



ORDINARY MEETING

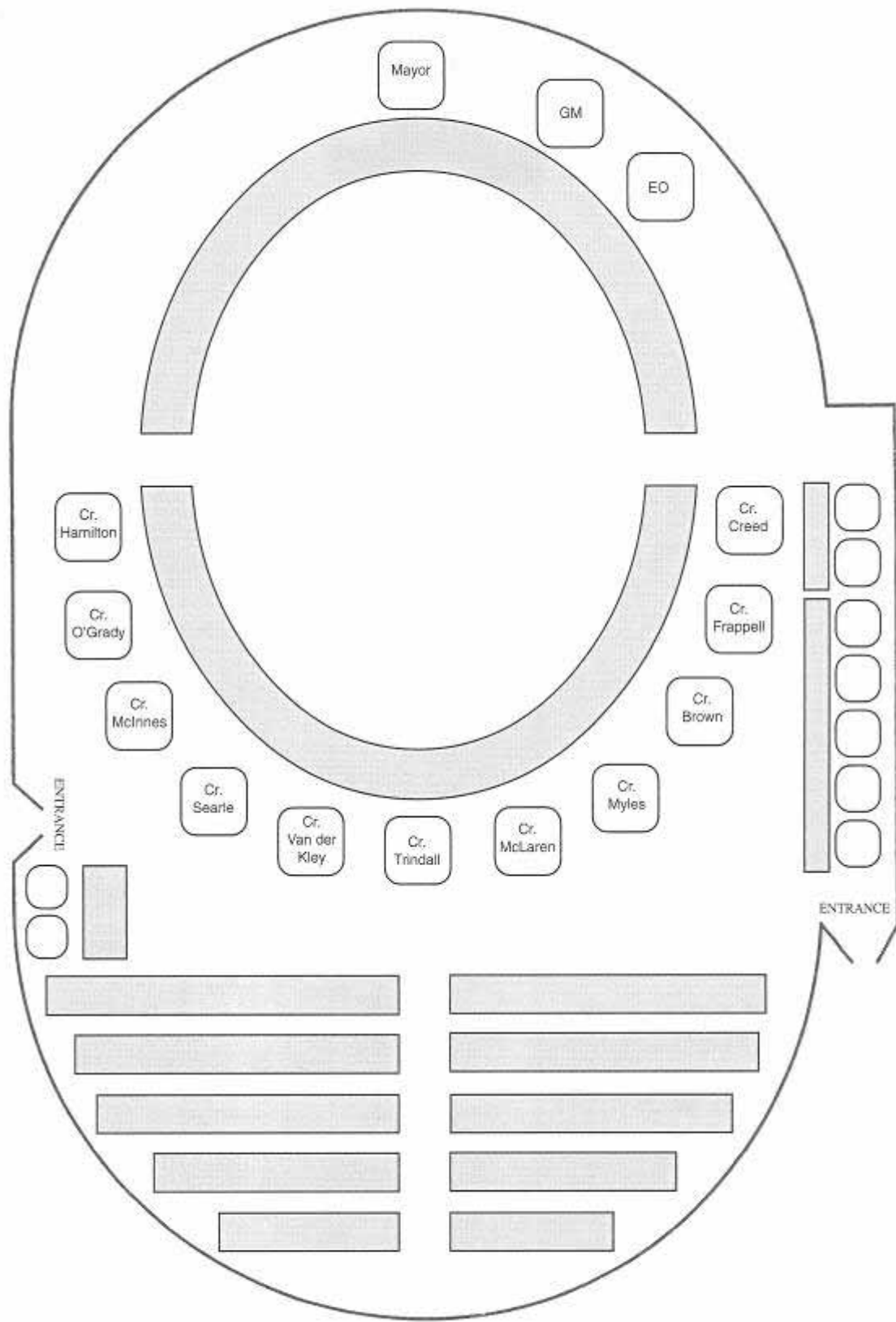
TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2007

AGENDA

ITEM NO.	PAGE	SUBJECT	COMMENTS
1	1	<p><u>PRAYER/REFLECTION</u> <u>(and Recognition of the Traditional Owners, the Darug and Gundungurra People)</u></p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p><u>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</u> Ordinary Meeting held on 30 January 2007</p> <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p><u>MINUTE BY MAYOR</u> Mayoral Minute – Letter to Sister City Sanda about Whaling</p> <p><u>NOTICE OF RESCISSION</u></p> <p><u>OFFICERS' REPORTS</u></p>	

ITEM NO.	PAGE	SUBJECT	COMMENTS
		<p><u>PROVIDING GOOD GOVERNMENT</u></p>	
2	2	<p>Community Survey 2006 <i>(Enclosure (1) – “Community Survey” – available on the Council website and at the Council Offices and Libraries)</i></p>	
3	9	<p>Second Quarter 2006/2007 Report – Management Plan Including Capital Works Program and Operating Budget <i>(Enclosures (2) – Quarterly Review Management Plan including Capital Works December 2006” and “Budget Quarterly Review December 2006” available on the Council website and at the Council Offices and Libraries)</i></p>	
		<p><u>LOOKING AFTER ENVIRONMENT</u></p>	
4	17	<p>2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains <i>(Enclosure (1) – “Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains 2005-2006” – available on the Council website and at the Council Offices and Libraries)</i></p>	
		<p><u>LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE</u></p>	
5	20	<p>2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan <i>(Enclosure (1) – “Draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan” – available on the Council website and at the Council Offices and Libraries)</i></p>	
6	24	<p>Appointment of the Chairman of the Blue Mountains Local Emergency Management Committee</p>	
7	25	<p>Yellow Rock Bush Fire Station</p>	
8	28	<p>Community Assistance/Donations – Recommendations by Councillors</p>	

ITEM NO.	PAGE	SUBJECT	COMMENTS
9	29	<p><u>USING LAND FOR LIVING</u></p> <p>Confidential Business Paper – Tender for the Operation of the Blaxland Waste Management Facility, Construction of Cripple Creek Diversion B, Construction of Landfill B and the Design and Construction of a New Site Entrance: Contract No. EM BWMF 01/2006</p>	
10	30	<p><u>PRECIS OF SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>Precis of Selected Correspondence, 20/2/2007</p>	
		<p><u>RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE</u></p>	
11	33	<p>Response to Question without Notice – Access and Equity Working Group</p>	
12	34	<p>Response to Question without Notice – Petitioners in Precis of Correspondence</p>	
13	35	<p>Response to Question without Notice – Letter on Information</p>	



THE COUNCIL MEETING

All Council meetings are open to the public except when confidential matters are being considered. The information set out below is to assist the public in participating in Council's decision making process.

