

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of

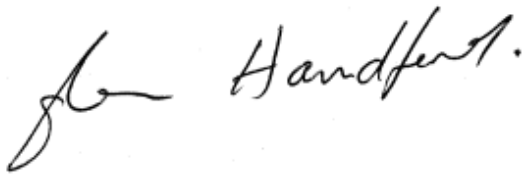
MidCoastCouncil

Will be held at the Forster Administration Centre, 4 Breese Parade, Forster

31 MAY 2017 AT 2.00PM

The order of the business will be as detailed below (subject to variation by Council)

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Conflicts of Interest (nature of Interest to be Disclosed)
3. Apologies
4. Matters for Information
5. Close of Meeting



Glenn Handford
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS' REPORTS:..... 1

DIRECTOR CORPORATE & BUSINESS SYSTEMS..... 1

1 ADDENDUM TO MCC DELIVERY PROGRAM-OPERATIONAL PLAN TO INCLUDE SRV SCENARIO.... 1

CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS' REPORTS:

DIRECTOR CORPORATE & BUSINESS SYSTEMS

1 ADDENDUM TO MCC DELIVERY PROGRAM-OPERATIONAL PLAN TO INCLUDE SRV SCENARIO

Report Author Steve Embry, Director Corporate & Business Systems

File No. / ECM Index 2016-2017 DPOP Addendum with SRV

Date of Meeting ExtraOrd 31 May 2017

SUMMARY OF REPORT

An addendum to MidCoast Council's current Delivery Program/Operational Plan was adopted for exhibition at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 1 May 2017. The addendum provides details of Council's proposed special rate variation to address underfunding of renewals of Council's road and bridge assets, to start addressing the significant asset backlog and support ongoing financial sustainability. The proposal also includes the harmonisation of the Environmental Levy across the MidCoast area at 6% ongoing.

In accordance with the recommendation from that meeting and in line with Integrated Planning & Reporting legislation the addendum was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The exhibition period closes on 29 May 2017. Submissions will be reviewed and a report will be published on Council's website by close of business on 30 May.

This report will present information on the submissions received on areas of common concern in the community. Depending on the assessment of those submissions the report may also recommend that Council lodge a Special Variation application with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for 2017-2018.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information provided in the report.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be covered in the report to be provided on 31 May 2017.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legislation was recently passed in the NSW Parliament to allow MidCoast Council to apply for a special rate variation under the Local Government Amendment (Rates - Merged Council Areas) Bill 2017. As part of the application process Council is required to exhibit an addendum to the current Delivery Program/Operational Plan to include the special rate variation proposal.

BACKGROUND

An addendum to Council's 2016-2017 Delivery Program/Operational Plan has been on public exhibition from 1 May with the exhibition period closing on 29 May 2017 in accordance with Integrated Planning & Reporting legislation. The addendum includes a special rate variation scenario to address underfunding of renewals of Council's road and bridge assets, as well as to start addressing the significant asset backlog and support ongoing financial sustainability. The proposal also includes the harmonisation of the Environmental Levy across the MidCoast area at 6% ongoing.

DISCUSSION

Following the public exhibition period, a report will be prepared that discusses submissions made and any action that will be taken to address issues of common concern within the community.

Based on the assessment of the submissions, it may be recommended that Council proceed with lodgement of a Special Variation application with the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for 2017-2018.

CONSULTATION

The addendum has been on public exhibition in line with legislative requirements, from 1 - 29 May 2017. A significant community engagement program was undertaken in October-November 2016 which built upon community engagement that each of the former three Councils (Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester) had undertaken on the need for special rate variations to address asset maintenance, renewal and backlog issues.

Further information will be included in the report to be provided at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 31 May 2017.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY PLAN/OPERATIONAL PLAN

As a merged Council the requirement to have a Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is fulfilled by the CSPs of the former Councils. All three (3) former Councils identified assets and the environment as priorities in the respective CSPs and that is reflected in the current planning for the MidCoast area. The following extracts from each of the region's CSPs indicates the importance that the MidCoast community places on maintenance of the transport network and the natural environment.

