



11 February 2025

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, 19 February 2025 at 6.30pm, for the purposes of transacting the undermentioned business.

AGENDA:

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| (3) RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE , OR ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK | |
| (4) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING | |
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‡ - 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 23 October 2024. 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, 11 DECEMBER 2024, COMMENCING
AT 6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D Watton (in the Chair) and Councillors Dixon, Grine, Hill, Jurd, King, Lea, Madden, Mason, Palmowski, Pascoe and Suvaal.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Acting Development Services Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Strategic Planning Manager
Communications & Engagement Manager
Principal Community Engagement Officer
Community Engagement Officer
Help Desk Support Officer
Senior Business Support Officer – Council Services
Council Services Team Leader
Director Planning and Environment (arrived approx. 7.42pm)

Council Prayer presented by Pastor Wayne Kembrey

**APOLOGY/LEAVE
OF ABSENCE**

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Suvaal
Seconded: Councillor Lea

63

RESOLVED that the apology tendered on behalf of Councillor Harrington, for unavoidable absence, be accepted.

That a Leave of Absence be granted to Councillor Hill for the period 19 December 2024 to 10 January 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES:

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill
 Seconded: Councillor Suvaal

64

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI10/2024

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

RECOMMENDATION

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

CC73/2024 - Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee held 7 November 2024

- Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine advised that she would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

MM10/2024 - Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee held 2 December 2024

– Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine advised that she would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

MM11/2024 - Hunter Transmission Project Briefing Request

– Councillor Suvaal declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant conflict for the reason that as part of his employment he is currently working with EnergyCo, so until he seeks further clarity he will leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

WI29/2024 - Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held 18 November 2024

- Councillor Lea declared Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that one of the listed matters in the report went to the Local Emergency Management Committee for comment. Through his primary employment he is part of the LEHC. Councillor Lea advised that he would remain in the chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty because the matter had no effect on his primary employment and he did not comment on the matter.

CC74/2024 - Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 13 November 2024

– Councillor Lea declared a Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a life member of the Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club. Councillor Lea advised that he would remain in the chamber and participate in discussion and voting as the conflict has not influenced him in carrying out his public duty because he was awarded Life Membership in 2023 and has had little to no involvement with the club since.

CC74/2024 - Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee held on 13 November 2024

– Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary – Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a Cessnock Hockey Committee member. Councillor Madden advised that he would leave the chamber and take no part in discussion and voting.

PETITIONS

Nil

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

Nil

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

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
65

RESOLVED

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

OFFICERS REPORTS

‡ GMU11/2024	Appointment of Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Independent Chairperson	41
‡ CC77/2024	Disclosures of Interests in Written Returns	65
‡ CC78/2024	Resolutions Tracking Report	68
‡ CC79/2024	Investment Report - November 2024.....	69

Council adopt the recommendations as printed in the business papers for those items.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYORAL MINUTES

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM9/2024

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE ORGANISATIONAL AND GENERAL MANAGERS
REVIEW PANEL MEETING HELD 25 NOVEMBER 2024**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

66

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Organisational and General Manager's Performance Review Committee of 25 November 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	Councillor King
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM10/2024

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL INITIATED AWARDS COMMITTEE HELD
2 DECEMBER 2024**

Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 6.38pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton
67

RESOLVED

That Council endorse the recommendations of the Council Initiated Awards Committee for Cessnock City Council Australia Day Awards

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 6.40pm

MAYORAL MINUTES NO. MM11/2024

SUBJECT: HUNTER TRANSMISSION PROJECT BRIEFING REQUEST

Councillor Suvaal declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant conflict for the reason that as part of his employment he is currently working with EnergyCo so until he seeks further clarity, Councillor Suvaal left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Suvaal left the meeting, the time being 6.40pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Watton

68

RESOLVED

1. **That Council endorse a formal request to EnergyCo for a detailed briefing before the Environmental Impact Statement goes on public exhibition in regards to the Hunter Transmission Project.**
2. **That Council invite Councillors, and NSW State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr to actively participate in the briefing.**
3. **That Council note the importance of maintaining open lines of communication with EnergyCo and other stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Suvaal returned to the meeting, the time being 6.49pm

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU9/2024

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

Nil

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT

GENERAL MANAGER'S UNIT NO. GMU11/2024

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
69
RESOLVED

1. That Council appoints Shane Hubble as the Independent Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 in accordance with section 5.3 of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter.
2. That Council thanks Jenni Hayes, retiring Independent Chairperson for her leadership and dedicated service to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE27/2024

**SUBJECT: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN -
PUBLIC EXHIBITION REPORT AND ADOPTION**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Lea
70
RESOLVED

That Council adopt the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Jurd
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (10)	Total (2)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC72/2024

SUBJECT: REVISED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
71

RESOLVED

1. That Council places the revised Community Engagement Strategy (incorporating the Community Participation Plan) on public exhibition for a minimum period of 60 days and invite public submissions.
2. That a report on the outcomes of the exhibition be provided to Council prior to Council considering adopting the revised Community Engagement Strategy.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC73/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL INITIATED AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 7 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Grine declared a Non Pecuniary Interest – Significant Conflict for the reason that a family member is involved. Councillor Grine left the chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Grine left the meeting, the time being 7.12pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
72

RESOLVED

1. That Council notes the minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee Meeting held on 7 November 2024 include recommendations to offer opportunities for induction into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame and Freeman of the City.
2. That Council adopts the minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee Meeting held on 7 November 2024.
3. That the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame Guidelines be amended with the following changes:
 - a. Removal of reference to ‘Nominations to the Hall of Fame will be called for every two years’ and replace with ‘Nominations can be submitted at any time’.
 - b. Removal of reference to ‘Community Engagement Awards and Grants Committee’ and replace with ‘Council Initiated Awards Committee’.
4. That the amended City of Cessnock Hall of Fame Guidelines be adopted.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Grine returned to the meeting, the time being 7.13pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC74/2024

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillor Lea declared a Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a life member of the Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club. Councillor Lea remained in the chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

Councillor Madden declared a Non Pecuniary – Significant Conflict for the reason that he is a Cessnock Hockey Committee member. Councillor Madden left chamber and took no part in discussion and voting.

Councillor Madden left the meeting, the time being 7.14pm

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
73

RESOLVED

1. **That the Minutes of the Grants Advisory Committee Meeting of 13 November 2024 be adopted as a resolution of the Ordinary Council.**
2. **That Council provides funds through the Community and Cultural Development Grant Scheme to:**
 - **ArtsNational Hunter in the amount of \$2,910**
 - **Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$7,018**
 - **Branxton Community Hall in the amount of \$2,500**
 - **Carries Place Domestic Violence and Homelessness Services in the amount of \$2,436**
 - **Cessnock Family Support Service in the amount of \$1,676**
 - **Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation in the amount of \$500**
 - **Lions Club of Branxton Inc. in the amount of \$1,480**
 - **Prelude Australia in the amount of \$2,536**
 - **Sunnyfield Disability Services in the amount of \$1,800**
 - **Wollombi Valley Arts Council Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.**
3. **That the \$856 shortfall in funding be allocated from the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Scheme and be used to assist in funding Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre’s project.**
4. **That Council provides funds through the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to:**
 - **Branxton Pre-School in the amount of \$7,167**
 - **Cessnock Multipurpose Children’s Centre in the amount of \$21,309**
 - **Hunter Prelude Ltd in the amount of \$1,649**
 - **Wollombi Community Hall section 355 committee in the amount of \$2,114**
 - **Wollombi Valley Community Association in the amount of \$1,091**
5. **That Council transfers \$3,330 from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to fund all Community Facilities Grant Scheme applications.**

6. That Council provides funds through the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to:
 - Branxton District Netball Club in the amount of \$2,413
 - Cessnock District Hockey Association in the amount of \$2,700
 - Cessnock District Netball Association in the amount of \$1,778
 - Cessnock Dog Club in the amount of \$4,045
 - Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Football Club in the amount of \$2,717
 - Kurri Kurri Rugby League Football Club in the amount of \$2,399
 - Wollombi Valley Tennis Club in the amount of \$512
7. That Council transfers \$3,330 from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to fund all applications.
8. That Council advertises a Round 2 of the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme in February 2025 to expend the remaining \$10,106.
9. That Council provides funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Environment Grant Program to:
 - Cessnock Community Garden in the amount of \$2,792
 - North Rothbury Bushcare in the amount of \$3,058.11
 - Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$856
10. That Greta Sustainable Communities/Tidy Towns be informed that their application for funding is not supported in this round.
11. That the General Manager writes to all applicants advising the outcome of their application and thanking them for their ongoing support and commitment to the enhancement of Council's sporting facilities.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	Councillor King
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (9)	Total (2)

CARRIED

Procedural note: While two Councillors expressed a preference to abstain from voting, clause 11.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice requires the a Councillor who is present and fails to vote is taken to have voted against the motion.

