins, Burke, Moores, Jackson, Watton, Sander, Grine, Hill and Paynter.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting General Manager (Director Corporate and Community Services)
Director Planning and Environment
Acting Director Corporate and Community Services (Chief Financial Officer)
Director Works and Infrastructure
Acting Development Services Manager (Principal Development Planner)
Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Acting Council Services Team Leader (Senior Governance Officer)

The Mayor on behalf of Council acknowledged the events which occurred at Westfield Bondi Junction and the Western Sydney Church, extending his consideration and condolences to the victims and families involved. The Mayor further acknowledged the inspiring acts of Courage from both First Responders and members of the community.

The Mayor on behalf of the Cessnock region acknowledged and thanked Police Inspector Amy Scott for her service which ultimately saved many lives.

Council Prayer:

The Prayer was conducted by The Reverend Nicole Baldwin of Cessnock Anglican Church.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Moved:
Seconded:

Councillor Moores
Councillor Hawkins

730

RESOLVED

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Dunn for the period 18 April 2024 to 30 April 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Hill
Seconded: Councillor Sander

731

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 March 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI3/2024

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION

W19/2024 - New landfill Extension Project – Changes to Biodiversity Offset Area

Councillor Jurd declared a Pecuniary Interest for the reason that her family work there and advised that she would leave the Chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

RM1/2024 - DA 8/2021/22318/1 - Alterations And Additions To Existing Cafe Comprising An Amenities Building, Pop-Up Coffee Stand, Juice Bar, Additional Carparking, Outdoor Lighting And Extended Cafe Trading Hours - 701 Lovedale Road, Lovedale

Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is an associate of an employee of the applicant. Councillor Hawkins advised that he would remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict would not influence carrying out his public duty.

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that an associate of The Mayor is employed by the applicant. The Mayor advised that he would remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict would not influence carrying out his public duty.

CC19/2024 – Donations Under Section 356 - Rates Subsidy Policy

Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a member of a Club that occasionally uses facilities associated with this report. Councillor Hawkins advised that he would remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict would not influence carrying out his public duty.

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a member of a Club that occasionally uses facilities associated with this report. The Mayor advised that he would remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict would not influence carrying out his public duty.

WI11/2024 - Minutes of the Community Engagement Awards and Grants Committee held on 20 March 2024

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that his son attends a non-eligible school that applied for funding in item DOLCLM2/2024. The Mayor advised that he would remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict would not influence carrying out his public duty.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ALL REPORTS BY ENGLOBE OR INDIVIDUALLY WITH NOMINATED EXCEPTIONS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
732
RESOLVED

That having read and considered the reports in the agenda related to items

CC23/2024	Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2024.....	83
‡ CC24/2024	Resolutions Tracking Report.....	91
WI10/2024	Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held 18 March 2024.....	114
WI11/2024	Minutes of the Community Engagement Awards and Grants Committee held on 20 March 2024.....	117
W12/2024	Main Bund Wall – South Cessnock Bund Wall Evaluation Report – Q2024-164.....	2 (Supp Agenda)

Council adopt the recommendations as printed for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

Nil

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU3/2024

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

RESCISSION MOTIONS

RESCISSION MOTIONS NO. RM1/2024

SUBJECT: DA 8/2021/22318/1 - ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO EXISTING CAFE COMPRISING AN AMENITIES BUILDING, POP-UP COFFEE STAND, JUICE BAR, ADDITIONAL CARPARKING, OUTDOOR LIGHTING AND EXTENDED CAFE TRADING HOURS

701 LOVEDALE ROAD, LOVEDALE

Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is an associate of the employee of the applicant. Councillor Hawkins remained in Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that an associate of The Mayor is employed by the applicant. The Mayor remained in Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

That Resolution (708) to Report PE2/2024:

That:

1. Council approve, pursuant to section 4.16 and 4.17 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Development Application No 8/2021/22318/1, subject to conditions as outlined in the document that Councillor Burke tabled;
2. This approval be publicly notified pursuant to section 2.22 and clause 20(2) of schedule 1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and
3. Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development of Council's decision.

be rescinded.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Watton	Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jurd	Councillor Moores
	Councillor Dunn
	Councillor Burke
	Councillor Grine
	Councillor Sander
	Councillor Hill
	Councillor Hawkins
	Councillor Paynter
	Councillor Suvaal
Total (2)	Total (10)

The Motion was PUT and LOST.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE6/2024

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN REVIEW - PARKING AND ACCESS AND SUBDIVISION CHAPTERS PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Burke
733

RESOLVED

1. That Council place Draft Chapters Parking and Access and Subdivision Guideline of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.
2. That Council receives a further report following the public exhibition of the Draft Chapters if unresolved objections are received or significant amendments are made to the Draft Chapters post exhibition. Otherwise the Draft Chapters be adopted by Council pursuant to clause 14 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	Councillor Watton
Councillor Moores	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE7/2024

SUBJECT: LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
734
RESOLVED

That future Local Infrastructure Contribution updates be provided annually in a detailed Councillor Memo coinciding with Council's annual budget review.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC19/2024

SUBJECT: DONATIONS UNDER SECTION 356 - RATES SUBSIDY POLICY

Councillor Hawkins declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a member of a Club that occasionally uses facilities associated with this report. Councillor Hawkins remained in Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a member of a Club that occasionally uses facilities associated with this report. The Mayor remained in Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Dunn
735

RESOLVED

1. **That Council applies a 50% Rates Subsidy for the following Assessments in accordance with the Rates Subsidy Policy effective for the 2024-25 rating year.**

Assessment	Organisation	Location
59204	Cessnock Homing Pigeon Club	Cessnock
123596	Trustees Masonic Hall	Paxton
157156	Cessnock Mini Bike Club	Cessnock
173930	Laguna Sports Ground Holdings Pty Ltd	Laguna
176263	Greta Pre-School Kindergarten	Greta
191502	Kurri Kurri Motor Cycle Club Inc	Buchanan
198655	Aberdare Pre-School	Aberdare

2. **That the General Manager write to each applicant advising of Council's decision according to the Rates Subsidy Policy.**
3. **That the Council approve a 50% rates subsidy for applicants who previously qualified for the subsidy but have not yet lodged an application for the 2024-25 year, and delegates to the General Manager to apply the rates subsidy if the applicants supply the required information prior to 31 May 2024, up to a total of \$35,000.**
4. **That at the next review of the Policy consideration be given to extending the length of approval for eligible organisations.**

FOR**AGAINST**

Councillor Jackson

Councillor Moores

Councillor Dunn

Councillor Burke

Councillor Grine

Councillor Sander

Councillor Hill

Councillor Hawkins

Councillor Paynter

Councillor Watton

Councillor Jurd

Councillor Suvaal

Total (12)**Total (0)*****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC20/2024

SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Burke
736

RESOLVED

1. That Council places the revised Complaints Handling Policy on public exhibition for a period of 28 calendar days.
2. That Council adopts the revised Complaints Handling Policy the day after the public exhibition period concludes, if no unresolved submissions are received.
3. That Council rescinds the Complaints Handling Policy 2019 from the date the revised Complaints Handling Policy is adopted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC21/2024

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION 2024-25

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
737

RESOLVED

That Council places the draft 2024-25 Operational Plan incorporating the budget, Revenue Policy, and Statement of Fees and Charges on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	Councillor Watton
Councillor Moores	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC22/2024

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - MARCH 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Burke
738
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for March 2024 and notes that:

- Investments are held in accordance with Council’s Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.
- Council’s month end cash and investments balance was \$76,716,092.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC23/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
739

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee meeting held on 15 March 2024 be adopted as a resolution of Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC24/2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
740
RESOLVED