1. Public Participation

Members of the public are welcome to address Council on any items of business in the Business Paper other than Notices of Motion (including rescission motions) and Minutes by the Mayor. A "Guide to Public Speakers" will be handed out at each meeting.

Members of the public may make representations to or at a meeting before any part of the meeting is closed to the public as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed. The representations may be made either in writing or by addressing Council at the meeting.

Those wishing to so address the Council should advise the Council Administrative Officer present in the Council Chamber either prior to the commencement of the Meeting or, if the Meeting has begun, when they arrive at the Meeting. **Members of the public will not be able to address the Council on a particular item after the business on that item has been completed.**

Members of the public who wish to speak must complete a form to allow Council staff to arrange the smooth flow of business at the meeting. The form will include details of:

- name
- address
- organisation (if applicable)
- item on business paper to be addressed
- a clear statement as to whether the person is for (supports) or against (opposes) the recommendation or proposition as printed in the business paper.
- interest of speaker (as affected neighbour or as applicant or applicant's spokesperson, or as interested citizen).

Only persons who have completed the form and clearly indicated their intention to speak for or against a recommendation or proposition in the business paper may address Council. Speakers who do not speak in accordance with their stated intention shall forfeit the right to continue speaking.

Council encourages members of the public to present their views to meetings in order that Council deliberations may be better informed. Council will give the opportunity to speak to persons representing a diverse range of views and opinions in preference to hearing the same view stated repeatedly or sequentially. Organisations may be restricted in number of speakers.

Up to 3 speakers for each opposing viewpoint will be permitted to address Council.

On development applications, the applicant (or a spokesperson) will be permitted a final 3 minute address. In selecting other speakers preference will be given to neighbours who would be affected by the proposal whether favourably or unfavourably.

If more than 3 persons wishing to speak on each of the differing views on an issue register through lodging a completed form with Council staff, the Mayor or Chairperson will seek the guidance of the Council as to the number of speakers to be heard. The question will be put without debate, and decided on a show of hands.

If the number of persons requesting to speak exceeds the number Council has nominated, the Mayor shall invite persons to voluntarily withdraw and, if necessary Council staff will conduct a draw to determine the speakers. Provided that on development applications the speakers shall include the applicant (or a spokesperson) as above and at least one neighbour for and one against the recommendation. Where necessary a separate ballot will be conducted to determine the two neighbour speakers.

Public speakers are restricted to three (3) minutes. No extensions of time will be granted.

All speakers must state their name and address, organisation (if applicable) and interest in the issue before speaking.

Presentations and questions should be made or put courteously and concisely, and without hectoring. Councillors will observe the same courtesies while members of the public are addressing Council.

Personal allegations against Councillors and/or staff may not be made. A member of the public making such allegations forfeits forthwith the opportunity to address Council. The Mayor shall insist that an offending speaker cease speaking.

Councillors may ask questions of speakers at the conclusion of their address.

Those in the public gallery shall not ask questions of members of the public addressing Council or otherwise canvass issues in a public way.

If, during a meeting, Council proposes to close part of a meeting to the public as a matter of urgency and notice has not been given in the agenda, an invitation will be extended to members of the public by the Chairperson to make representations as to whether or not the meeting should be closed.

2. Tape Recordings by the Public

Unless Council otherwise resolves, no recording equipment, excepting the official recording system will be permitted at meetings of Council or its committees. This prohibition applies to tape recorders, video cameras and any electronic devices capable of recording speech, whether a magneticord or not.

A person may be expelled from a meeting for using a recording device in contravention of the above. (see Clause 3.10)

3. Effect of Resolutions

Once a motion has been passed it becomes a resolution of Council and is immediately effective and the General Manager must ensure that it is implemented without undue delay as required by Section 335(1) of the Act.

A resolution of Council will not be implemented for a period of two days after the meeting at which a motion has been passed to allow time for rescission motions to be lodged. Provided that action necessary to give effect to Council's decision must be commenced immediately to avoid excessive delay in implementation.

This means that decisions of Council will not be implemented until the third day after a meeting or until after any notices of rescission have been dealt with. Council decisions should not therefore be acted upon until officially communicated in writing.

4. Items of Business

The Meeting Agenda lists the item of business.

5. Meeting Schedule

The Council generally meets every third Tuesday. The Meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. and are scheduled to finish at 11.30 p.m. Council can, by resolution, extend past this time. This schedule may be varied from time to time. Extraordinary Meetings may be held outside this schedule.

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS - MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

When determining a development application the Council is required to take certain matters into consideration.

These must be relevant to the development application under consideration.

The considerations are detailed under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and are reproduced below. It should be noted that a more detailed Guide has been prepared by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning on this Section of the Act and can be viewed at Council's Business and Information Centres.

The relevant Section of the Act is as follows:-

79C(1) In determining a development application, a consent authority is to take into consideration such of the following matters as are of relevance to the development the subject of the development application:

- (a) the provisions of:
 - (i) any environmental planning instrument, and
 - (ii) any draft environmental planning instrument that is or has been placed on public exhibition and details of which have been notified to the consent authority; and
 - (iii) any development control plan, and
 - (iv) any matters prescribed by the regulations, that apply to the land to which the development application relates,
- (b) the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality,
- (c) the suitability of the site for the development,
- (d) any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations,
- (e) the public interest.

MINUTE(S) BY MAYOR

ITEM NO: 1

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE – LETTER TO SISTER CITY SANDA ABOUT WHALING

FILE NO:

Recommendation:

That the Council write to our Sister City of Sanda in Japan about our opposition to the annual whale hunt by the Japanese Fisheries Agency in the Southern Whale Ocean Sanctuary.

Minute from the Mayor:

In 2005 the Council, in conjunction with Federal Local Member Kerry Bartlett, circulated a petition for residents to sign which was addressed to Japanese Ambassador and called on the Japanese Government to immediately ban the killing of whales for both commercial and ‘scientific’ purposes.

Over 1,100 residents of the Blue Mountains signed that petition.

We have now been asked by Greenpeace for the Council to write to our Sister City of Sanda in Japan to alert them to our opposition to the annual whale hunt by the Japanese Fisheries Agency in the Southern Whale Ocean Sanctuary.

Greenpeace says “our own research in Japan shows that two thirds of Japanese people don’t support whaling on the high seas....and ordinary Japanese people are unaware of how the whaling issue is viewed outside of Japan.”