Councillor Madden returned to the meeting, the time being 7.22pm

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC75/2024

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Pascoe
74
RESOLVED

That Council notes the Annual Code of Conduct Complaints Report for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC76/2024

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON UNREASONABLE CONDUCT BY CUSTOMERS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Grine
75

RESOLVED

That Council notes the Annual Report of Unreasonable Conduct by Customers report for the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (11)	Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC77/2024

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

76

RESOLVED

That Council notes the tabling of the disclosures of interests written returns for the period 1 August 2024 to 31 October 2024 in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC78/2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
77
RESOLVED

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

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC79/2024

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Lea **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd
78
RESOLVED

That Council receives the Investment Report for November 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 \$64,246,979.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI27/2024

SUBJECT: NAMING OF AVERYS RISE PARK

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Hill **Seconded:** Councillor Palmowski
79
RESOLVED

1. That Council endorses naming the new park and playground Averys Rise Park.
2. That Council supports a naming proposal be submitted to the NSW Geographical Names Board for consideration and gazettal.
3. That signage be updated following the gazettal of the Place Naming Proposal by the NSW Geographical Names Board (subject to approval).

Councillor Jurd left the meeting, the time being 7.27pm

Councillor Jurd returned to the meeting, the time being 7.29pm

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI28/2024

SUBJECT: KURRI KURRI NOSTALGIA FESTIVAL - MARCH 2025

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

80

RESOLVED

That Council endorse the in-kind support valued at \$11,825, for the following services: waste management, park management and amenity management at Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival on 28, 29 and 30 March 2025.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI29/2024

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

Councillor Lea declared Non Pecuniary – Less Than Significant Conflict for the reason that one of the listed matters in the report went to the Local emergency Management Committee for comment. Through his primary employment he is part of the LEHC. Councillor Lea remained in the chamber and participated in discussion and voting.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Jurd **Seconded:** Councillor King

81

RESOLVED

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

- **TC35/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Wine Country Drive, Broke Road, Lovedale Road, De Beyers Road, Col Turnbull Parade and Grady Road, Pokolbin, Lomas Lane Nulkaba, Averys Lane Heddon Greta, and Mount View Road Cessnock for the Hunter Valley Airshow from 7am to 7pm, Saturday 8 February 2025 & Sunday 9 February 2025, in accordance with the Various Roads Pokolbin _ Hunter Valley Airshow Traffic Guidance Schemes.**
- **TC36/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Broke Road, McDonalds Road, Palmers Lane and Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin for A Day on the Green multiple events in accordance with Various Roads Pokolbin _ A Day on the Green Traffic Guidance Scheme.**
- **That Council note the General Manager or the General Managers sub-delegate authorised the following Local Traffic Committee reports in accordance with Division 2 of Part 8 of the Roads Act 1993:**
 - **TC37/2024**
 - **TC38/2024**
 - **TC39/2024**

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI30/2024

SUBJECT: TENDER T2024-14 KURRI KURRI NETBALL FACILITY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Grine **Seconded:** Councillor King

82

RESOLVED

That Council accepts the tender (T2024-14) from Glascott Landscape & Civil Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$6,700,795.65 (including GST) for the Kurri Kurri Netball Facility.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Dixon	
Councillor Grine	
Councillor Hill	
Councillor Jurd	
Councillor King	
Councillor Lea	
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Mason	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Watton	
Total (12)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN10/2024

SUBJECT: OPENING OF BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR PUBLIC OBSERVATION

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor King **Seconded:** Councillor Jurd

1. That Council amend the Code of Meeting Practice, clause 3.34 to allow pre meeting briefing sessions to be open to the public except for those items allowed under clause 14.1 (grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public).
2. That Council place the revised Code of Meeting Practice on public exhibition.
3. That Council adopts the revised Code of Meeting Practice the day after the public submission period of 42 days concludes, if no unresolved submissions are received.
4. That Council rescinds the Code of Meeting Practice 2024 from the date the revised Code of Meeting Practice 2025 is adopted.

AMENDMENT **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill

That the report be deferred to coincide with the outcomes of the review by the Office of Local Government into the Councillor Conduct Framework.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Jurd
Councillor Lea	Councillor King
Councillor Madden	Councillor Mason
Councillor Palmowski	Councillor Watton
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (7)	Total (5)

The Amendment was **PUT** and **CARRIED** and as such became the **MOTION**.

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Pascoe **Seconded:** Councillor Hill
83

RESOLVED

That the report be deferred to coincide with the outcomes of the review by the Office of Local Government into the Councillor Conduct Framework.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Grine	Councillor Dixon
Councillor Hill	Councillor Jurd
Councillor King	Councillor Mason
Councillor Lea	Councillor Watton
Councillor Madden	
Councillor Palmowski	
Councillor Pascoe	
Councillor Suvaal	
Total (8)	Total (4)

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Hill

LGNSW Conference 2024

Councillor Hill advised of his attendance at the LGNSW Annual Conference and reported as follows:-

This year, the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference was held in Tamworth across 3 days, Sunday 17th – Tuesday 19th November. This conference meets annually to debate and vote on motions which determine the advocacy focus of LGNSW for the following 12 months. This means that important issues relevant to the state and federal governments can be focused on by Local Government's peak advocacy body.

Councillor Mitchell Hill, Councillor Sophie Palmowski and Councillor Chris Madden attended the event representing Cessnock Council. There were over 110 primary motions included in the business papers for the conference, submitted by Council's across NSW. Cessnock did not have any motions included this year, but many of the debates included issues that are prevalent in our LGA.

Some of these issues debated included:

- Advocating for a reduction in cost shifting from the NSW Government to local councils.
- Increasing the maximum developer contributions able to be levied by councils.
- Requesting the ability for councils to apply additional conditions or fees to 'Short Term Rental Accommodations' (AirBnB).
- Advocacy towards the NSW re-opening the transfer of regional roads to state roads.
- Increased funding from the Government to support upgrades to regional airports.
- Several motions regarding improvements to public transport across the state.

Throughout the conference, delegates also heard from special guest speakers such as the Minister for Local Government Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport Jenny Aitchison MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Gaming, and Racing Kevin Anderson MP, and the Auditor General of NSW Bola Oyetunji.

The conference was successful in working through all the motions across the main debate day of Monday, and delegates were invited to attend the Conference Dinner that evening where several awards were given out to long-standing Councillors. Anyone interested in further information can access it on the LGNSW website: <https://lgnswconference.org.au/>

Pokolbin Mountains Road HTP Group Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Residents, Landholder and Utilisers of Pokolbin Mounts Road meeting held on 3 December 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

Black Hill Quarry CLG Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Black Hill Quarry Community Liaison Group meeting held on 5 December 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

Buttai Quarry CCC Meeting

Councillor advised of his attendance at the Buttai Quarry Community Consultative Committee meeting held on 15 November 2024 and advised that the minutes would be made available to all Councillors.

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.00pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 19 February 2025

.....**CHAIRPERSON**

.....**GENERAL MANAGER**

Disclosures Of Interest

Report No. DI1/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

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.