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI6/2024

SUBJECT: CESSNOCK LGA TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

741

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the outcome of the public exhibition and submissions.
2. That Council adopts the Cessnock LGA Traffic and Transport Strategy.
3. That the General Manager respond to all submission acknowledging their input and to advise of Council's decision.
4. That any grammatical errors or typos be corrected before its publication.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	Councillor Watton
Councillor Moores	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI7/2024

SUBJECT: LICENCE AGREEMENT FOR KURRI KURRI AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Sander **Seconded:** Councillor Moores
742

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the extension of the current Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd licence agreement to manage Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre for a further five year term, from 1 June 2024 to 30 June 2029,
2. That Council adds an additional KPI to the performance measures that reports on Customer Complaints and how they are resolved, and
3. That the General Manager report to Council annually on management performance including Key Performance Indicators set by Council regarding the Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness centre.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 7.30pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.31pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI8/2024

SUBJECT: CREEK CROSSINGS IN THE LGA ADDRESSING BN2/2021

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
743

RESOLVED

That Council notes the progress to install flood depth indicators and flood warning signs at high flood risk locations within the Cessnock LGA.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI9/2024

SUBJECT: NEW LANDFILL EXTENSION PROJECT - CHANGES TO BIODIVERSITY OFFSET AREA

Councillor Jurd declared a Pecuniary Interest for the reason that her family work there and left the Chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hawkins **Seconded:** Councillor Paynter
744

RESOLVED

1. That Council amend the existing positive and restrictive covenant under Section 88B of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*, for the purpose of biodiversity offset for the proposed new landfill extension, on 36.39 ha of land comprising Lot 41 DP996992 and part of Lot 1 DP1096161.

2. That Council authorises the General Manager to execute the documents relating to the covenants under Section 88B of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*.

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 7.35pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.36pm

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI10/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 MARCH 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
745

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Cessnock Local Traffic Committee Meeting of 18 March 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

- **TC9/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Lovedale Road, Wilderness Road and Talga Road, Lovedale for the Lovedale Long Lunch, in accordance with Various Roads Lovedale _ Lovedale Long Lunch Traffic Control Plans.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI11/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS AND GRANTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MARCH 2024

The Mayor declared a Non Pecuniary Interest, Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that his son attends a non-eligible school that applied for funding in item DOLCLM2/2024. The Mayor remained in Chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
746
RESOLVED

1. That the Minutes of the Community Engagement, Awards and Grants Committee Meeting of the 20 March 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.
2. That Council provides funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Environment Grant Program to:
 - Paxton Tidy Towns in the amount of \$4,000,
 - Hunter Region Landcare Network Inc. in the amount of \$3,000,
 - Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation in the amount of \$1,817.93, and
 - Kurri Kurri Rotary Club in the amount of \$2,034.84.
3. That the General Manager writes to all applicants of the Tidy Towns Environment Grant Program advising them of the outcome of their application and thanking them for their contribution to the community and environment in the Cessnock Local Government Area.
4. That Council approve funding in accordance with the Schools Environment Grants Program for the following projects:
 - Cessnock Kids Preschool and Early Learning in the amount of \$200,
 - Weston Public School in the amount of \$500,
 - Branxton Preschool in the amount of \$200,
 - Kurri Kurri High School in the amount of \$992,
 - Alesco secondary College in the amount of \$997.89,
 - Goodstart Early Learning Kurri Kurri in the amount of \$200,
 - Kitchener Public School in the amount of \$496,
 - Paxton Public School in the amount of \$500,
 - Millfield Public School in the amount of \$500,
 - Ellalong Public School in the amount of \$500,
 - Aberdare Preschool in the amount of \$200,
 - Honey Tree Preschool in the amount of \$200,
 - Nulkaba Public School in the amount of \$382.15,
 - Cessnock East Public School in the amount of \$500, and
 - Bees Nees Early Learning & Childcare Centre in the amount of \$200
5. That Council acknowledge the \$1,068.04 shortfall in available grant funding will be funded by council's operational budget in this instance.

6. That Council accept to increase the Schools Environment Grant Scheme funding from \$5,500 to \$7,000 to account for the 2023 decision to increase the funding amounts for High Schools from \$500 to \$1,000 (report No. CC20/2023) and to ensure adequate funds are available for all schools.
7. That Council provides funds through the Community Facilities – Community, Sporting and Environment Grant Scheme – Round 2 to:
 - Branxton Community Hall s355 Committee in the amount of \$3,987,
 - Branxton Preschool in the amount of \$9,202, and
 - Coalfields Local History Association in the amount of \$5,050.
8. That the General Manager writes to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their application and thanking them for their ongoing support and commitment to the enhancement of Council’s community facilities.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI12/2024

SUBJECT: MAIN BUND WALL - SOUTH CESSNOCK BUND WALL EVALUATION REPORT - Q2024-164

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dunn **Seconded:** Councillor Sander
747

RESOLVED

1. That Council reject all tenders received by NSW Public Works as they have been deemed non-conforming as the correction of errors constitutes a substantial change under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 176 and is valued at over \$4,521,014.41(including GST), and
2. That by resolution Council authorises the General Manager to enter into negotiations with any suitable person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to entering into a contract as per clause 178 3(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN4/2024

SUBJECT: BIN INFORMATION FOR ELDERLY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Watton
748
RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the multiple communication channels already in operation for engagement with our community and promotion of the services, programs, events, projects and opportunities on offer for residents of the Local Government Area.
2. That Council notes the implementation during quarter 4 of 2023-24 of a ‘Did you know we offer this service?’ campaign which aims to raise awareness among residents about the wide variety of services available to them, including the lesser-known services provided by Council.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Jackson	
Councillor Moores	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Hawkins	
Councillor Paynter	
Councillor Watton	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN5/2024

SUBJECT: WOLLOMBI ROAD PUBLIC MEETINGS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor Watton

That Council:

1. **Extend the Public Exhibition period by 2 weeks ending on the 17th May 2024, and**
2. **Organise 2 public meetings in that time as per the Notice of Motion from the Council meeting on 21st February 2024.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Watton	Councillor Jackson
Councillor Jurd	Councillor Moores
	Councillor Dunn
	Councillor Burke
	Councillor Grine
	Councillor Sander
	Councillor Hill
	Councillor Hawkins
	Councillor Paynter
	Councillor Suvaal
Total (2)	Total (10)

The Motion was PUT and LOST.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 7.58pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 15 MAY 2024

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**

Disclosures Of Interest

Report No. DI4/2024

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

SUMMARY

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 regulate the way in which Councillors and nominated staff of council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions, voting on that matter, and require that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Notice of Intention to Deal With Matters in Confidential Session

Report No. NI3/2024

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEAL WITH MATTERS IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - REPORT CC32/2024 MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL STRATEGIC PROPERTY & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers in Confidential Session the following matters in accordance with Sections 10A (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:

- Report CC32/2024 – Minutes of the Confidential Strategic Property & Community Facilities Committee meeting held on 1 May 2024 as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

SUMMARY

It is necessary for the Council to adopt a resolution to formalise its intention to deal with certain matters in Confidential Session. The reports are incorporated in the “Confidential” business paper which has been circulated to Councillors.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires the General Manager to identify those matters listed on the business paper which may be categorised as confidential in terms of Section 10A of the Local Government Act, 1993.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Motions of Urgency

Report No. MOU4/2024

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *MOTIONS OF URGENCY*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now indicate if there are any matters of urgency which they believe should be conducted at this meeting of Council.

SUMMARY

Under Clause 10.5 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, business may be transacted at a meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors. This can only happen if a motion is passed to have the business transacted at the meeting, the Mayor rules that the business is of great urgency and the business notified in the agenda for the meeting has been disposed of.

Only the mover of such a motion can speak to the motion before it is put.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.