Greenpeace are asking Blue Mountains, along with the 100 other Australian towns and cities who have a Japanese sister city, to communicate our opposition to whaling directly to our Sister Cities and their citizens.

Our Sister City relationship gives us an opportunity to communicate directly with the people of Sanda about an issue that concerns Blue Mountains residents. We should take this opportunity to send them a message that we support them and the people of Japan but we cannot support whaling by their government.

I recommend that the Council write to our Sister City of Sanda in Japan about our opposition to the annual whale hunt by the Japanese Fisheries Agency in the Southern Whale Ocean Sanctuary.

OFFICER(S) REPORT(S)

ITEM NO: 2**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY SURVEY 2006**FILE NO:** C01905

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council note the positive results of the Community Survey conducted by IRIS Research in November 2006.*
 2. *That the results of the Community Survey be publicised to the Blue Mountains community through:*
 - *notification in Blue Mountains Gazette; and*
 - *placement of the final reports in libraries across the Mountains and on the Council's web site.*
 3. *That the Council take into consideration the overall results of the Community Survey in its business planning and budgetary processes.*
-

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:**Introduction**

This report presents the results of the Community Survey conducted in late 2006 to assess resident satisfaction with Council service delivery. These survey results were presented to Councillors at a working party session held on the 23 January 2007. Copies of the complete Community Survey report are enclosed separately.

Background

It is important for the Council to know and understand how residents perceive Council service delivery and performance. Annual assessment of resident satisfaction and importance ratings enables the Council to identify priorities for improvement and to benchmark performance over time.

To maintain consistency and comparability of results, IRIS Research was again commissioned to conduct a City-wide telephone survey of residents in 2006. This represents the fifth survey undertaken by IRIS Research, with others being conducted in 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 2006 survey report is particularly significant in that it provides a comparison of 2006 results against benchmarks set in previous years.

Councillors were briefed on the survey methodology and invited to provide feedback on the survey questions at the Policy Review Working Party of 19 September 2006.

Two new questions were added to the survey as follows:

- *Council uses rates paid by residents to provide the services we have covered in this survey. Please tell me whether you think the services provided by Council overall are good value for your rate dollar. This question was designed to gauge resident perceptions of the overall value they perceive they receive for the rate dollar.*

- *Thinking about the overall quality of service provided during your last interaction with Council staff, which of the following best describes the level of service you received?*
 - *Was confrontational rude and unacceptable*
 - *Did not meet my needs*
 - *Met my needs but was nothing special*
 - *Above my expectations but not exceptional*
 - *Exceptional, they went the extra mile to answer my enquiry*

A total of 505 interviews were conducted with residents from the Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA). To qualify for an interview, respondents had to have been a resident in the Council area for at least the last 6 months and aged 16 or older. The survey achieved a completion rate of 52%, which is considered acceptable for a survey of this type.

Key Results

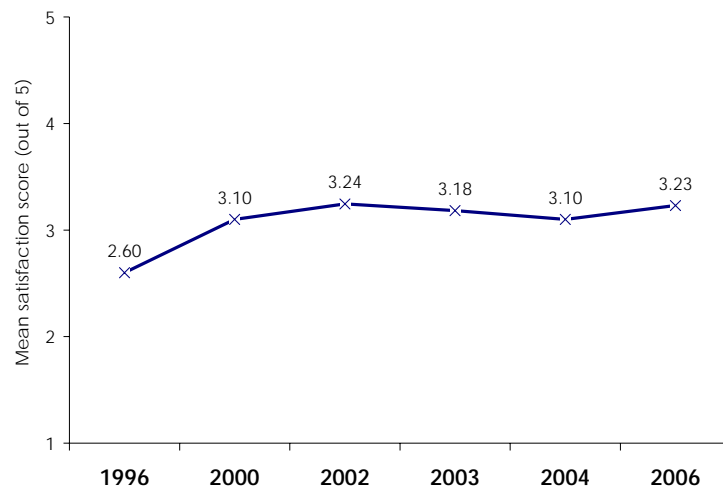
The survey sought a range of resident attitudes and opinions. The overall results are presented below and show positive results in all areas.

Key Performance Indicator	Mean Performance Ratings (out of 5)		
	2004	2006	Change 04-06
Overall satisfaction with COUNCIL performance	3.1	3.2	↑
Overall satisfaction with STAFF performance	3.5	3.7	↑
Overall satisfaction with COUNCILLOR performance	2.9	3.0	↑

Commentary on these key results is provided below.

Overall Satisfaction with Council Performance

There was evidence of an increase in overall satisfaction with the Council performance, with the mean score increasing from 3.10 in 2004 to 3.23 in 2006. Over the ten years since the first ever Council satisfaction survey there has been a steady improvement in overall satisfaction levels. In relative terms, the Council result is respectable when compared to similar sized and resourced councils throughout NSW. The graph below shows the steady improvement in overall satisfaction levels.