Motions of Urgency

Report No. MOU1/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *MOTIONS OF URGENCY*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

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 NO. 8/2023/298/1 FOR A FOOD AND DRINK PREMISES COMPRISING A PUB AND ANCILLARY BREWERY, RESTAURANT / CAFÉ AND ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND ON-SITE EFFLUENT DISPOSAL*

5439 GEORGE DOWNES DRIVE BUCKETTY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Acting Development Services Manager*

APPLICATION NUMBER:	8/2023/298/1
PROPOSAL:	Food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, restaurant / café and associated car parking and on-site effluent disposal
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:	Lot 30 DP 574492
PROPERTY ADDRESS:	5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty
ZONE:	RU2 Rural Landscape
OWNER:	Mr Nicholas Donald
APPLICANT:	Mr Nicholas Donald

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

- (i) Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 for the construction of a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, a restaurant / café and associated parking and on-site effluent disposal area on Lot 30 DP 574492 – 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty, be approved pursuant to Sections 4.16 and 4.17 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subject to the conditions contained in Enclosure 2.
- (ii) The reasons for the decision (having regard to any statutory requirements applying to the decision) and consideration of community views are as follows:
 - The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, is consistent with the objectives of the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP)*.



- The proposed development is, subject to the recommended conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP).
 - Subject to the recommended conditions, the proposed development will be provided with adequate essential services required under the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (CLEP).
 - The proposed development is considered to be of an appropriate scale and form for the site and is consistent and sympathetic with the character of the locality.
 - The proposed development, subject to the recommended conditions, will not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the natural or built environments.
 - Any issues raised in submission/s have been taken into account in the assessment report and where appropriate, conditions of consent have been imposed on the determination. Council has given due consideration to community views when making the decision to determine the application.
- (iii) The details contained above be publicly notified pursuant to Section 2.22 and Clause 20(2) of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
2. That Council notify in writing the persons who made a submission with regard to the proposed development, of Council's decision

REASON FOR REPORT

Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1 is being referred to Council for determination as objections were received in response to the public exhibition period that are considered to constitute 'significant objection' in accordance with the provisions of 'Development Practice Note – Operation of the Development Assessment Unit (DAU) and Determination of Applications under Delegated Authority'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is in receipt of Development Application No. 8/2023/298/1, seeking approval for the construction of a food and drink premises comprising a pub and ancillary brewery, a restaurant / café, associated parking and on-site effluent disposal at 5439 George Downes Drive Bucketty.

The Development Application has been assessed against the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021*, relevant Environmental Planning Instruments and Council policies, and is fully compliant.

The development is consistent with the objectives of the RU2 Rural Landscape zone under the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011* (CLEP 2011) and the scale and intensity of the proposed development is considered appropriate within the context of the rural setting. The proposed development will be located within an existing cleared area of the site and while some additional clearing will be required to establish bushfire asset protection zones, the majority of the site (approximately 80% of the site) will remain heavily vegetated. The development will not intrude into the skyline and will not be visible from the road or any other public place given the heavily vegetated state of the site.

The Development Application was publicly exhibited on two (2) occasions.

The application was first notified between 26 September 2023 and 9 October 2023. During this time, fourteen (14) submissions were received from fourteen (14) households. Thirteen (13) of these submissions raised objection to the proposal and one (1) submission was in support of the proposal.

The application was publicly exhibited for the second time, due to the NSW Planning Portal 'Application Tracker' being offline for part of the initial notification period, between 14 June 2024 and 28 June 2024. During this exhibition period sixty-eight (68) submissions were received from sixty-two (62) households. Forty-one (41) of these submissions were in support of the development and twenty-seven (27) of these submissions were in objection to the proposal.

The majority of submissions received in support of the proposal, were received from residents within a 5-10km radius of the subject site. The key reasons for the support of the proposed development were the provision of a much-needed meeting and recreation area for socialisation in a remote area, economic benefits and employment opportunities for locals.

Submissions opposing the proposed development raised concerns with permissibility, land use conflict, scale of development, ecology, traffic/parking, amenity impacts, contamination bushfire, lack of public transport, and poor social behaviour.

The concerns raised have been considered as part of the assessment of the application. The assessment has determined that the proposed development will not result in any significant adverse impacts on the surrounding natural or built environment if the development is managed in accordance with the recommended conditions of consent.

A detailed assessment of the Development Application has been undertaken and is attached to this report as **Enclosure 1**.

Planning and Environment




Report No. PE1/2025

Planning and Environment



Based on the assessment, it is recommended that the Development Application be approved, subject to the conditions of consent contained in **Enclosure 2**.

ENCLOSURES

- 1  Architectural Plans
- 2  Draft Notice of Determination
- 3  Assessment Report

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE2/2025

Planning and Environment



SUBJECT: *2025 HUNTER VALLEY AIRSHOW SPONSORSHIP*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Acting Economic Development Manager*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a sponsorship application for the 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow proposed to be held at Cessnock Airport on 8 and 9 February 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves \$8,500 in sponsorship for the 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow with the following conditions:

- 1. 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow event development approval must be obtained,**
- 2. Any damage to Cessnock Airport as a result of the event is deducted from the sponsorship amount, and**
- 3. Sponsorship payment will occur after the event is held.**

BACKGROUND

Council offers financial support to local organisations via the annual Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program for the purpose of growing the visitor economy in areas where opportunities exist and maximum benefits are achieved. Data shows that increasing the visitor's length of stay or encouraging overnight visitation provides the greatest economic benefit to the region.

On 18 October 2024, Council received a \$25,000 grant application from Paul Bennet Airshows to sponsor the 2025 Hunter Valley Airshow. Due to the Airshow being held on 8 and 9 February 2025, Council is unable to process this application under Round 2 of the 2024/2025 Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program and therefore is being determined via this report.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

The Hunter Valley Airshow is a full-throttle family friendly two day airshow featuring world-class aerobatics, historic warbirds, educational stalls, community stalls, market stalls from local businesses, food trucks and much more. Previous events have resulted in approximately 20,000 visitors attending the airshow over two days, with 8,000 of these visitors attending from outside the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

Socially the airshow brings world class entertainment to the Cessnock LGA and economically the airshow results in approximately \$2.6 million in direct expenditure through retail, food and accommodation spending. The Hunter Valley Airshow also generates positive local and regional media coverage.

Due to the positive social and economic impacts of the Hunter Valley Airshow, sponsorship is recommended to support this events long term viability.

Planning and Environment

Report No. PE2/2025

Planning and Environment



OPTIONS

The following options are available to Council:

1. Adopt the recommendation,
2. Adopt the recommendation with a reduced amount of sponsorship, or
3. Do not adopt the recommendation.

CONSULTATION

- Aerodrome Technical Operations Coordinator
- Economic Development Officer
- Economic Development Digital Officer

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report aligns with the following Delivery Program 2022 – 2026 actions:

- A Sustainable and Prosperous Economy:
 - 2.1 Diversifying and growing our economy,
 - 2.2 Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities, and
 - 2.3 Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area.

b. Other Plans

This report aligns with the following plans:

- Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036;
- Hunter Regional Economic Development Strategy; and
- Hunter Valley Destination Management Plan 2030.

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Nil

b. Financial Implications

The \$8,500 in sponsorship will be provided from the existing 2024/2025 economic development grants and sponsorship budget. This will result in zero funding for Round 2 of the 2024/2025 Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program.

c. Legislative Implications

Nil



d. Risk Implications

Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Ranking
Reputation – Council fails to support projects that grow the visitor economy	C1 Low	Adopt the recommendation	D1 Low
Reputation – Council is unable to deliver assigned actions from the Hunter Valley DMP	C1 Low	Adopt the recommendation	D1 Low

e. Environmental Implications

Nil

f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Hunter Valley Airshow generates positive local and regional media coverage, will attract 8,000 visitors from outside the Cessnock LGA and entertain 20,000 people over two days.

Socially the airshow brings world class entertainment to the Cessnock LGA and economically the airshow results in approximately \$2.6 million in direct expenditure through retail, food and accommodation spending.

This report seeks Council endorsement to offer Paul Bennet Airshows sponsorship to support the long-term viability of the Hunter Valley Airshow.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

SUBJECT: *QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT - QUARTER 2, 31 DECEMBER 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) for the 2ND quarter December 2024 for Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receives the December 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 2024-25 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report December 2024.

BACKGROUND

Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) 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 December 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 Q2 December 2024 is provided to Council at **Enclosure 1** and shows a projected operating surplus of \$38.7m for the year ending 30 June 2025, or a forecast net operating deficit of \$29.5M excluding capital grants and contributions income.