SUBJECT: *DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PERFORMANCE
MONITORING REPORT - MARCH 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Business Support & Customer Relations Manager - Roslyn Ashton*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the March quarter 2023/2024 data in relation to development performance monitoring and provide an overview of development activity within the Cessnock Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Development Performance Monitoring Report for the March quarter 2023/2024.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure analyses data from each Council in NSW to provide comprehensive information on the operation of the local development assessment system for development applications, modification of consents and complying development. This information is available on the NSW Planning Portal. [Local Development Performance Monitoring \(LDPM\) | Planning Portal](#)

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Data outlined in this report provides details of Council's local development performance during the period of 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024. The NSW Planning performance dashboard provides additional ePlanning reporting in relation to development assessment. Data for each NSW Council can be monitored comparing data across the state. [NSW Planning Performance Dashboard | Planning Portal](#)

Highlights

- July 2023 to March 2024 a total of 570 development applications were received and a further 108 modifications received. There were 194 applications processing (waiting to be assessed) as at 31 March 2024.
- A total of 573 development applications were determined (approved or refused) during the reporting period July 2023 – March 2024 and a further 97 modifications were also assessed and determined.
- DA Processing days - Median 51 days and average 78 days.
- The NSW Planning Portal performance dashboard outlines that Cessnock continues to be consistent with Hunter Councils. When comparing to the NSW state average, Cessnock's average days are well below the year-to-date regional average of 99 days and the state average of 110 gross days as at 29 February 2024. (March data is not currently available). [NSW Planning Performance Dashboard](#)

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE8/2024

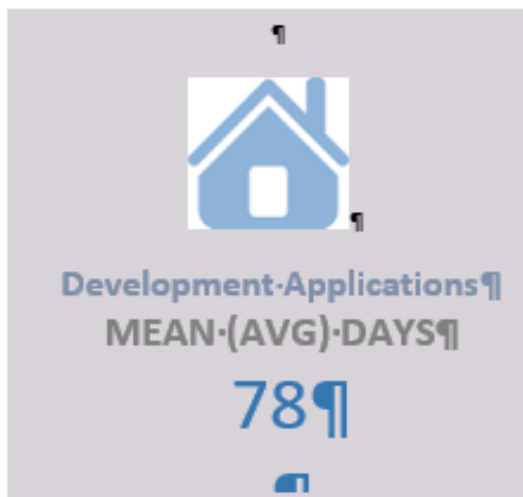
Planning and Environment



- During the YTD March 24 quarter, two development applications and no modifications were determined by Council, (2 approved, 0 refused). The average processing days for applications determined by Council resolution was 430 days.
- The highest level of development activity during the quarter was in Bellbird.
- The total value of approved development applications and complying development activity within the Cessnock LGA for YTD December quarter was \$403,094,782.
- Private Certifiers currently issue 99% of the market share of complying development activity within the Cessnock LGA, with an average time of 37 days compared to Council issued CDCs average time 22 days.
- A total of 506 Subdivision lots were approved and 701 residential dwellings were approved to be built during the July 2023 -February 2023 period. (March data is not currently available).
(idcommunity Data) [Residential building approvals | Cessnock City Council | Community profile](#)



FINANCIAL-YTD-MARCH-2024





FINANCIAL YTD MARCH 2024



Determination Body
COUNCIL STAFF

99%



Determination
GRANTING CONSENT

99%

Construction Certificates

32 percent

Principal Certifying
Authority
Market Share

Occupation Certificates

17 percent

Principal Certifying
Authority
Market Share



\$234,630,445

Development Applications
Value for approvals
(Development Applications only)



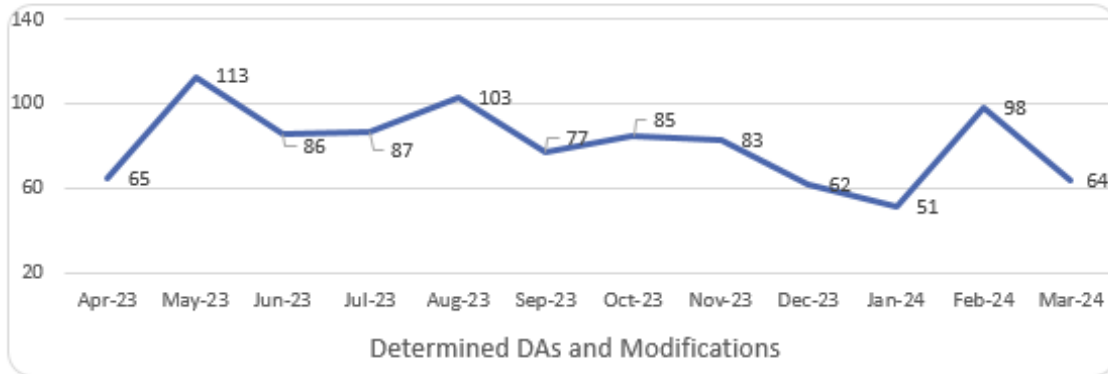
\$168,464,337

Complying Development
Value for approvals
(Council & Private Certifiers)

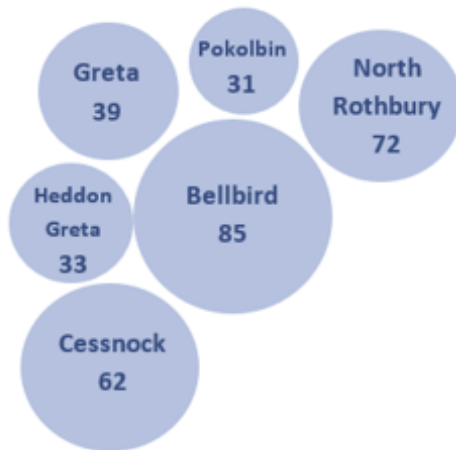


FINANCIAL YTD MARCH 2024

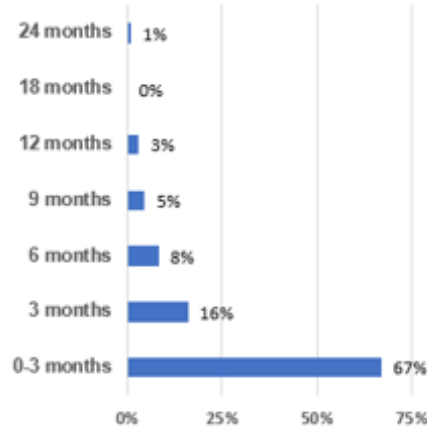
12 Month comparison of applications determined (DAs & Modifications)



No of Developments by Location



Development Applications Percentage of undetermined



Register of Development Applications with Variations to Development Standards
 01/07/2023 - 31/10/2023
 (Last Updated 31/10/2023)

[Planning matters Cessnock City Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

Effective from 1 November 2023 details of all variation requests both under assessment and determined are now available on the NSW Planning Portal

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/variations-register>

Legal Appeals - 2023/2024 – As at 31/03/2024

Application type (DA, Modification)	Council reference number	Legal appeal class	Legal Appellant	Legal appeal determination date dd/mm/yyyy	Legal appeal outcome
Nil					

CONSULTATION

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- NSW Planning – Local Development Performance Monitoring
- NSW Planning Portal performance dashboard
- Civica – Authority and MasterView reports
- Director Planning and Environment
- Compliance Services Manager
- Development Services Manager

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

The report is linked to Objective 3.1.6 “Continue to efficiently and effectively process development applications, and respond to planning related enquiries.”

b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Nil

b. Financial Implications

Nil

c. Legislative Implications

Nil

d. Risk Implications

Nil

e. Environmental Implications

N/A

f. Other Implications

Nil

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE8/2024

Planning and Environment



CONCLUSION

The report is provided for information and outlines an overview of the performance of Development Assessment for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC25/2024

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND - 184 WINE COUNTRY DRIVE NULKABA*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council authorisation to purchase privately-owned land required for the Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive Shared Pathway project. Required land will be acquired in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (Just Terms Act)*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council acquires part of Lot 10 DP 251809 for road purposes and compensation payable to the affected landowner to be negotiated with reference to an independent market valuation and in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
2. That in the event the negotiations with the property owner cannot be satisfactorily finalised, Council make application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor to proceed to compulsory acquisition.
3. That Council authorise the General Manager to execute all documents relating to the acquisition and/or documents relating to any application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor for compulsory acquisition if required.
4. On transfer of ownership to Council, the land is to be dedicated as part of the road reserve.