MidCoast Council has commenced engagement with its community regarding a CSP for the area, through workshops regarding the MidCoast identity. This engagement will continue and a CSP will be presented to the new Council for endorsement. In the meantime, the combined essence of the community priorities identified below has been used as a framework for MidCoast's IP&R framework.

Former Gloucester Shire Council CSP

Assets

Introduction

In addressing Direction one of the Community Strategic Plan, that public assets and infrastructure will be planned, managed and funded to meet agreed levels of service, a full condition assessment has been completed for all transport assets (roads, bridges, footpaths and kerbing). This shows that at our current revenue levels we do not have the capacity to fund a sustainable renewal and maintenance program. Council is looking at a range of revenue raising and cost reduction strategies and these continue to be progressed. However the magnitude of the maintenance and renewal backlog, particularly for roads and bridges clearly identifies that a significant rate increase is the only realistic means of rectifying the shortfall.

Key Direction - Maintaining core infrastructure

Objectives - Public assets and infrastructure will be planned, managed and funded to meet agreed levels of service; Ensure the road system meets the transport needs of the community; Adopt current best practice for design and maintenance of infrastructure

Strategies - Develop a comprehensive asset management capability; Resource and implement a prioritised maintenance program for all public assets, incorporating a risk management approach; Continue to engage with the community in relation to acceptable service levels for all public assets; Ensure achievement of road service levels identified in Council's Asset Management System; Implement the bridge and crossing replacement strategy; Review and improve road maintenance practices and procedures; Ensure public infrastructure and places are managed and maintained as safe, clean and inviting

Environment

Key Direction - Protecting the environment

Objectives - Provide effective environmental management in the Gloucester region; Manage environmental risks; Provide leadership in sustainability

Strategies - Improve knowledge and understanding of environmental issues; Prepare and support environmental strategies and plans; Develop, implement and support environmental management programs; Support catchment protection strategies; Maintain an active role in weed management; Respond to the impacts of climate change; Encourage environmentally sustainable development; Provide leadership in sustainability; Seek broad community engagement in environmental stewardship activity

Former Great Lakes Council CSP

Assets

Key Direction - Strong local economies

Objective - Provide transport infrastructure that meets current and future needs

Strategies - Identify transport network needs based on recognised asset management processes; Maintain transport network infrastructure to current service standard

Environment

Key Direction - Our environment

Objectives - Protect and maintain the natural environment so it is healthy and diverse; Prepare for the impact of sea level rise and climate change

Strategies - Undertaken an active management program to support a healthy environment that also provides for economic, recreational and cultural opportunities; encourage and support the community to embrace environmentally friendly behaviours and sustainable business practices; Manage the balance between natural siltation in our lakes and the provision of access for recreation and economic purposes; Reduce the impact of noxious weeds and invasive species on our environment through strategic management and education; Monitor and report on the health, productivity and diversity of the Great Lakes environment; Establish a risk based adaptation response to sea level rise and climate change

Former Greater Taree Council CSP

Assets

Key Direction - Looking after what we've got

Objective - To improve the current standard of infrastructure and plan for the future needs of the community

Strategies - Public assets and infrastructure will be planned, managed and funded to meet community needs and agreed levels of service; Ensure the road system meets the transport needs of the community

Environment

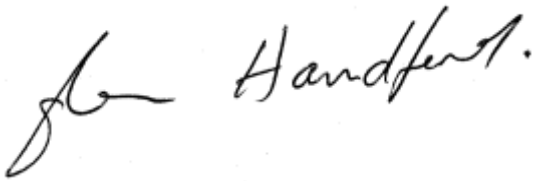
Key Direction - Respecting our environment

Objective - To recognise our responsibility as a community to protect and preserve the environment for future generations

Strategies - Maintain and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development; Protect and preserve local water resources; Effective management of environmental risks and hazards; Ensure the preservation of quality agricultural land; Council is recognised for its leadership in sustainability; Community will have a high level of environmental knowledge and understanding

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information provided in the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Handford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Glenn Handford
GENERAL MANAGER