The QBRS also shows a revised capital works program forecasting changes that decrease the current program by \$5.6m, from \$89.3m to \$83.7m.

December YTD spend on the capital works program is \$39m with the largest spend on natural disaster grant funded projects and road renewal projects.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC1/2025

Corporate and Community Services



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 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 statement is:

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Cessnock City Council for the quarter ended 31 December 2024 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2025 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 and future depreciation. This can be sustained in the short term but will require adjustments to budgets in the coming years 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:

- 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.

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;
- Increased operational employee costs due to lower capitalisation of labour; and
- Increased costs associated with materials including electricity and fuel.

e. Other Implications

N/A

CONCLUSION

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

ENCLOSURES

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

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC2/2025

Corporate and Community Services



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

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the update on the progress against Council's 2022-26 Delivery Program and the Operational Plan 2024-25 (incorporated into the 2022-26 Delivery Program).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the progress in implementing the 2022-26 Delivery Program, for the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

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 three 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 2024-25 in June 2024. 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 2024-25 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 Quarter Two are provided below:

- On 6 December almost 2,000 people attended the Carols in the Park event, enjoying the live performance and sing along to Christmas carols. Delivered and funded by the NSW Government was two free NSW Seniors Christmas Concerts held at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) on 12 December.
- Construction has begun on a new, state-of-the-art netball court facility at Booth Park in Kurri Kurri.
- The old timber bridge at Cuneens Bridge, Wollombi, has been replaced with a new concrete bridge, and the old bridge is now fenced off to restrict general access.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC2/2025

Corporate and Community Services



- Additional fencing was undertaken at Orange Street Oval and a pathway installed at Ernie Dunlop Park to compliment the multipurpose court upgrade.
- Works are near completion for the playground surface replacements at Ernie Dunlop and Crawfordville Playgrounds.

2022-26 Delivery Program Objectives

At the conclusion of Quarter Two, seven (5.84%) of the 120 Actions from the 2024-25 Operational Plan) were Completed with 103 (85.83%) 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, Not Progressing and Deferred. There were 4 (3.33%) of the action that were not updated. However, 6 (5%) are Not Due to Start at the time of reporting.

Table 1 shows the overall status of actions at 30 December 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	4	0	0	2	6	5.00%
In Progress	27	13	33	6	24	103	85.83%
Not Progressing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complete	2	3	2	0	0	7	5.84%
Deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
At Risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Updated	0	0	0	0	4	4	3.33%
Total	29	20	35	6	30	120	100%

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

2024-25 Delivery Program Capital Works

At 30 December 2024, 48 of the 180 projects from the 2024-25 Capital Works Program were Completed, 6 were Not Progressing, 106 were In Progress, 2 were Deferred and 118 projects are Not Due to Start at the time of reporting. Table 2 shows a summary the overall status of projects at 31 December 2024.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC2/2025

Corporate and Community Services



Table 2

Program	Not Due to Start	In Progress	Complete	Not Progressing	Deferred	Total
Cemeteries	1	3	1	0	0	5
Buildings	0	5	5	0	0	10
Recreation & Community Facilities	3	18	13	0	0	34
Libraries	0	1	0	0	0	1
Aquatic Facilities	0	1	0	0	0	1
Project Management	1	2	0	0	0	3
Kurri Kurri Town Centre Program	0	1	0	0	0	1
Drainage	4	7	2	1	0	14
Floodplain Management	0	4	0	0	0	4
Waste Management	0	3	3	1	1	8
Infrastructure Management	2	4	1	0	0	7
Traffic & Transport	3	15	4	3	0	25
Roads	1	26	6	1	0	34
Civil Works	0	0	6	0	0	6
Bridges	2	1	3	0	0	6
Airport	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fleet Management	0	2	0	0	0	2
Depot Management	0	11	0	0	0	11
Network & Systems	1	0	3	0	0	4
Asset Planning	0	0	1	0	0	1
Open Space and Community Facilities Management	0	1	0	0	0	1
Depot Management	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	18	106	48	6	2	180

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

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

All levels of management were 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

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



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

CONCLUSION

The review of the 2022-26 Delivery Program against the Operational Plan 2024-25, for the three months ended 31 December 2024, is submitted for Council's consideration.

ENCLOSURES

[1](#) 2024-25 Quarter 2 Delivery Program Review

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC3/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *CREDIT CARD POLICY*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to adopt the Corporate Credit Card Policy (Policy) following its periodic review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the reviewed Corporate Credit Card Policy.

BACKGROUND

Council staff have undertaken a periodic review of Council's Policy. This periodic review considered the Guideline on the Use and Management of Credit Cards (Guideline) issued by the Office of Local Government in September 2021. The reviewed Policy was endorsed by the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in its meeting on 5 December 2024.

REPORT

The Corporate Credit Card Policy establishes an effective process for the issue and usage of corporate credit cards. This review is the periodic review of the adopted Policy and is aimed at improving efficiencies in the credit card approval process. Key changes proposed are:

1. Removed the requirement of all credit card applications to be approved by the General Manager. The reviewed Policy has an updated matrix of card applications which allows the relevant Directors to approve the credit card application for staff members in their Directorate. Refer 4.3 of the Policy.
2. The Chief Financial Officer is identified as the Program Administrator to meet with the requirements of the Guideline. Two additional responsibilities are added to reflect this change. Refer 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 of the Policy.
3. Additional responsibility statements for the General Manager to meet with the requirements of the Guideline. Refer 5.5 of the Policy.
4. Emphasis on segregation of duties under the Risk Management section including the segregation in place for the transaction approval process. Refer 6.1 of the Policy.
5. The Application Form has also been reviewed to reflect the changes made in the approval workflow.

Other changes are considered to be minor.

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

- Audit Risk and Improvement Committee
- Executive Leadership Team
- Chief Financial Officer

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report aligns with Cessnock City Council's 2017 – 2021 Delivery Program, specifically Objective 5.3 "Making Council more responsive to the community".

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

Policy / Procedural / Financial / Legislative / Risk Implications

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

There are some procedural changes in the card application process to improve efficiencies.

b. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as the proposed changes are essentially process based.

c. Legislative Implications

The process changes support good governance and will have no legislative implications. The Policy is in alignment with the Guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government.

d. Risk Implications

The Policy review will reduce risk by streamlining Council's credit card management processes. There are no additional risks created with the adoption of the changes. It should be noted that there is an inherent residual risk regarding people whom will not do the correct thing, even though changes in processes have been implemented.

CONCLUSION

The Policy review ensures that we are continuing to improve our processes and mitigate risk.

ENCLOSURES

- 1 ➡ Reviewed Corporate Credit Card Policy with Tracked Changes
- 2 ➡ Office of Local Government Guideline on Credit Cards

SUBJECT: ***PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MODEL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: ***Governance and Council Support Coordinator***

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider the Office of Local Government's proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice and to make a submission outlining Council's response to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the submission to the Office of Local Government outlining Council's response to the proposed amendments to the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

BACKGROUND

The Model Code of Meeting Practice (Model Meeting Code) is prescribed under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation).

All NSW councils are required to adopt a Code of Meeting Practice (COMP) that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code. In addition, Councils may determine whether to adopt non-mandatory provisions and may also adopt supplementary provisions specific to our Council provided they are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions.

In September 2024, the Minister for Local Government released a discussion paper titled '[Councillor Conduct and meeting practice: a new framework](#)' which provided an overview of a proposed new approach to both the Councillor conduct framework and meeting practices.

Following a consultation period, in December 2024, the Minister released a further discussion paper titled '[A new model code of meeting practice – Consultation draft](#)' (**Enclosure 1**) along with a [Consultation draft of the new Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW](#) (**Enclosure 2**).

The discussion paper highlighted a focus on council meeting behaviour and practices and the intended reforms to the Model Meeting Code. The Office of Local Government (OLG) is inviting feedback on the proposed changes.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Submissions are invited on the proposed changes to the Model Meeting Code.