BACKGROUND

At the 21 June 2023 Ordinary Council meeting, Council adopted the Operational Plan 2023-2024. The plan has assigned capital expenditure under the Capital Works Program to construct a shared pathway from Bridges Hill Park in Cessnock to Lomas Lane, Nulkaba. This project is identified as CPW-2022-004 in Council's Delivery Program.

The aim of the project is to improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between Bridges Hill Park in Cessnock and Wine Country Drive. The shared path route is to be approximately 5.3 km in length and takes in Manning Park and Drain Oval. The path will also provide safe pedestrian and cyclist connection between residential areas and schools in Nulkaba.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1991 (Act)*, a Council may acquire land (including an interest in land) for the purpose of exercising any of its functions. Land designated and authorised for acquisition under this part of the Act may be acquired by agreement, or compulsorily if necessary, in accordance with the *Land Acquisitions (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (Just Terms Act)*.

Corporate and Community

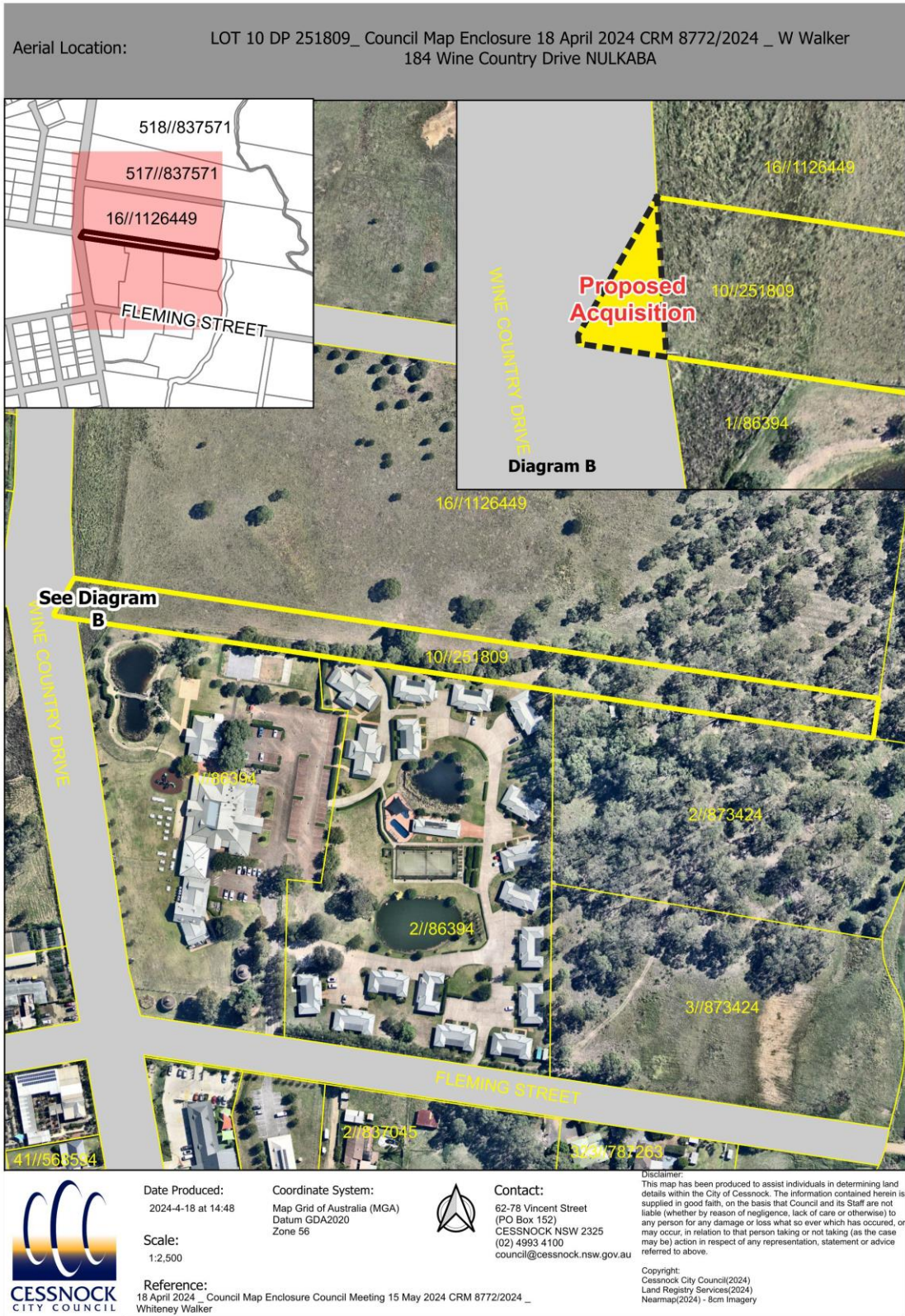
Report No. CC25/2024

Corporate and Community Services



Council is an authority of the State (Acquiring Authority) under the Just Terms Act, however only councils are empowered to acquire land by s.377(1)(h) of the Act. This power cannot be delegated and a resolution of Council is required authorising the General Manager to affect the transaction.

Acquisition of part Lot 10 DP 251809 is necessary to progress construction and connectivity of the remaining 1.5km of pathway. The privately owned land at 184 Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba is legally known as Lot 10 DP 251809 with a total area of 9,193.71 m². Council officers are proposing to acquire a triangular shaped portion of this land that fronts Wine Country Drive and extends into the Road Reserve with an approximate area of 135 m² (**see map below**).



Corporate and Community

Report No. CC25/2024

Corporate and Community Services



Acquisition of this part Lot 10 DP 251809 will be amalgamated into the road reserve with construction of the shared pathway to be funded by the State Government under the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program and by Council.

The landowner has been consulted via discussions with the Project Manager including details on project and acquisition scope.

OPTIONS

No alternative options are considered economically viable to construct the shared pathway from Bridges Hill Park to Lomas Lane. If the subject land parcel is not approved for acquisition, there will be no legal property and rights in place to construct critical infrastructure and the Project cannot proceed.

CONSULTATION

- Chief Financial Officer,
- Principal Property Specialist,
- Projects Manager,
- Landowner of Lot 10 DP 251809, and
- Transport for NSW.

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

The acquisition is linked to the Delivery Program 2022-2026 and specifically aligned with Accessible Infrastructure, Services and Facilities Objective 4.2.2.a. 'Provide project management services for delivery of relevant capital works program'.