Overall Satisfaction with Staff Performance

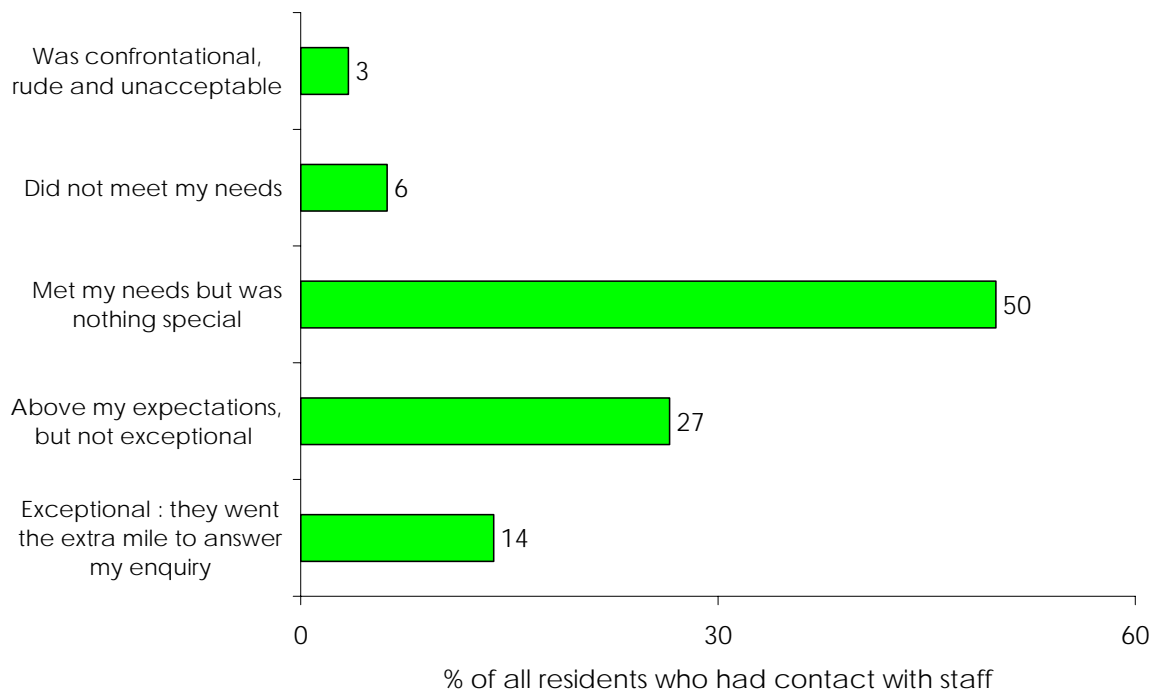
Overall, there was evidence of an upward shift in satisfaction with Council staff, with 63% of respondents who had some form of contact with Council staff during the past 12 months stating that they were 'satisfied' – up from 58% in the 2004 survey. Those residents who had not interacted with Council staff at all had a lower overall satisfaction rating (52%). These results reaffirm the fact that contact with Council staff has a positive impact on resident perceptions. Table 1 provides the detailed perceptions of Council staff performance.

Table 1 Detailed perceptions of staff performance, 2000-2006

		Year	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Respondents who had NO contact with staff	<i>Council Staff are generally courteous & helpful</i>	2000	10%	33%	57%
		2002	3%	31%	66%
		2003	3%	38%	57%
		2004	2%	34%	60%
		2006	4%	28%	67%
	<i>Council Staff generally deal with people quickly and efficiently</i>	2000	26%	40%	34%
		2002	22%	36%	42%
		2003	21%	45%	33%
		2004	21%	39%	38%
		2006	19%	35%	46%
Respondents who HAD contact with staff	<i>Making contact with the appropriate staff member to deal with was easy</i>	2000	-	-	-
		2002	-	-	-
		2003	16%	16%	68%
		2004	16%	15%	69%
		2006	9%	15%	76%
	<i>They were courteous & helpful</i>	2000	12%	16%	72%
		2002	9%	13%	78%
		2003	5%	16%	79%
		2004	12%	14%	74%
		2006	6%	13%	81%
	<i>They dealt with my enquiry quickly and efficiently</i>	2000	24%	21%	55%
		2002	22%	15%	63%
		2003	22%	13%	65%
		2004	23%	16%	61%
		2006	16%	13%	71%
	<i>They provided clear, easy to understand advice</i>	2000	-	-	-
		2002	-	-	-
		2003	-	-	-
		2004	-	-	-
		2006	13%	12%	74%

In 2006 a new question was asked relating to the 'quality' of service received by residents who had contact with Council staff during the 12 months prior to the survey. About 2 in 5 residents (41%) who came into contact with Council staff rated the quality of service as better than they expected – 14% felt the quality of service was 'exceptional'. A small but significant 9% of residents who came into contact with Council staff rated the quality of service as worse than they expected. The results are presented in the graph below (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Perceptions of Service Quality, 2006



Overall Satisfaction with Councillor Performance

There was evidence of an upward shift in satisfaction with Councillors, with the mean score increasing from 2.9 to 3.0. The majority of Blue Mountains residents (76%) who had dealings with elected council representatives believe that they are responsive.

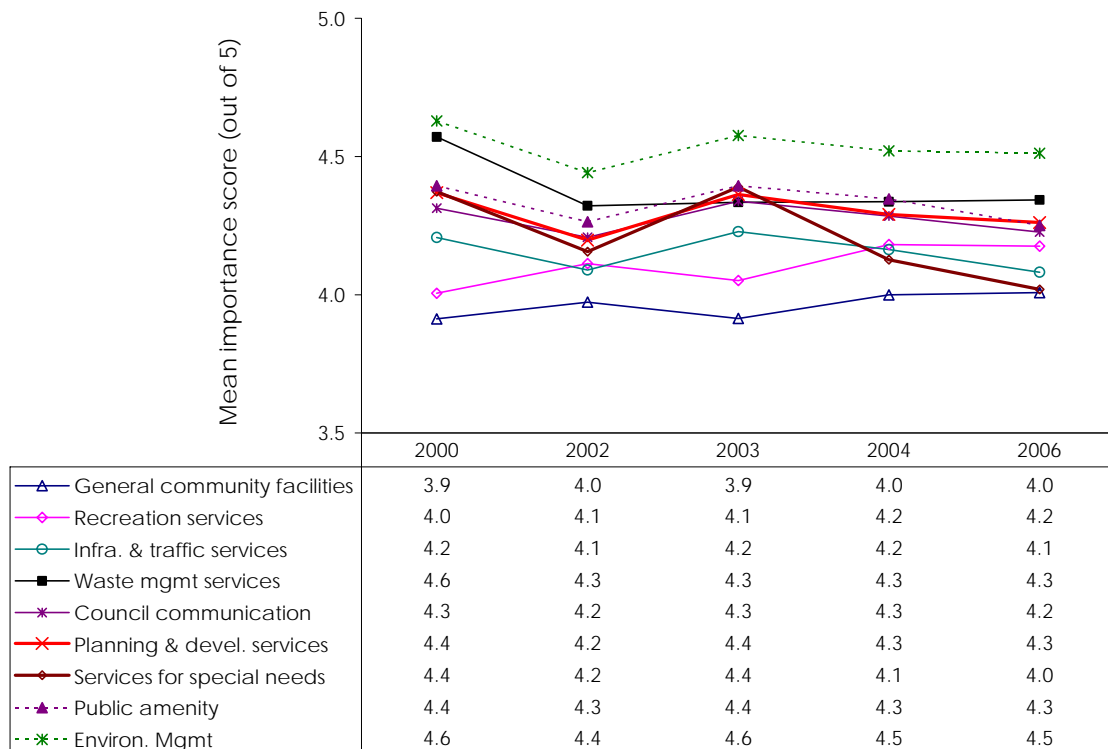
Council Services and Facilities

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of, and their satisfaction with, forty-eight specific Council services and facilities across nine service areas as outlined below.