Key changes proposed to the Model Meeting Code including:

- Mayor to be consulted on matters to be considered in confidential session.
- Urgent matters to normally only be considered when all Councillors are present.
- Removal of pre-meeting briefing sessions.
- Limiting the reasons Councillors can request to attend meetings by audio-visual means.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



- Council to determine staff attendance at Council meetings.
- Removal of restrictions to allow Mayoral Minutes to deal with routine matters.
- Requirement for those present to stand when the Mayor enters and for Councillors to stand to speak.
- Applying NSW Legislative Assembly obligations on meeting behaviour.

A submission in response to the proposed changes is provided at **Enclosure 3**.

At its meeting on 11 December 2024, Council considered a Notice of Motion that proposed to allow pre-meeting briefing sessions to be open to the public. The meeting resolved:

That the report be deferred to coincide with the outcomes of the review by the Office of Local Government into the Councillor Conduct Framework.

The Minister's proposal is to remove pre-meeting briefing sessions. This report and submission allows Council to respond to this.

Lodgment of a Council submission does not preclude an individual from making their own submission on the draft.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Council adopts recommendation. This is the preferred option.

Option 2 – Council could determine not to make a submission and instead encourage individual Councillors and members of the public to lodge independent submissions.

Option 3 – Council could amend the proposed submission.

CONSULTATION

Executive Leadership Team
Governance

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

Adoption of a Code of Meeting Practice in accordance with the minimum mandatory requirements of the Model Meeting Code is consistent with the community's desired outcome of *Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*.

b. Other Plans

N/A

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

Changes to the Model Meeting Code will require changes to Council's Code of Meeting Practice once the changes are prescribed.

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b. Financial Implications

Removal of mandatory provisions that required a notice of motion to identify funding sources could have an impact on Council's financial sustainability. Until a final Model Meeting Code is prescribed, and other implications are unknown.

c. Legislative Implications

The proposed changes to the Model Meeting Code will require changes to the Act, the Regulations, and the Model Meeting Code.

Once prescribed changes are made, Council will be required to consider proposed changes to the Code of Meeting Practice and publicly exhibit any proposed changes prior to adoption.

The Act currently prescribes that the period of public exhibition must not be less than 28 days and that submissions may be received for a period of not less than 42 days after the date on which the draft COMP is placed on public exhibition.

The prescription of the new Model Meeting Code is expected to be regulated in 2025.

d. Risk Implications

If Council does not incorporate any proposed mandatory amendments to the COMP when determined by the OLG, it would result in a legislative non-compliance. The inclusion of supplementary provisions will need to be carefully included to ensure these are not inconsistent with any mandatory provisions.

e. Environmental Implications

Nil

f. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code are the first stage of reforms proposed to the Councillor conduct framework, with the second stage expected sometime in 2025.

ENCLOSURES

- 1 ➡ Consultation Draft - Proposed Amendments to Model Code of Meeting Practice
- 2 ➡ Proposed - Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW
- 3 ➡ Submission

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC5/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN WRITTEN RETURNS*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Governance and Council Support Coordinator*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to table returns received from designated persons for the period 1 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 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 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 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 Clause 4.21 of the Code, a Councillor or designated person must make and lodge a return within three months of becoming or ceasing to be a Councillor or designated person, 30 June each year, and or becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose.

Clause 4.8 of the Code provides that designated persons are:

- (a) *The General Manager;*
- (b) *Other senior staff of Council for the purposes of section 332 of the LG Act;*
- (c) *A person (other than a member of the senior staff of Council) who is a member of staff of Council or a Delegate of Council and who holds a position identified by Council as the position of a designated person because it involves the exercise of functions (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 of Council and the person's private interest;*
- (d) *A person (other than a member of the senior staff of Council) who is a member of a committee of Council identified by Council as a committee whose members are designated persons because the functions of the committee involve the exercise of Council's functions (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.*

Following the Council meeting, the register of written returns is available for public inspection on request to Council.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



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, it links to:

- Strategic direction 5.3.7 within the Delivery Program 2022-2026 – *continue to manage Council governance functions and statutory requirements, and*
- Strategic action 5.3.7b within the Operational Plan 2023-2024 – *carry out governance functions, provide advice and conduct education programs to comply with legislation and best practice including in relation to delegations, legislative interpretation, compliance, complaints, UCCs, GIPA, PPIPA, Copyright, PIDs, Fraud and Corruption Prevention, policies, etc*

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.

b. Financial Implications

N/A

c. Legislative Implications

N/A

d. Risk Implications

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

e. Environmental Implications

N/A

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Corporate and Community Services



f. Other Implications

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

CONCLUSION

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

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC6/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *INVESTMENT REPORT - DECEMBER 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

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 December 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 \$66,290,975.**

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 December 2024 are exceeding the budget.



Investment Portfolio Information

Table 1 Total cash and investments held by Council as at 31 December 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%	6,261
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.35%	9,941
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.00%	730
1243	AMP Bank	At Call			3.30%	552
1509	National Bank	TD	365	21-Jan-25	5.16%	5,000
1510	Westpac Bank	TD	365	23-Jan-25	5.20%	5,000
1513	Suncorp Bank	TD	274	05-Mar-25	5.21%	5,000
1515	AMP Bank	TD	301	03-Jun-25	5.20%	2,500
1516	National Bank	TD	253	16-Apr-25	5.07%	5,000
1517	National Bank	TD	283	16-May-25	5.07%	2,500
1519	AMP Bank	TD	302	26-Jun-25	5.02%	2,500
1521	Suncorp Bank	TD	273	03-Jun-25	5.01%	4,000
1522	Suncorp Bank	TD	182	25-Mar-25	5.09%	4,000
1523	National Bank	TD	363	23-Sep-25	4.90%	4,000
1525	Bank of Queensland	TD	183	24-Jun-25	5.05%	2,000
1526	Bendigo Bank	TD	182	01-Jul-25	5.05%	3,000
1463	Treasury Corporation	Growth Fund				4,307
TOTAL						66,291

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

Financial Institution	Credit Rating	Institution Maximum	Amount \$'000	% of Portfolio
Westpac Bank	AA-	40%	5,000	10.24%
National Australia Bank	AA-	40%	16,500	33.81%
Suncorp Bank	AA-	40%	13,000	26.64%
AMP Bank	BBB+	10%	5,000	10.24%
Bank of Queensland	A-	20%	2,000	4.10%
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	A-	20%	3,000	6.15%
Treasury Corporation	Unrated	10%	4,307	8.82%
TOTAL			48,807	100.00%

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.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



However due to accounting requirements any unrealised gains or losses will be processed between investments and the operating statement.

The December 2024 unrealised return was a gain of \$19,003.87 or 0.44% (4.08% annualised). Rates of return fluctuate monthly and can be negative from time to time with the medium-term investment horizon. The fund performance summary as at 31 December 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	4.09	3.80	2.33	6.42	4.03	0.44
Benchmark: CPI + 2.0% p.a. (over rolling 5 years)	4.74	5.14	6.89	5.55	2.58	0.43
Return above benchmark p.a.	(0.65)	(1.34)	(4.56)	0.87	1.45	0.01

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	44,500	67.13%
Cash/At Call Deposits	Low	Low	17,484	26.37%
Capital Growth Fund	Medium	Medium	4,307	6.50%
TOTAL			66,291	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)	5.34%	6.43%
BBSW Average Interest Rate (year to date) *	4.50%	4.31%
Actual Investment Interest Earned (for the current month)	\$255,027	\$355,567
Actual Investment Interest Earned (year to date) ^	\$1,664,984	\$1,763,533
Revised Budget Investment Interest (year to date)	\$1,375,000	\$875,061
Original Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,500,000	\$1,380,122
Revised Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,750,000	\$1,750,122
TCorp unrealised movement (year to date)	4.08%	4.01%

Investment and Cash Balances (Par Value) #	This Year	Last Year
Opening Balance as at 1 July	\$83,084,775	\$73,085,190
Closing Balance as at 31 December	\$66,290,975	\$86,057,433