The project is included in the Operational Plan 2023-2024 Capital Works Program within the Pathways Construction Program (CPW): Project ID CPW-2022-004

b. Other Plans

Operation Plan 2023-2024
Delivery Program 2022-2026

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Nil

b. Financial Implications

Associated costs of the acquisition have been accounted for in the Capital Works Program of the Operation Plan 2023-2024. Council is currently in the process of obtaining an independent valuation report which assesses the current market value of land affected by the acquisition. Council intends to negotiate with the land owner an agreement within this valuation range. Council will also cover all reasonable legal and valuation costs for both parties during the process of acquisition.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC25/2024

Corporate and Community Services



c. Legislative Implications

Council's authority to acquire land is in accordance with s.186 (1) and s.187 (1) of the Act and Section 377(1)(h) of the Act further stipulates the compulsory acquisition or purchase of land cannot be delegated, and a resolution of Council is required authorising the transaction.

d. Risk Implications

Failure to acquire the required land will negate or delay Council's efforts to secure legal access and rights to construct critical infrastructure risking achievement of associated Operation Plan 2023-2024 objectives.

e. Environmental Implications

Nil

f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

Council's approval to acquire the land will facilitate major works to improve Council's Road network and encourage better connectivity between neighboring suburbs within the Cessnock LGA.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

SUBJECT: *MARCH 2024 REVIEW OF THE 2022-26 DELIVERY PROGRAM*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the Quarterly update on the progress against Council's 2022-26 Delivery Program and the Operational Plan 2023-24 (incorporated into the 2022-26 Delivery Program).

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the progress in implementing the 2022-26 Delivery Program as at 31 March 2024.
2. That Council approves changes to the Operational Plan actions and targets as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

Section 404(5) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to provide regular progress reports to Council with respect to progress against the principal activities detailed in its Delivery Program with reports to be provided at least every six months.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement required under clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, provides financial information in regards to estimates of income and expenditure and is separately reported to Council.

Council adopted the 2022-26 Delivery Program and incorporated Operational Plan 2023-24 in June 2023. The Delivery Program outlines the activities that Council will undertake to implement the strategies identified in the Community Strategic Plan and is the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by an elected Council during its term in office.

At the end of each quarter a report is prepared to assess Council's progress against 2022-26 Delivery Program actions and the Capital Works Program.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

The 2023-24 Operational Plan is a one-year plan and was developed to implement the adopted actions from the 2022-26 Delivery Program.

Some of the highlights for the March quarter are provided below:

- Seniors Festival 2024 was held 11 - 24 March and the program listed over 50 activities. In supporting the event, a funding grant was lodged in consultation with the Seniors Festival Reference Group.
- The construction of a new RFS Facility at Millfield is complete.
- A new public amenity building has been constructed at Cliftleigh Meadows District Park.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC26/2024

Corporate and Community Services



- The Hydrowise irrigation systems upgrade has been completed with 22 controllers replaced and 7 smart meters installed. The meters have been reporting high and low water usage and can detect when a leak occurs.
- Power relocation resurfacing at Frame Drive Weston has now been completed.
- The Customer relations team has completed the following online training, Interpersonal Communication, Work Effectively in a Business Environment, Writing Letters and Documents, Bullying & Harassment.
- A review of the Talent Acquisition process has been finalised. Process has been streamlined and created efficiencies within the organisation.

2022-26 Delivery Program Objectives

At the conclusion of the Third Quarter, 17 (10%) of the 164 Actions from the 2023-24 Operational Plan) were Completed with 140 (85%) currently In Progress. The 'In Progress' Actions will continue to be monitored and reported as part of the quarterly review process. There were no Actions at Risk, 3 (2%) Not Progressing and 4 (3%) which are Not Due to Start at the time of reporting.

Table 1 shows the overall status of actions at 31 March 2024.

Table 1

	A connected, safe, and creative community	A sustainable and prosperous economy	A sustainable and healthy environment	Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities	Civic leadership and effective governance	Total	%
Not Due to Start	-	0	2	-	2	4	3
In Progress	39	17	40	15	29	140	85
Not Progressing	-	-	1	-	2	3	2
Complete	5	5	3	-	4	17	10
At Risk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	46	22	46	15	37	164	100

Details of the projects have been included in **Enclosure 1**.

2023-24 Delivery Program Capital Works

At 31 March 2024, 57 of the 162 projects from the 2023-24 Capital Works Program were Completed, 9 were Not Progressing, 83 were On Track and 13 projects are Not Due to Start.

Table 2 shows a summary the overall status of projects at 31 March 2024.

Table 2

Program	Complete	On track	Carry forward/Not Progressing	Not due to Start	Total
Community Buildings Construction (CBC/WDC)	2	-	-	-	2
Bridge Construction Program (CBR)	1	-	-	-	1
Bridge Construction Program (CBS)	2	3	1	-	6
Drainage Construction Program (CDR)	2	10	3	-	15
Cemeteries Facilities Construction (CFC)	1	-	-	3	4
Recreation Facilities Construction (CFR)	8	6	-	1	15
Traffic Facilities Program (CFT)	-	5	-	1	6
Waste Facilities Construction (CFW)	1	3	-	3	7
Library Books (CL)	-	1	-	-	1
Pathway Construction (CPW)	7	5	-	1	13
Local Road Construction (CRL)	1	11	-	-	12
Safer Roads (CRR/CLS)	-	2	1	1	4
Branxton Town Centre (CTB)	1	1	-	-	2
Kurri Kurri Town Centre (CTK)	1	1	-	-	2
Pre-Construction Design (DCP)	-	1	-	-	1
Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	3	-	-	-	3
Plant and Fleet Acquisition (PFA)	-	1	-	1	2
Floodplain Management (PMF)	4	4	-	1	9
Cultural and Community Buildings (RBC)	8	1	-	-	9
Recreation Buildings Renewal (RBR)	4	2	-	-	6
Cessnock Civic Revitalisation (RCC)	-	1	-	-	1
Pools Facilities Renewal (RFP)	-	1	-	-	1
Recreation Facilities Renewal (RFR)	3	7	-	-	10
Recreation Pre-Construction Design (RPC)	-	1	-	-	1
Gravel Rehab & Re-sheeting (RRG)	-	1	-	-	1
Local Road Renewal (RRL)	3	22	2	-	27
Regional Road Renewal (RRR)	4	1	-	-	5
Visitors Information Centre (VIC)	1	-	-	-	1
Works Depot Construction Program (WDC)	-	-	-	1	1
Waste Plant Management (WPM)	-	-	2	-	2
Total	57	83	9	13	162

Detailed information on the Capital Works Program is also included in **Enclosure 1**.

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

The General Manager, Directors, Managers and Coordinators provided the information for this report and its enclosures.

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report is part of the organisation's governance framework – providing feedback on the progress against the key plans adopted by Council. This is in line with the community's desired outcome of: *"Civic Leadership and Effective Governance."*



b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Nil

b. Financial Implications

The quarterly budget review forecasts are reported separately to Council.

c. Legislative Implications

This report satisfies the requirements of Section 404 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

d. Risk Implications

Nil

e. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The review of the 2022-26 Delivery Program against the Operational Plan 2023-24, for the Quarter ended 31 March 2024, is submitted for Council's consideration.

ENCLOSURES

- [1](#) 2023-24 Operational Plan_Quarter 3 Report

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC27/2024

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *INVESTMENT REPORT - APRIL 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and Council's Investment Policy (the Policy) requires a monthly report to Council detailing all money invested.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Investment Report for April 2024 and notes that:

- Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy, which is in accordance with the Ministerial Investment Order.
- Council's month end cash and investments balance was \$74,498,860.

BACKGROUND

A monthly report to Council detailing money invested as per the Act, Regulation and Policy.

REPORT

Statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer

The Responsible Accounting Officer has certified that this report is produced in accordance with Clause 212 of the Regulation and that all investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulation and Policy.

General Investment Commentary

Council officers monitors and manages the cash and investment portfolio by taking into consideration credit ratings of financial institutions, interest rates offered for periods of investment, counterparty exposures and cash flow requirements.