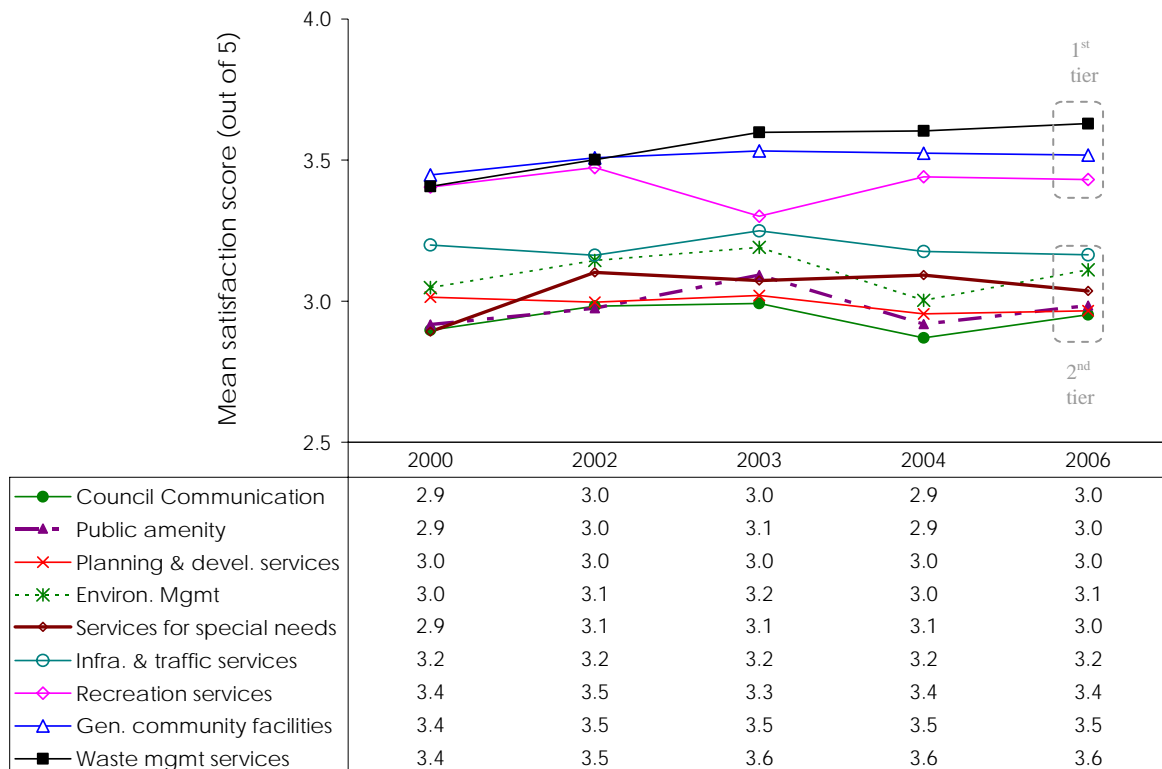
- Recreation Services and Facilities
- General Community Facilities
- Waste Management Services
- Public Amenity
- Environmental Management
- Infrastructure and Traffic Services
- Planning and Development Services
- Services for Special Needs Groups
- Council Communication

As the graph below shows (figure 2), 'environmental management' remains by far the most important broad service area for the community. There has been a significant decline in the mean importance scores for 'services for special needs groups' and 'waste management services'. There is also evidence to suggest a slight increase in the importance of 'Recreation Services' over the period since the inception study in 2000.

Figure 2 Trend in Importance of Key Service Areas - 2000 to 2006



Generally, satisfaction with the key service areas measured in the survey had either slightly improved or were stable when compared with the last survey (2004). As the graph below shows (figure 3), there appear to be two tiers of performance when looking at the satisfaction results at the broad service area level. There are three key service areas that have consistently achieved higher satisfaction ratings: 'waste management services', 'general community facilities' and 'recreation and open space'. However, there is another tier of broad services that have lower satisfaction ratings. Most notably, 'planning and development services', 'public amenity', and 'Council communication' are service areas with relatively lower satisfaction levels.

Figure 3 Trend in Satisfaction with Key Service Areas - 2000 to 2006

Overall, the results indicate that the Council is providing many of the services and facilities rated as important by residents at a satisfactory level or above. However, there are notable exceptions. In-depth analysis of importance and satisfaction ratings for Council services and facilities revealed the following priorities for improvement:

1. Clean creeks and waterways
2. Consultation with the community by Council
3. Generating local employment opportunities
4. Maintenance of parks & playgrounds
5. Maintenance of public toilets
6. Managing residential development
7. Provision of public toilets
8. Sealed road maintenance
9. Town centre & village atmosphere
10. Weed control

Major Issues of Concern

Major top-of-mind issues identified for the city as a whole included: nature preservation and other environmental issues (12.7%), overdevelopment (7.7%), roads / traffic (7.7%), bushfire prevention (6.5%) and crime and vandalism (5.0%).

Major top-of-mind issues identified at the local area level included: crime and vandalism (8.3%), lack of kerbs, gutters & footpaths (8.3%), road maintenance (7.9%), bushfire prevention (7.1%), and 'traffic management' (5.5%).

When asked about issues relating specifically to Council, the top response theme was 'high rates & poor use of rates', however, this was only mentioned by 4.2% of respondents. Other typical responses related to 'poor Council performance in general' (3.4%) and the need for 'better communication' (3.0%).

Conclusion

The 2006 Blue Mountains City Council Community Survey Report provides valuable information about community perceptions of Council service delivery and performance. Importantly, the Report also provides information on performance trends over time against local benchmarks previously established in 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. Whilst clear improvements have been achieved since 2000 the priorities identified for improvement are recommended to be taken into consideration in Council business planning and budgetary processes.

It is recommended that the results of the 2006 Community Survey be disseminated to the community through placement in libraries and on the Council web site.

ITEM NO: 3

SUBJECT: SECOND QUARTER 2006/2007 REPORT - MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDING CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM AND OPERATING BUDGET

FILE NO: C01900

Recommendations:

1. *That the General Manager's report together with the accompanying documents titled "Quarterly Review Management Plan including Capital Works December 2006 – 2006/2007" and "Quarterly Review Budget September 2006 – 2006/2007" (both separately enclosed) be noted and endorsed.*
2. *That the variations of income and expenditure as identified in the accompanying documents be endorsed and noted.*

Report by Acting General Manager:

This is the second quarterly progress report on this year's performance targets and represents the second quarter of Year 3 of the Council four-year Management Plan. The document "*Quarterly Review Management Plan including Capital Works December 2006 – 2006/2007*" (separately enclosed) provides more detailed information on overall progress and performance in a concise and readable format.

Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Progress

Item	No	Not Started	On-Target	Behind Target	Complete	Will Not Complete	% On-Target***
<i>Management Plan Sustainability Priorities</i>	18	0	11	5	2	0	72%
<i>Management Plan Milestones*</i>	30	1	25	3	1	0	90%
<i>Capital Works Projects & Programs**</i>	31	2	19	6	4	0	81%
<i>Environmental Levy Actions</i>	19	0	17	2	0	0	89%
TOTAL	98	3	72	16	7	0	84%

**Excluding Capital Works Program projects and programs*

***Equates to 190 individual projects – refer to table in section below "Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Capital Works Program (excluding Lawson Town Centre and Cultural Centre)"*

****Includes projects not scheduled to have commenced and completed projects*

Summary Highlights of Key Achievements by Sustainability Priority for Second Quarter

Priority 1: To improve the management and condition of built assets for which Council is responsible

- Work has continued on the development of the Sustainable Asset Management Strategy and framework. While this work is slightly behind target, progress was made on the development of key milestones for the Sustainable Asset Management Strategy/ framework. These milestones were adopted by the Executive Management Team. A Long Term Financial Strategy assessment was also completed for each of the asset classes.
- All data has been collected and consultation completed for the development of the Rural Fire Service/ State Emergency Service Asset Management Plan. Work continued on the Cemetery Asset Management Plan which is now 40% complete.

Priority 2: To manage the community's resources in a sustainable, responsible and business like way

- Fifteen possible income generation projects for Council were assessed and presented to the Executive Management Team and to the Finance and Assets Working Party.
- A preliminary portfolio spreadsheet was completed on vacant operational land as part of work on Council's Property Investment Program.
- Work commenced on the implementation of a corporate risk management project.
- Further progress was made in implementing Council's Human Resources Strategy with three actions being implemented including: a review of Occupational Health and Safety policies, implementation of Access and Equity Awareness Training, and completion of a review and staff training in Council's Pay for Performance Reward System (PPRS).

Priority 3: To deliver an outstanding level of service to Council's customers

- As part of Council's continuous improvement and innovation work a business improvement review for Echo Point pay and display and a business case for pursuing pay and display at Leura were completed and presented to the Executive Management Team.
- RTA business operations successfully commenced at Katoomba Council headquarters.
- Work continued on improving organisational response to Customer Service Requests.
- A second mystery shopper audit of council staff performance in customer service was completed with notable improvements in return calls and follow-up of voicemail messages.
- Work progressed on the introduction of on-line computer process for assessing proposed development applications including training of key users and system set-up.
- A new electronic document management system was introduced (TRIM) and training provided to key users.

Priority 4: to provide civic leadership for a City in a World Heritage National Park

- Further work was undertaken to improve the Sustainable Blue Mountains website including the development of protocols to guide the approach for the provision, updating and maintenance of information on the website.
- The Blue Mountains Trend database was further expanded to provide additional quality time series data on key environmental, social and economic trends providing information on the state of the City.
- Project planning was progressed relative to the implementation of a major community forum in Quarter 4 that will focus on engaging community in assessing our progress in achieving the City Vision for a more sustainable Blue Mountains.

Priority 5: To provide information about Council's policy setting and operations in a transparent manner

- Draft measures of operating performance for Council were prepared for Councillor consideration in Quarter 3 as part of the 2007-2008 Management Plan.
- A review of the Capital works sustainability assessment approach was completed and improvements implemented in developing the draft 2007-2008 Capital Works Program. This program will be finalised with Councillors in Quarter 3.
- A project Brief was completed for provision of staff training in Triple Bottom Line Assessment and decision making – focusing in particular on projects and Council reports.

Priority 6: To provide accessible and fairly distributed services and facilities throughout the Local Government Area

- Work progressed on the development of the Blue Mountains Service Provision Framework to assist decision making of Council around who gets what where when and why. A draft framework was presented to the Executive Management Team as part of the Draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan. The proposed framework will be workshopped with Councillors in Quarter 4.

Other Key Achievements for the Second Quarter by Principal Activities

Looking after Environment

- Externally funded restoration projects advanced including:
 - Upland swamp rehabilitation workshop held for Council staff and contractors.
 - Ongoing Salvinia control at Glenbrook Lagoon, terrestrial weed control and distribution of briefs for further activities within the restoration program.
- Streamsong 2006 'Warning at Wentworth Falls Lake' educational event held for over 100 Stage 3 students from 5 Upper Mountains Primary Schools. This event cycled students through 9 interactive activities run by Council staff and external providers, highlighting the importance of water and waterways in the Blue Mountains.
- Living Streams Streamwatch Volunteer Celebration and Catchment Snapshot held for Blue Mountains volunteers, involving 'snapshot' monitoring of local waterways, discussion of issues, skill building workshops, talks and presentations.
- NSW LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards received for the Glenbrook Lagoon and Magdala Creek restoration projects.

- A record 797 weed notices were issued during the quarter.
- Nine strains of rust were released at Wentworth Falls Lake as a biological control for blackberry.

Looking after People

- Family Day Care staff prepared for and undertook the National Childcare Accreditation Council validation. Results will be received in early 2007.

Using Land for Living

- A deed was put in place with the Lower Blue Mountains Junior Rugby League for the construction of a clubhouse at Warrimoo oval.
- The adopted Tunnel Gully Reserve Plan of Management was printed and distributed.
- Community consultation on the establishment of an ashes garden within Mount Irvine Cemetery was undertaken.
- An expression of interest has been accepted for a heritage grant and a formal application will now be made for funds to prepare Conservation Management Plans for areas associated with early railways on the escarpment.

Moving Around

- Jetpatching is running well ahead of target being 71% complete at the end of this quarter.
- Heavy patch (routine and reseal preparation) and surface repair program is 47% complete at the end of this quarter.

Working and Learning

- A range of library events were held this quarter including Halloween Childrens Party (October), Bookgroups (Katoomba and Lawson), Library Book Sales (Blackheath Rhododendron Festival and Lawson Festival), Mother/Daughter Night-in (November), Childrens Week Activities, History Conference hosted by Local Studies (November), Meet the Author functions and various school holiday activities.
- The Council supported a Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute hosted conference 'Sustaining our Social and Natural Capital' by assisting with the expo and field trip. The Council successfully showcased some of its key initiatives to over 100 conference attendees including a diverse range of international delegates.