* 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

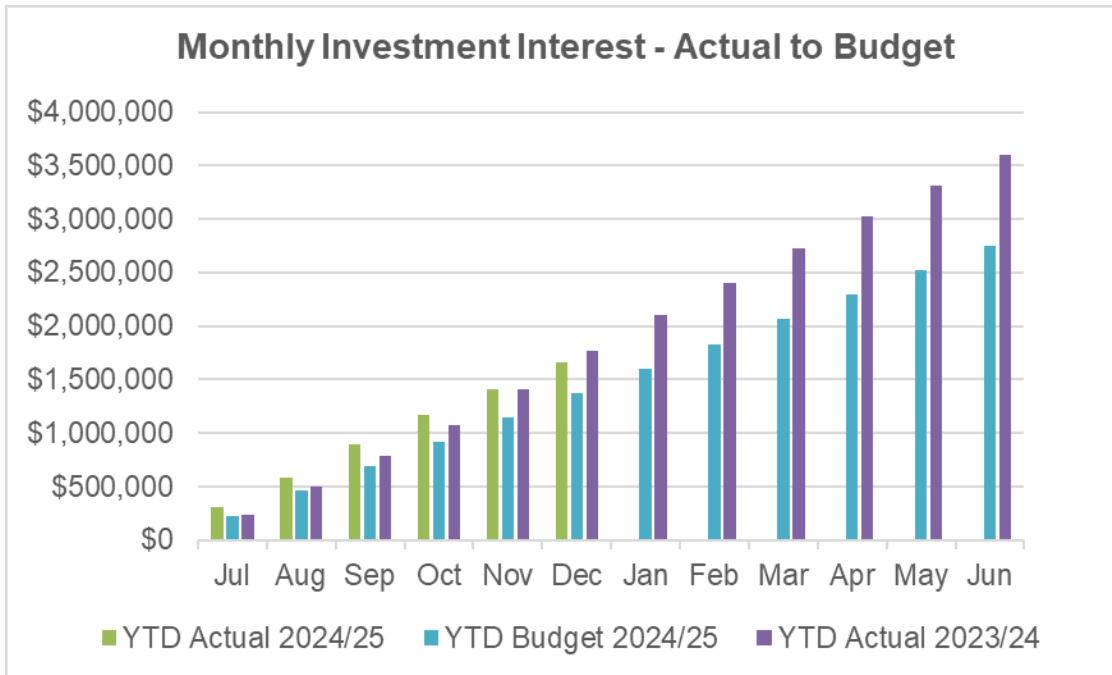


Table 6 Internal and external restrictions over cash and investments held

Month End Totals \$'000	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	Sep 2024	Aug 2024	Jul 2024
External Restrictions	63,057	57,635	53,278	59,096	57,624	57,230
Internal Restrictions	5,099	10,305	12,130	18,015	16,619	15,360
Total Restrictions	68,156	67,940	65,408	77,111	74,243	72,590
TfNSW Claims to be received**	(2,163)	(4,010)	(1,353)	-	-	-
Unrestricted	298	317	509	1,124	4,409	603
Total Cash & Investments	66,291	64,247	64,564	78,235	78,652	73,193

CONSULTATION

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

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:

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Corporate and Community Services



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.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC7/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *INVESTMENT REPORT - JANUARY 2025*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

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 January 2025 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 \$61,373,326.

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 January 2025 are exceeding the budget.

Investment Portfolio Information

Table 1 Total cash and investments held by Council as at 31 January 2025

Invest No	Financial Institution Investment Held With	Invest Type	Interest Coupon Term	Maturity	Current Coupon Rate	Par Value \$'000
	Commonwealth Bank	CASH			4.00%	1,806
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.35%	14,441
	Commonwealth Bank	At Call			4.00%	732
1243	AMP Bank	At Call			3.30%	536
1513	Suncorp Bank	TD	274	05-Mar-25	5.21%	5,000
1515	AMP Bank	TD	301	03-Jun-25	5.20%	2,500
1516	National Bank	TD	253	16-Apr-25	5.07%	5,000
1517	National Bank	TD	283	16-May-25	5.07%	2,500
1519	AMP Bank	TD	302	26-Jun-25	5.02%	2,500
1521	Suncorp Bank	TD	273	03-Jun-25	5.01%	4,000
1522	Suncorp Bank	TD	182	25-Mar-25	5.09%	4,000
1523	National Bank	TD	363	23-Sep-25	4.90%	4,000
1525	Bank of Queensland	TD	183	24-Jun-25	5.05%	2,000
1526	Bendigo Bank	TD	182	01-Jul-25	5.05%	3,000
1527	Suncorp Bank	TD	302	19-Nov-25	5.05%	5,000
1463	Treasury Corporation	Growth Fund				4,358
TOTAL						61,373

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

Financial Institution	Credit Rating	Institution Maximum	Amount \$'000	% of Portfolio
National Australia Bank	AA-	40%	11,500	26.22%
Suncorp Bank	AA-	40%	18,000	41.04%
AMP Bank	BBB+	10%	5,000	11.40%
Bank of Queensland	A-	20%	2,000	4.56%
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	A-	20%	3,000	6.84%
Treasury Corporation	Unrated	10%	4,358	9.94%
TOTAL			43,858	100.00%

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.

Corporate and Community

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Corporate and Community Services



The January 2025 unrealised return was a gain of \$51,010.40 or 1.18% (5.32% annualised). Rates of return fluctuate monthly and can be negative from time to time with the medium-term investment horizon. The fund performance summary as at 31 December 2024 is shown below (performance summary for January 2025 is yet to be published at the time of preparing this report). 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	4.09	3.80	2.33	6.42	4.03	0.44
Benchmark: CPI + 2.0% p.a. (over rolling 5 years)	4.74	5.14	6.89	5.55	2.58	0.43
Return above benchmark p.a.	(0.65)	(1.34)	(4.56)	0.87	1.45	0.01

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	39,500	64.36%
Cash/At Call Deposits	Low	Low	17,516	28.54%
Capital Growth Fund	Medium	Medium	4,358	7.10%
TOTAL			61,373	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)	5.40%	5.39%
BBSW Average Interest Rate (year to date) *	4.51%	4.33%
Actual Investment Interest Earned (for the current month)	\$233,515	\$340,263
Actual Investment Interest Earned (year to date) ^	\$1,898,211	\$2,104,320
Revised Budget Investment Interest (year to date)	\$1,604,167	\$1,020,905
Original Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,500,000	\$1,380,122
Revised Budget Investment Interest (annual)	\$2,750,000	\$1,750,122
TCorp unrealised movement (year to date)	4.08%	4.68%

Investment and Cash Balances (Par Value) #	This Year	Last Year
Opening Balance as at 1 July	\$83,084,775	\$73,085,190
Closing Balance as at 31 December	\$61,373,326	\$79,856,306

* 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

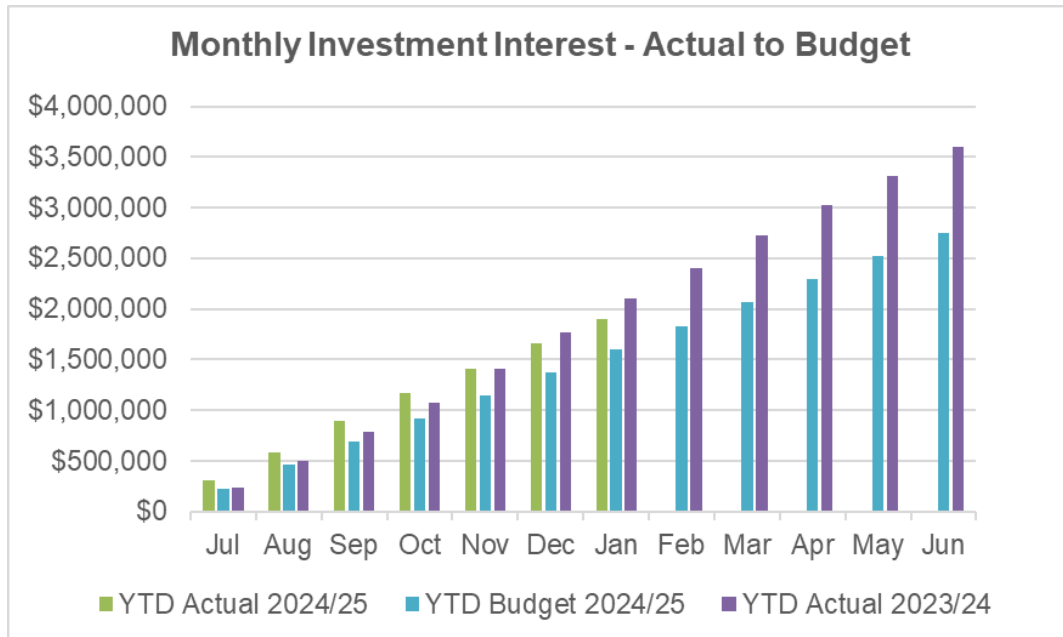


Table 6 Internal and external restrictions over cash and investments held

Month End Totals \$'000	Jan 2025	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	Sep 2024	Aug 2024
External Restrictions	59,170	63,057	57,635	53,278	59,096	57,624
Internal Restrictions	3,629	5,099	10,305	12,130	18,015	16,619
Total Restrictions	62,799	68,156	67,940	65,408	77,111	74,243
<i>Prepaid grant expenditure to be reimbursed</i>	(2,163)	(2,163)	(4,010)	(1,353)	-	-
Unrestricted	737	298	317	509	1,124	4,409
Total Cash & Investments	61,373	66,291	64,247	64,564	78,235	78,652