Following assessment of projected cash flow requirements, surplus funds are invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Investment returns of the portfolio to the end of April 2024 are exceeding the budget. As older term deposits mature and new term deposits are invested, yields are increasing compared to the last few years as demonstrated on Table 1 below.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC27/2024

Corporate and Community Services



Council has engaged Prudential Investment Services Corp for investment advice and the April 2024 Economic and Investment Portfolio Commentary, regarding interest rates notes:

- *Reflecting the unexpected resilience of the global economy, the International Monetary Fund revised up its global growth forecasts for 2024 to 3.2%, matching 2023's growth figure.*
- *The world economy has proven to be durable over the past year, defying predictions of a recession. However, there are lingering concerns that price pressures have not been sufficiently contained and that new trade barriers will be erected in response to a recent surge of cheap Chinese exports such as electric vehicles, lithium batteries and solar panels that are flooding global markets.*
- *In the US, the economy grew slower than expected in the first quarter. GDP figures fell short of the forecast 2.2% growth, at 1.6% year on year. Meanwhile, first quarter core annual inflation stood at 3.7%, above analyst estimates of 3.4%, suggesting that the Federal Reserve may delay cutting interest rates until late 2024.*
- *The first few weeks of April saw global equities give back some of their gains achieved over the past six months as renewed concerns about interest rates staying higher for longer and fears of an escalation of the war in Israel made investors nervous. As tensions in the Middle East subsided marginally during the final week of the month there were some modest gains in global shares, but not enough to push performance into positive territory for April.*
- *The US market had the sharpest fall, down over 4%, followed by Australia's All Ords which was off by 2.7%. European and Japanese markets fell by 1% while Chinese shares managed to gain over 2% for the month.*

Domestic issues noted within Prudential's report include:

- *Annual headline inflation, at 3.6%yoy and underlying inflation at 4%yoy, slowed further in the March quarter but were higher than forecasted due to strength in services prices, particularly rents, health, education and insurance.*
- *Consumer confidence remains weak, falling again in early April, and remains around recessionary levels. Perceptions around family finances, the economy and whether it's a good time to buy major household items all remain depressed, pointing to still subdued consumer spending.*
- *Financial conditions for the domestic business sector have remained more favourable than for households. While interest expenses have increased for businesses, they have been partly buffered by higher earnings.*

The RBA kept the official cash rate unchanged at 4.35% following its meeting in mid-March, the next meeting is May 6-7. In April, term deposit rates across the 5 month to 5 year range increased by an average of 15bps, with the largest gains over the 2 and 3 year periods in reaction to the higher than expected inflation data possibly forestalling an RBA rate cut any time soon. The most competitive rates remain in the 9-12 month area.

In summarising Council's portfolio Prudential advises, "Council's investment portfolio posted a marked-to-market return of 3.66%pa for the month versus the bank bill index benchmark return of 4.37%pa. Over the past 12 months, Council's portfolio has returned 4.77% versus the benchmark's 4.24%.

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The NSW TCorpIM Medium Term Fund (-1.61% actual) gave back some of its recent gains as the fund was impacted by the market's reaction to higher than expected inflation results out of the US and Australia.

Without marked-to-market influences, Council's investment portfolio yielded 5.21%pa for the month. This is based on the actual interest rates being received on existing investments and excludes the underlying changes to the market value of the TCorp growth fund.

During April, Council had maturities of \$10m across three term deposits paying an average of 4.62%pa. No new investments were made during the month.

Council has a well-diversified portfolio invested predominantly among a range of term deposits from highly rated Australian banks. Council also has exposure to a wide range of asset classes, including international and domestic shares via the NSW TCorp Medium Term Growth Fund. It is expected that Council's portfolio will achieve above benchmark returns over the medium/long term with prudent investment selection."

Investment Portfolio Information

Table 1 Total cash and investments held by Council as at 30 April 2024

Invest No	Financial Institution Investment Held With	Invest Type	Interest Coupon Term	Maturity	Current Coupon Rate	Par Value \$'000
	Commonwealth Bank	CASH			4.00%	8,936
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.35%	2,941
1243	AMP Bank	At Call			3.30%	519
1490	Westpac Bank	TD	729	25-Sep-24	4.91%	4,000
1498	National Australia Bank	TD	370	15-May-24	4.74%	3,000
1501	National Australia Bank	TD	371	06-Aug-24	5.40%	5,000
1502	Commonwealth Bank	TD	364	06-Aug-24	5.55%	5,000
1503	Commonwealth Bank	TD	363	28-Aug-24	5.27%	4,000
1504	Suncorp Bank	TD	369	24-Sep-24	5.30%	4,000
1505	National Bank	TD	364	25-Sep-24	5.33%	5,000
1507	Suncorp Bank	TD	274	30-Jun-24	5.35%	5,000
1508	Commonwealth Bank	TD	365	29-Oct-24	5.39%	5,000
1509	National Australia Bank	TD	365	21-Jan-25	5.16%	5,000
1510	Westpac Bank	TD	365	23-Jan-25	5.20%	5,000
1511	National Australia Bank	TD	121	29-May-24	5.10%	5,000
1512	Suncorp Bank	TD	274	03-Dec-24	5.12%	3,000
1463	Treasury Corporation	Growth Fund				4,103
TOTAL						74,499

Table 2 Level of funds held and the percentage invested with financial institutions

Financial Institution	Credit Rating	Institution Maximum	Amount \$'000	% of Portfolio
Commonwealth Bank	AA-	40%	14,000	22.54%
Westpac Bank	AA-	40%	9,000	14.49%
National Australia Bank	AA-	40%	23,000	37.04%
Suncorp Bank	A+	40%	12,000	19.32%
Treasury Corporation	Unrated	10%	4,103	6.61%
TOTAL			62,103	100.00%

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In accordance with the Policy, figures in Table 2 above exclude cash and at call balances in Council's main operating account held with the Commonwealth and AMP banks.

Investment in NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp)

TCorpIM Funds are unit trusts. Distributions are made annually and are automatically reinvested into the fund to buy additional units. As this investment is held for medium to long-term capital appreciation, gains or losses will only be realised on redemption of the investment. However due to accounting requirements any unrealised gains or losses will be processed between investments and the operating statement.

The preliminary April 2024 unrealised return was a loss of \$63,761.31 or -1.53% (5.48% annualised). Rates of return fluctuate monthly and can be negative from time to time with the medium-term investment horizon. The fund performance summary for April 2024 is not yet available at the time of this report. The fund performance summary as at 31 March 2024 is shown below. The TCorp benchmark is CPI + 2.00% p.a. (over rolling 5 years).

Table 3 NSW Treasury Corporation Performance Summary

	10 year (% pa)	7 year (% pa)	3 year (% pa)	1 year %	FYTD %	1 month %
IM Medium Term Growth Fund	4.36	3.96	3.31	7.94	7.13	1.24
Benchmark: CPI + 2.0% p.a. (over rolling 5 years)	4.64	4.93	6.76	5.81	4.29	0.42
Return above benchmark p.a.	(0.28)	(0.97)	(3.45)	2.13	2.84	0.82

Table 4 Investment types, risk, amount and percentage invested compared to total

Investment Type	Risk Assessment		Amount	% of
	Capital	Interest	\$'000	Portfolio
Term Deposits	Low	Low	58,000	77.85%
Cash/At Call Deposits	Low	Low	12,396	16.64%
Capital Growth Fund	Medium	Medium	4,103	5.51%
TOTAL			74,499	100.00%

Table 5 Comparison of interest rates, earnings and balances this year to last year

Performance Measures	This Year	Last Year
Investment Portfolio Average Interest Rate (year to date)	3.66%	3.92%
BBSW Average Interest Rate (year to date) *	4.35%	3.77%
Actual Investment Interest Earned (for the current month)	\$295,874	\$194,344
Actual Investment Interest Earned (year to date) ^	\$3,024,978	\$1,520,185
Original Budget Investment Interest (year to date)	\$1,150,102	\$716,770
Original Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$1,380,122	\$1,680,122
Revised Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$1,750,122	\$1,680,122
TCorp unrealised movement (year to date)	5.48%	6.22%