Exceptions Reported for the First Quarter by Principal Activities

Sustainability Priorities

Sustainability Priority 1 - Sustainable Asset Management projects *The 3 projects related to 2006-2007 Sustainable Asset Management work were all progressed during quarter 2 however are slightly behind target. These projects are on-track for completion by quarter 4.*

Progress Council's Property Investment Program *Preliminary portfolio spreadsheet on vacant operational land completed. Consultants will present their work plan on their recommendations on vacant land holdings and income diversification opportunities to the Property Management Advisory Panel and Council in March 2007.*

Implement approved HR strategies and actions identified in the Human Resources Strategy for completion in 2006/07 *3 actions completed this quarter. Slightly behind this quarter due to finalising General Manager recruitment process.*

Looking after People

Construct an accessible toilet in Cathedral Reserve Mt Wilson and commence planning for replacement of existing toilet at Mt Victoria Park, Mt Victoria with a new accessible facility (CWP) *Land use application for Mount Wilson toilet to be lodged quarter 3.*

Upgrade facilities at Katoomba Family Day Care centre (CWP) *Project changed to allow funding of Family Day Care relocation / refurbishment at Lawson.*

Improve community service delivery by completing the extension to Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre buildings (6-8 Station St Katoomba) (CWP) *Project on hold pending outcome of discussions with usergroups. Council resolved to relocate Family Day Care from 2 Station Street, Katoomba to Lawson (refer above).*

Improve safety in Council playgrounds through renewal of play equipment and installation of safer synthetic softfall in priority areas (CWP) *Project on hold as budget under review for allocation to vandalised play equipment. Council report scheduled for 30 January 2007.*

Using Land for Living

Improve Lawson town centre by completing road and public space infrastructure works for Lawson Town Centre *Development Application submitted.*

Finalise the Environmental Impact Statement and submit a Development Application for the Katoomba Waste Transfer Station *Final Draft EIS being reviewed. Minor details being revised on final draft design plans. Development application to be lodged January 2007 (1 month behind schedule).*

Investigate and prepare development application for consolidation of seven into three land parcels to allow sale of Council owned land at Pulpit Hill (CWP) *Difficulties encountered locating a consultant to undertake the project. Negotiations ongoing.*

Complete mosaic entry wall, Bullaburra Village Green (CWP) *Waiting for development application approval prior to calling for quotes.*

Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Capital Works Program

This year's Capital Works Program (CWP) budget is \$10,155,776 including adopted carryovers and quarter 1 variations. At the end of the second quarter, 80% of the capital projects and programs were on-target (including completed projects and projects not scheduled to have commenced).

At the conclusion of the second quarter, the majority of Capital Works projects are on-target to be completed on time and within budget. Those projects currently behind-target have the opportunity to be back on-track during quarter 3. If these are unable to be completed by the end of the financial year, further recommendations will be provided in the Quarter 3 report to Council. The table below provides a summary of the Council's Quarter 2 progress compared to previous financial years.

	December Qtr 2003/2004	December Qtr 2004/2005	December Qtr 2005/2006	December Qtr 2006/2007
Total Budget	\$14,506,213	\$11,211,037	\$12,822,925	\$7,364,030*
Total Dollars Spent**	\$7,954,000	\$7,403,841	\$5,651,331	\$2,346,412*
% Spent	54.83	49.67	44.07	31.86%
Total Number of Projects***	107	108	181	191
Number of Projects Completed	32	48	99	73
% Completed	29.91	44.45	54.45	38.21%
<i>Lawson Town Centre Total 06-07 Budget</i>				<i>\$2,791,746</i>
<i>Lawson Town Centre Total Dollars Spent**</i>				<i>\$676,507</i>

* Excludes budget and expenditure for Lawson Town Centre projects

** Includes committals

***Equates to 30 Projects and Programs - refer to summary table in section above "Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Progress"

The reseal program is to be implemented in the upper mountains in early March. This equates to approximately 80 projects.

Councillors are referred to the separately enclosed document titled "*Quarterly Review Management Plan including Capital Works June 2006 – 2005/2006*" for comments on individual capital projects and programs.

Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Major Projects

Lawson Town Centre Project Implementation

A major priority for the Council is the implementation of the Lawson Town Centre project including construction of road and public space infrastructure works. In 2006-2007 attention will focus in particular on:

- Submission of the Lawson Town Centre development application for Council consideration for approval;
- Appointment of contractors to undertake required infrastructure works; and
- Commencement and completion of major component of infrastructure works.

In Quarter 2 significant work was undertaken in progressing the Lawson town Centre development application and planning for infrastructure works.

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Library & Mixed Use Precinct

Work will continue on the development of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Library & Mixed Use development project in Katoomba (including the development of a new City Art Gallery, Theatre, Gallery Café, World Heritage Interpretive Centre and a new Library) and on planning for the redevelopment of the Civic Centre Precinct and the construction of pedestrian links. In particular, in 2006-2007 priority attention will be given to:

- Clarifying critical project element sequencing and action required to ensure contractual obligations are met;
- Resourcing the project through appointment of Project Manager, Cultural Centre Director and Project Support positions;
- Facilitating and influencing design outcomes for the Cultural Centre through the detailed design phase;
- Finalising council's programmed legal obligations under the development deed for the Cultural Centre;
- Finalising design of the new Katoomba Library project; and
- Scoping Civic Centre design requirements.

During Quarter 2 Mr Simon Ambrose was appointed to the Cultural Centre Director position and Eva Gerencer was appointed to the Cultural Centre Project Support position. Detailed schematic designs for the Cultural Centre have been completed and extensive cost plan work completed. The legal obligations under the development deed have been progressed and completed as required. Katoomba Library design briefings have been held with the Council architect.

Summary of Second Quarter 2006/2007 Financial Position

Councillors are referred to the separately enclosed document titled "*Quarterly Review Budget December 2006 – 2006/2007*". The Budget Review is prepared by the Responsible Accounting Officer in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation and details the budget variations that have now been identified and which have not previously been adopted by the Council. An analysis of the actual results as at December 2006 has resulted in an increase in working capital before restricted asset variation of \$136,921 to \$1,581,627. A prudent approach has then be recommended for funds of \$459,496 to be transferred to restricted asset reserves (refer to the separately enclosed document titled "*Quarterly Review Budget December 2006 – 2006/2007* for more detail). This variation has resulted in the decrease in working capital of \$225,007 from the original budget, giving a revised total working capital as at 30 June 2007 of \$1,122,131.