CONSULTATION

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

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:

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC7/2025

Corporate and Community Services



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.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC8/2025

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Chief Finance Officer*

SUMMARY

The enclosure contains pending actions from previous meetings as well as completed actions for period 4 December 2024 to 10 February 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

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

ENCLOSURES

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

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI1/2025

Works and Infrastructure



SUBJECT: *MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 16 DECEMBER 2024*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Infrastructure Manager*

RECOMMENDATION

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

- TC40/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi for the Wollombi Public Holiday Markets events in accordance with the Paynes Crossing Road Wollombi _ Wollombi Markets Traffic Guidance Schemes.
- TC41/2024 - That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic for the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival event in accordance with the Various Roads Kurri Kurri _ Nostalgia Festival Traffic Guidance Schemes.
- That Council note the General Manager or the General Managers sub-delegate authorised the following Local Traffic Committee reports in accordance with Division 2 of Part 8 of the Roads Act 1993:
 - TC42/2024
 - TC43/2024
 - TC44/2024

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ANTE ROOM ON MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2024, COMMENCING AT 9:35AM

OPENING: The meeting was opened at 9:35am

PRESENT: Warren Jeffery Acting Chairperson
Sergeant Jon Cassidy - NSW Police
Andy Gaudiosi – TfNSW

ABSENT: Councillor Jessica Jurd

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Ingall - Rover Coaches
Warren Jeffery – Traffic & Transport Coordinator
Alison Shelton – Road Safety Officer
Ethan Walton – Traffic Engineering Officer
Melissa Vile – Senior Business Support Officer, Traffic & Transport
Jules Bosco – Principal Development Engineer
Claudia Heuston – Undergraduate Engineer
Cameron Clark – Infrastructure Manager (arrived 9:54am)

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI1/2025

Works and Infrastructure



APOLOGIES

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES: That the minutes of the Local Traffic Committee held on 18 November 2024 as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

LISTED MATTERS

SUBJECT: ***PAYNES CROSSING ROAD, WOLLOMBI
TEMPORARY REGULATION OF TRAFFIC
WOLLOMBI MARKETS***

REPORT NO.: ***TC40/2024***

REFERENCE.: ***46/2024/11/1***

MATTER: Council has received an application for the temporary regulation of traffic in connection with an existing development consent for the Wollombi Public Holiday Markets, and has assessed the application together with the associated Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and Traffic Control Plans (TCPs).

Approval is sought under Section 116 of the *Roads Act 1993*, to regulate traffic on various roads in Wollombi in connection with this application.

DISCUSSION: The matter was discussed with reference to the report. With regards to the matters raised in 'public submission 2', it was noted that the proposed 40 km/h speed limit will be in force in the subject area as a component of the TCP.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic on Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi for the Wollombi Public Holiday Markets events in accordance with the Paynes Crossing Road Wollombi _ Wollombi Markets Traffic Guidance Schemes.

SUPPORT: Unanimous

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI1/2025

Works and Infrastructure



SUBJECT: *VARIOUS ROADS, KURRI KURRI
TEMPORARY REGULATION OF TRAFFIC - NOSTALGIA
FESTIVAL*

REPORT NO.: *TC41/2024*

REFERENCE.: *46/2024/12/1*

MATTER: Council has received an application for the temporary regulation of traffic in connection with an existing development consent for the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival, and has assessed the application along with the associated Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS).

Approval is sought from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) under Section 116 of the *Roads Act 1993*, to regulate traffic on various roads in Kurri Kurri in connection with this consent.

DISCUSSION: The matter was discussed with reference to the report. It was confirmed that the relocation of the bus zone is to be reiterated in the letter of consent.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorises the temporary regulation of traffic for the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival event in accordance with the Various Roads Kurri Kurri _ Nostalgia Festival Traffic Guidance Schemes.

SUPPORT: Unanimous

SUBJECT: *THE VINTAGE/THE CEDARS - WINE COUNTRY DRIVE POKOLBIN
- REGULATORY SIGNAGE & LINE MARKING*

REPORT NO.: *TC42/2024*

REFERENCE.: *4/2023/389/1*

MATTER: Council received an application for development consent for proposed subdivision works: The Vintage / The Cedars "Precinct G" Lot 1603 DP1142579 and lots 1014 & 1015 DP1298409 Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin. Approval is sought for the installation of regulatory signage and line marking associated with this application for the construction of a small urban street, three leg roundabout.

DISCUSSION: The matter was discussed with reference to the report and it was noted that the following should be considered with the DA approval:

- Street lighting to be to relevant standard;
- Information relating to no stopping signage to be added;
- It was noted that the proposed design does not incorporate pedestrian connectivity / access points;
- Adjacent pedestrian pathway is under community title;
- 'A' size signs are to be used at the roundabout; and
- Roundabout warning signs to be added on all approaches.

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI1/2025

Works and Infrastructure



RECOMMENDATION

That the General Manager or the General Manager's Sub-Delegate, authorises installation of regulatory controls on yet-to-be named roads within the subdivision development - The Vintage/The Cedars Wine Country Drive Pokolbin, in accordance with The Vintage/The Cedars Signage & Line Marking Plan 701 Rev B.

SUPPORT: Unanimous

SUBJECT: **MCGANN DRIVE NORTH ROTHBURY - REGULATORY SIGNAGE & LINE MARKING**

REPORT NO.: **TC43/2024**

REFERENCE.: **110/2024/43/1**

MATTER: Approval is sought for the installation of regulatory parking and line marking associated on McGann Drive North Rothbury – Huntlee District Park 2 in association with the ongoing Huntlee development.

DISCUSSION: The matter was discussed with reference to the report, without further discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

That the General Manager or the General Manager's Sub-Delegate, authorises installation of regulatory controls on McGann Drive North Rothbury, in accordance with McGann Drive North Rothbury _ Signage & Line Marking Diagram S138-C03.01 Rev 1.

SUPPORT: Unanimous

SUBJECT: **254 WOLLOMBI ROAD BELLBIRD HEIGHTS _ REGULATORY SIGNAGE & LINE MARKING**

REPORT NO.: **TC44/2024**

REFERENCE.: **4 2014 628 1**

MATTER: Council received an application for development consent for proposed subdivision works at 254 Wollombi Road Bellbird Heights. Approval is sought for the installation of regulatory signage and line marking associated with this application, to assign priority at a cross intersection.

Works and Infrastructure

Report No. WI1/2025

Works and Infrastructure



DISCUSSION: The matter was discussed with reference to the report. It was confirmed that an opening in the median for pedestrian access is not required due to the proposal for signalisation (TCS) at the intersection with Wollombi Road – WAD process with TfNSW for TCS has commenced. Noted that restrictive parking signage for the cul-de-sac may be required in the future to provide for waste collection vehicle turning movements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the General Manager or the General Manager's Sub-Delegate, authorises installation of regulatory controls on unnamed roads within a subdivision development at 254 Wollombi Road Bellbird Heights, in accordance with the 254 Wollombi Road Bellbird Heights Signage & Line Marking Plan - Drawing Number: 351 Rev C.