Investment and Cash Balances (Par Value) #	This Year	Last Year
Opening Balance as at 1 July	\$73,085,190	\$73,415,666
Closing Balance as at 30 April	\$74,498,860	\$71,320,636

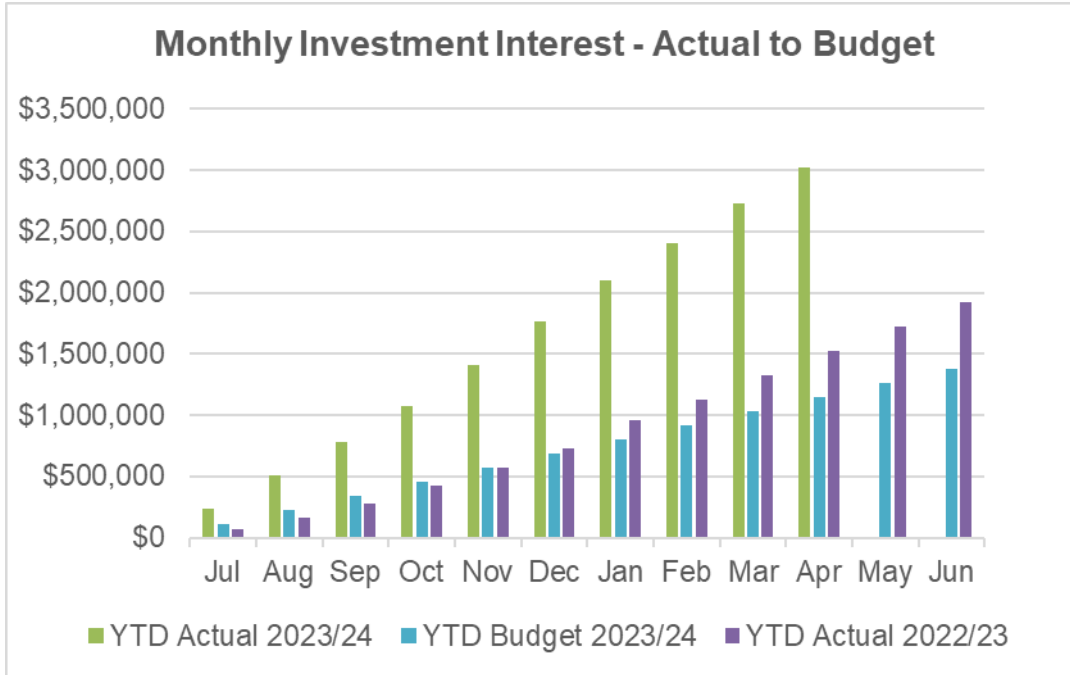
* BBSW 90 day Bank Bill Reference Rate (performance measure as per Council's Investment Policy)

^ Excludes TCorp unrealised returns

Excludes Section 355 Committee cash held



Graph 1 Actual interest earned compared to revised budget and actual interest last year



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Table 6 Internal and external restrictions over cash and investments held

Month End Totals \$'000	Apr 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Nov 2023
Developer contributions	38,895	36,791	36,276	35,858	35,355	30,299
Committed developer contributions	1,987	2,275	2,456	2,485	2,735	3,460
RMS contributions	0	0	0	0	0	182
Specific purpose unexpended grants	14,885	16,813	17,819	20,087	22,104	25,415
Domestic waste management	430	430	430	430	430	430
Stormwater management	0	0	872	889	909	1,038
External Restrictions	56,197	56,309	57,853	59,749	61,533	60,824
Plant and vehicle replacement	789	1,017	1,274	1,274	1,274	2,400
Employees leave entitlement	2,430	2,430	2,430	2,418	2,418	2,418
Carry over works	0	287	287	371	581	582
Bridge replacement	0	0	0	0	308	282
Insurance provisions	50	50	50	50	761	761
Miscellaneous and property	432	534	534	534	534	809
Grant Fund Leverage	82	82	82	82	82	82
Energy efficiency	133	95	95	95	95	95
Operations and programs	420	472	472	472	472	472
Property investment fund	2,200	2,550	3,021	3,021	3,021	3,095
Civil Works	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste depot and rehabilitation	7,732	8,198	8,843	8,843	8,843	13,883
Committed projects (SRV)	0	0	0	0	0	300
Security deposits and bonds	3,582	3,492	3,440	3,435	3,432	3,720
Unexpended Loan Funds	817	836	840	848	958	967
Internal Restrictions	18,667	20,043	21,368	21,443	23,917	29,866
Emergency Flood Works Approved Claim to be received from TfNSW**	(2,200)	(1,273)				
Unrestricted	1,835	1,637	2,958	1,123	1,138	619
Total Cash & Investments	74,499	76,716	82,179	82,315	86,057	91,309

** Note Council is currently completing emergency flood works on behalf of Transport of NSW. Works are completed and paid by Council in advance, with Transport paying after each month. This artificially lowers the unrestricted cash balance of Council. Until the works are complete, the investment report will provide amounts owing from Transport to show a true unrestricted cash balance.

CONSULTATION

- Director Corporate and Community Services
- Chief Financial Officer
- Finance staff

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STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

Investment returns are an integral part of funding sources for future services and community expectations within the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. This report is a part of the organisation's governance framework – providing feedback on the progress against the investment policy and budget adopted by Council. This is in line with the community's desired outcome of: "*Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*" and more specifically links to strategic direction:

5.3.2: Our Council's processes are efficient and transparent;

5.3.3: Our Council is financially sustainable.

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

b. Financial Implications

Investment returns are included in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Amendments are affected through the Quarterly Budget Review process. Investment portfolio performance is detailed within the report with comparisons to prior year and budget.

A portion of the portfolio and its associated investment income is restricted as it relates to funds from developer contributions, payments in advance for grant projects, Domestic Waste Management, and stormwater management income to be applied to specific purposes and not available for general operational projects.

c. Legislative Implications

This report meets Council's statutory obligations under the Act and Regulation.

d. Risk Implications

Investment risks are detailed within this report.

e. Other Implications

There are no environmental, community, consultative or other implications to this report.

CONCLUSION

The report details investments held at month end and meets Council's reporting obligations.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

SUBJECT: *DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS*
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to table returns received for the quarter from designated persons for the period 1 February 2024 to 30 April 2024 as per the Code of Conduct (the Code).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the tabling of the disclosures of interests written returns for the period 1 February 2024 to 30 April 2024 in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

BACKGROUND

Part 4 of the Code governs matters concerning disclosures of interests in written returns. Clause 4.24 of the Code requires the General Manager to keep a register of returns lodged by Councillors and designated persons and to table them at a meeting of Council.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

In accordance with the Code, Councillors and designated persons are required to lodge a written return within three months after becoming a Councillor or a designated person.

Clause 4.8 of the Code provides that designated persons are:

- (a) *The General Manager;*
- (b) *Senior staff for the purposes of section 332 of the Act;*
- (c) *A person (other than a member of the senior staff of the council) who is a member of staff of the council or a delegate of the council and who holds a position identified by the council as the position of a designated person because it involves the exercise of functions under this or any other Act (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the person's duty as a member of staff or delegate and the person's private interest;*
- (d) *A person (other than a member of the senior staff of the council) who is a member of a committee of the council identified by the council as a committee whose members are designated persons because the functions of the committee involve the exercise of the council's functions under this or any other Act (such as regulatory functions or contractual functions) that, in their exercise, could give rise to a conflict between the member's duty as a member of the committee and the member's private interest.*

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In addition, clause 4.21 of the Code requires a Councillor or designated person to lodge an updated return within three months of becoming aware of an interest not previously disclosed or an update to a return previously disclosed. Returns in this period have been received from:

Designated Staff	Return
Mayor – Jay Suvaal	Updated Return
Acting Development Services Manager – Sue Page	Commencing

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Designated persons were provided the Self-Help Guide from the Office of Local Government to assist them in the completion of their returns.

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

Completion of the written returns for the period links to the community’s desired outcome of “*Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*”, and in particular, Strategic action 5.3.7 within the Operational Plan 2023-2024 – *Continue to manage Council governance functions and statutory requirements*.

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Clause 4.24 of the Code requires the General Manager to keep a register of returns lodged and clause 4.25 requires the General Manager to table such returns at the first meeting of Council after the last day the returns are required to be lodged.

On the day following the meeting, the register of returns may be accessed by members of the public (at Council’s Administrative Centre) during business hours. At all other times, the register of returns is available for inspection in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)*.

b. Financial Implications

N/A

c. Legislative Implications

N/A

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d. Risk Implications

Failure to table the register of written returns could mean not meeting legislative obligations.

e. Environmental Implications

N/A

f. Other Implications

Tabling the register of returns and allowing access to it demonstrates Council's commitment to openness and transparency, and is a crucial element of Council's civic leadership and effective governance.

CONCLUSION

Tabling of the register of returns satisfies requirements under the Code of Conduct.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

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SUBJECT: *RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

The enclosure contains pending actions from previous meetings as well as completed actions for period 09 April 2024 to 6 May 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the report and notes the information in the Resolutions Tracking Report.

ENCLOSURES

- [1](#) Outstanding Actions - All
- [2](#) Completed Actions - All

SUBJECT: *QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - QUARTER 3, 31 MARCH 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the 3rd quarter March 2024 for Council's consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council receives the March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statement in accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.**
- 2. That Council approves proposed changes to the 2023-24 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report March 2024.**

BACKGROUND

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the QBRS to be prepared and submitted to Council. A separate report to Council contains information in regard to Council's Delivery Program and reporting under Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.

The Quarterly Business Report for March 2024 is presented to Council for consideration and contains all necessary Quarterly Budget Review Statements.

REPORT

The budget review process involved responsible budget managers reviewing income and expenditure patterns and, after consultation with finance staff, proposing any required changes. Changes may have been from unforeseen circumstances or elements beyond the control of Council, additional funding opportunities, or from Council resolutions.

General Budget Commentary

The QBRS Q3 March 2024 is provided to Council at **Enclosure 1** and shows a projected operating surplus of \$30.4m for the year ending 30 June 2024, or a forecast net operating deficit of \$12.5m excluding capital grants and contributions income.

The QBRS also shows a revised capital works program forecasting changes that decrease the current program by \$4.7m, from \$76.3m to \$71.6m.

March YTD spend on the capital works program is \$42.6m with spend accelerating, especially on natural disaster grant funded projects. As noted in the enclosure, there has been an uplift in anticipated Loss on Disposal of Assets to reflect the assets effected by current year capital

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works. This is anticipated to be closer to the final amount but is subject to change within the complete of the annual financial statements.

For details on all proposed budget changes refer to the notes in the QBRs attachment.

Key Performance Indicators

Council's QBRs forecasts that four out of six key performance indicators will exceed Office of Local Government benchmarks. Due to the revised net operating position forecasting a deficit, the Operating Performance Ratio is no longer meeting the benchmark to break even. Additionally increasing grant income, particularly for ongoing natural disaster works is placing the Own Source Operating Revenue below the benchmark. A listing of the key performance indicators (ratios) is included in the QBRs suite of reports.

Responsible Accounting Officer Statement

Section 203 (2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires that the budget review statement include, or be accompanied by, a report from the Responsible Accounting Officer. This report is required to indicate whether the Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) believes that the statement indicates that the financial position of the Council is satisfactory, having regard to the original estimate of income and expenditure, and, if that position is unsatisfactory, recommendations for remedial action.

The RAO statements is:

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Cessnock City Council for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2024 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure. As noted previously the ongoing increase in capital works will continue to place a pressure on the bottom line particularly through loss on disposal of assets. This can be sustained in the short to medium period but will require adjustments to budgets in the future through additional income or a reduction in expenditure or services.

CONSULTATION

The following staff provided input into the preparation of this report and its enclosures:

- Acting General Manager
- Directors
- Managers
- Senior finance staff

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report is a crucial part of the organisation's governance framework – providing feedback on the progress against the budget adopted by Council. This is in line with the community's desired outcome of: "*Civic Leadership and Effective Governance.*"

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

N/A

b. Financial Implications

The QBRS is presented in accordance with the adopted budget strategy. The detailed review of all operational and capital budgets is a continuous process. The objective is to improve Council's current and future financial position.

c. Legislative Implications

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* requires the Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and submit to Council a QBRS that shows revised estimates of income and expenditure for the year.

d. Risk Implications

The following are some of the risks that may impact achievement of the projected full year operating statement deficit:

- Losses on disposal of asset values as a result of assets being upgraded or renewed prior to the end of their effective lives;
- Unrealised losses associated with the managed fund held with TCorp;
- Changes in estimates for future remediation of landfill sites;
- Increased operational employee costs due to lower capitalisation of labour; and
- Increased costs associated with electricity and fuel.

e. Other Implications

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement for March 2024 is submitted for approval.

ENCLOSURES

- [1](#) Quarterly Budget Review Statements - March 2024

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SUBJECT: *MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PROPERTY & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 MAY 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer - Matthew Plumridge*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Minutes of the Strategic Property & Community Facilities Committee meeting held on 1 May 2024 as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PROPERTY & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ANTE ROOM ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MAY 2024, COMMENCING AT 2.00PM

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J Suvaal (in the Chair) and Councillors Dunn, Paynter and Sander and Acting General Manager.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Hill and Grine
Acting Director Corporate & Community (CFO)
Director Works & Infrastructure (arrived 2.06pm)
Principal Property Specialist
Senior Property Officer
Community & Cultural Development Manager
Open Spaces & Community Facilities Manager
Economic Development & Tourism Manager
Executive Assistant to Director Corporate & Community Services

MINUTES: **MOTION** **Moved:** Councillor Sander
Seconded: Councillor Dunn

RECOMMENDED that the Minutes of the Strategic Property & Community Facilities Committee held on 6 March 2024, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Draft Civic Park Concept Plan:

Open Spaces & Community Facilities Manager gave an update on the draft concept plan and discussions that were held with Cessnock RSL Sub Branch.

The Committee discussed the engagement held with Cessnock RSL Sub Branch, and their expectations of the location and incorporation of the war memorial with Civic Park. Open Spaces & Community Facilities Manager will arrange another meeting with the Cessnock RSL Sub Branch to discuss incorporating the war memorial within the current concept plan.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

OFFICER'S REPORTS NO. SPOR4/2024

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC PROPERTY REVIEW UPDATE – MAY 2024

MOTION ***Moved:*** Councillor Dunn ***Seconded:*** Councillor Paynter

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes progress with implementing strategy recommendations of the Strategic Property Review project and notes information provided regarding Council's Property Investment Fund.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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OFFICER'S REPORTS NO. SPOR5/2024

SUBJECT: CHILD SERVICES OPERATIONS ON COUNCIL LAND

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Sander **Seconded:** Councillor Paynter

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the information with reference to Council land identified in the report and a further update to be provided to the Committee regarding opportunities to maximize returns on this land.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Dunn left the meeting at 2.56pm

Open Spaces & Community Facilities Manager left the meeting at 2.56pm

Confidential Session commenced at 2.57pm.

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 3.20pm

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.