SUPPORT: Unanimous

CLOSURE

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 10:16am

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN1/2025

General Manager's Unit



NOTICES OF MOTION No. BN1/2025

SUBJECT: *MAYORAL REPORTING TO COUNCIL ON STATE AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY*

COUNCILLOR: *Mitchell Hill*

MOTION

That the Mayor bring a quarterly report to Council to inform on his attendance at or absence from meetings or events that provide advocacy opportunities for representing the interests of Cessnock City Council and our community.

It is my intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 February 2025.

RATIONALE

The Mayor operates as the primary point of contact for council advocacy to State and Federal elected Representatives, as well as the ministers of these two levels of Government. With the growing needs of our LGA and the many avenues for pursuing investment and support from our State and Federal Governments, it is important for the elected Council to be kept informed on what is being undertaken by our Mayor to represent the communities interests in advocating on issues.

Recent examples, such as the Hunter Joint Organisation visit to the Federal Parliament, alongside two State Minister visits to our LGA have offered great opportunity for our Council's interests to be brought before representatives. In following with the recent decision by this Council that all committee delegates should report on their meetings and business of external committees to the full elected body, a similar method of reporting by the Mayor on advocacy would align with aims to keep the entire Council informed with the same information.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

DELIVERY PROGRAM:

Civic leadership and effective governance:

- 5.2 – Encouraging more community participation in decision making.
- 5.3 – Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community.

Sgd: Mitchell Hill

Date: 10 February 2025

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN2/2025

General Manager's Unit



NOTICES OF MOTION No. BN2/2025

SUBJECT: *STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS - COMMUNITY CONCERNS*

COUNCILLOR: *Mitchell Hill*

MOTION

1. That Council make submissions to the State Significant Developments for Weston Aluminium (SSD-79012238) and Recycle Central (SSD-71547218) noting community concern surrounding the expansion of these existing developments and the possible impacts.
2. The submissions should note concerns surrounding the expansion of waste disposal and possible environmental contamination close to residential properties, as well as the impact of increased heavy vehicle movements on the local road network.
3. That Council calls on both proponents to conduct meaningful community consultation alongside the relevant regulatory agencies to ensure community confidence in the proposals.

It is my intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 February 2025.

RATIONALE

Two State Significant Development (SSD) applications are currently being processed for - Weston Aluminium and Recycle Central – located on industrial land along Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri.

Cessnock City Council is supportive of economic development and the expansion of employment opportunities within our LGA, as long as the local community and those that live near such developments have confidence in the operation and ongoing compliance of such sites.

The intent of this motion is for Council to make a submission to each of these applications, calling for meaningful community consultation during the evaluation of these SSDs.

Further consultation between the community, the applicants, and the relevant regulatory agencies would provide much needed information and confidence to those in the community that may have experienced concern about impacts in the past.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN2/2025

General Manager's Unit



DELIVERY PROGRAM:

A connected, safe & creative community:

- 1.3 – Promoting safe communities.

A sustainable and prosperous economy:

- 2.1 – Diversifying and growing our economy.
- 2.2 – Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities.

A sustainable and healthy environment:

- 3.1 – Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and rural character of the area.
- 3.3 – Better resource recovery and waste management.

Sgd: Mitchell Hill

Date: 10 February 2025

DIRECTORS COMMENTARY:

The exhibition period for the two (2) State Significant Developments (SSD-79012238 and SSD-71547218) has closed and Council has lodged a submission on both applications raising the following matters of concern regarding the impacts of the proposed developments:

- Environmental pollution (including contamination) and public health impacts,
- Noise impacts,
- Social impacts,
- Traffic, access and parking impacts (including the impacts of heavy vehicle movements), and
- Flooding impacts.

In Council's submission, Council recommended that the Applicant of both proposals undertake a robust programme of public consultation to ensure all relevant stakeholders are fully aware of the proposed development and have the opportunity to put forward their views.

The applications will be subject to future public exhibition once the EIS and supporting documentation has been lodged with the Department as part of the SSD process.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN3/2025

General Manager's Unit



NOTICES OF MOTION No. BN3/2025

SUBJECT: ***CHRONIC UNDERSTAFFING AT CESSNOCK POLICE STATION AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES***

COUNCILLOR: ***Quintin King***

MOTION

1. That Council acknowledge the ongoing issue of chronic understaffing at Cessnock Police Station and its impact on community safety.
2. That Council write to the Minister for Police to request support to address staffing shortages and ensure sufficient police resources are allocated to the Cessnock region.
3. That Council write to our State member to advocate for better staffing levels at the Cessnock Police Station to effectively address rising crime and improve response times for non-critical incidents.

It is my intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 February 2025.

RATIONALE

Cessnock residents have expressed increasing concern about rising crime and the lack of police presence in the area. Due to chronic understaffing, the Cessnock Police Station has been unable to respond to certain non-critical incidents since October 2024. This has created a sense of unease within the community and poses significant challenges to the safety and wellbeing of residents. Increased staffing and resources are crucial to keeping our residents safe.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

This motion does not require a direct allocation of Council funds.

DELIVERY PROGRAM:

This motion aligns with the Council's commitment to advocating for the safety and wellbeing of the Cessnock community and seeks to address a critical public safety concern.

Sgd: Quintin King

Date: 10 February 2025

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN4/2025

General Manager's Unit



NOTICES OF MOTION No. BN4/2025

SUBJECT: *RUGBY UNION WORLD CUP 2027*

COUNCILLOR: *Mitchell Lea*

MOTION

That Council, in acknowledgment of Australia hosting the 2027 Rugby Union World Cup and Newcastle hosting four (4) pool matches, formally submit an Expression of Interest to New South Wales Rugby Union, Rugby Australia, World Rugby, Mr Clayton Barr MP State Member for Cessnock, Mr Dan Repacholi MP Federal Member for Hunter, NSW Minister for Sport the Hon. Steve Kamper and Federal Minister for Sport the Hon. Anika Wells nominating our location as a potential host for participating nations, both during the tournament and for pre-tournament training camps.

It is my intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 February 2025.

RATIONALE

The Rugby World Cup 2027, hosted by Australia, presents a significant opportunity for regional communities to engage with the tournament through the hosting of pre-tournament training camps. These camps will allow participating nations to prepare in a suitable location before the competition begins.

This proposal seeks to formally nominate the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) as a potential host location. Given our strategic location, sporting infrastructure, tourism appeal, and strong sporting culture, Cessnock is well-positioned to attract an international rugby team and benefit from the associated economic and community engagement opportunities. Newcastle has been confirmed as a host city for four (4) pool matches in the 2027 Rugby World Cup. Cessnock's proximity to Newcastle's McDonald Jones Stadium makes it an ideal regional base for teams playing in Newcastle, allowing easy travel while offering a quieter training environment. Cessnock LGA has multiple venues suitable for a high-performance rugby training camp, including, but not limited to, Cessnock Sportsground.

The Hunter Valley is a world-class tourism destination, offering high-quality accommodation, relaxation, and recovery options. The region's luxury resorts, hotels, and serviced apartments could provide a comfortable base for an international team. The area offers an ideal balance between training and off-field relaxation, which may be attractive to teams seeking a secluded but high-quality tournament experience.

Notices Of Motion

Report No. BN4/2025

General Manager's Unit



Hosting a Rugby World Cup squad would generate substantial economic benefits, including:

- Increased hotel bookings, restaurant and vineyard visits, and general local business revenue.
- Tourism promotion, showcasing Cessnock and the Hunter Valley to a global audience.
- Community engagement opportunities, such as open training sessions, school visits, and rugby clinics, which would inspire young athletes and strengthen local rugby pathways.

By hosting a Rugby World Cup team, Cessnock can build on its great legacy, encouraging more young people to take up sport while boosting interest in local and regional sporting competitions.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

DELIVERY PROGRAM:

A connected, safe & creative community:

- Promoting social connections and wellbeing
- Strengthening community culture

A sustainable and prosperous economy:

- 2.1 Diversifying and growing our economy
- 2.3 Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area

A sustainable and healthy environment:

- 3.2 Better utilisation of existing open space

Sgd: Mitchell Lea

Date: 10 February 2025

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report