The following reconciliation illustrates the expected Working Capital position as at 31 December 2006 review:

Actual Working Capital – 1 July, 2006	1,289,000
Original Budget 06/07 Forecast Improvement in Working Capital	58,138
Adopted Council Resolutions	0
September 2006 Review	97,568
December 2006 Review	136,921
Revised Estimated Working Capital – 30 June 2007 (before restricted asset variation)	1,581,627
December 2006 Review – Restricted Asset variation	(459,496)
Revised Estimated Working Capital – 30 June 2007	1,122,131
Working Capital is the net amount of uncommitted funds consisting of:	Estimated 2006/07
Unrestricted current cash	612,000
Current receivables	5,000,000
Inventories	360,000
Prepayment	450,000
Payables(excluding liabilities budgeted next year)	(5,000,000)
Cash (overdraft)	(300,000)
	1,122,000

The significant variations that occur in this review are summarised in the enclosure *Quarterly Review Budget September 2006 – 2006/2007*.

Under the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation the Council's Responsible Accounting Officer is also required to formally report on whether the Council's financial position is considered "satisfactory" and if not, what remedial action needs to be taken. The optimum level of working capital for the Council has previously been identified in the range of \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million, which represents the industry standard to allow for stores and the provision of hard-core debtors. Subject to the Council adopting the recommended variations, the estimated effective working capital of \$1,122,131 is satisfactory. The decrease in working capital for the quarter is somewhat vindicated by a \$300,000 addition to Employee Leave Entitlement and \$159,496 for workers compensation insurance transfer to restricted reserve. For the remainder of the year management will continue to constrain expenditure and monitor revenue to stay within the adopted budget levels.

Further Information

Councillors are reminded that they are welcome to contact the Group Managers if they would like further information on what is contained in the Second Quarter 2006/2007 Reports, as are residents.

ITEM NO: 4**SUBJECT: 2005-06 SUPPLEMENTARY STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE CITY OF BLUE MOUNTAINS****FILE NO: C01626**

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council endorses the “2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains” (enclosed separately) for submission to the Minister of Local Government as required by Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993.*
 2. *That in the Council’s next Management Plan process, the Council considers the issues identified in the “2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains” that require attention by decision makers.*
 3. *That the Council accepts the State of the Environment Report as a key tool for guiding decisions about its Management Plan Key Principal Activity Area ‘Looking After Environment in the Blue Mountains.’*
-

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:**Background**

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting is a tool for environmental management and education. Local Councils, in recognition of their significant role in environmental management at the local level, are required to produce State of the Environment reports for submission to the Minister for Local Government.

According to the *Environmental Guidelines for State of the Environment Reporting by Local Government* (1999), the purpose of State of the Environment reporting can be summarised as follows:

- Provide the public, Councils and other levels of government and other decision makers with important information about the condition of the environment;
- Report on the effectiveness of policies and programs developed in response to environmental change, including highlighting the cumulative effects of individual projects and environmental pressures across catchments or the local area;
- Assess progress towards achieving environmental standards and targets and ecological sustainability;
- Provide input into the development of long term ecologically sustainable economic and social policies by all levels of government through integrating environmental information with social and economic information;
- Identify current and emerging environmental issues and important gaps in knowledge and data collection; and
- Raise community awareness and understanding of their local environment and the contribution individuals and communities make through their use of resources such as energy, water and production of waste.

The following is a summary of SoE Reports available and planned:

Reporting Year	Type of Report	Available
2003-04	Comprehensive	Available
2004-05	Supplementary <i>Looking After Our Water</i>	Available
2005-06	Supplementary <i>Looking After Our Biodiversity, Land and Air</i>	Feb 2007
2006-07	Supplementary <i>Managing Our Heritage, Waste and Noise</i>	Dec 2007
2007-08	Comprehensive	Dec 2008

What information is available in the 2005-06 Supplementary SoE Report?

The “2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains” is a supplementary report and has a focus on biodiversity, land and atmosphere. The Report is enclosed separately.

Biodiversity, land and atmosphere are natural assets that are fundamental to the quality of life on earth. Reviewing the State of Environment Reports for the Blue Mountains over a number of years highlights that there have been consistent pressures on these assets including urban development, stormwater runoff, weed invasion and our increasingly high dependence on cars. These pressures have a negative impact on the condition of these important assets. These pressures are outlined throughout the Report.

Human actions that rely on the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) and land clearing are increasing the concentrations of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere which means more heat is trapped around the earth leading to changes in climate. This is known as the greenhouse effect which contributes to global warming. Global warming is widely perceived as one of the most significant international environmental concerns. Read about climate change in Section 4 of this Report and find out about some of the great local responses to this issue in Section 3 *Our Atmosphere Resources*.

2005-2006 was the first year of the Environmental Levy Program. In recognition of the significant pressures on the unique Blue Mountains environment, Council adopted the introduction of an Environmental Levy, collecting an additional \$1.2 million dollars annually through rate payments. These additional funds allow the implementation of a 10-year remediation and restoration program in addition to existing environmental programs and projects. Tracking the resulting positive environmental outcomes of the Environmental Levy Program will be an important component of State of Environment Reporting into the future.

For each section of the report - biodiversity, land and atmosphere - the following information is provided:

Section 1 – Biodiversity as a Natural Asset	What are biodiversity resources (Asset description) What are the pressures on biodiversity (Pressure) What is the current state of biodiversity (State) Making a difference (Response) Trend data
Section 2 – Land as a Natural Asset	What are land resources (Asset description) What are the pressures on land (Pressure) What is the current state of land (State) Making a difference (Response) Trend data
Section 3 – Atmosphere as a Natural Asset	What are atmosphere resources (Asset description) What are the pressures on atmosphere (Pressure) What is the current state of air (State) Making a difference (Response) Trend data

Conclusion

According to the *Environmental Guidelines for State of the Environment Reporting by Local Government* (1999), the *2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains* is an important management and decision making tool for the Council. It is recommended that as part of the Council's next Management Plan process, Council considers the issues identified in the *2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains* that require attention by decision makers.

When making decisions about the City of Blue Mountains, the Council as steward on behalf of community, plays a significant leadership role in developing policy for managing the community's assets and providing services to Blue Mountains people. The Council's leadership role for the City on behalf of community means that policy and decision making by the Council can promote efficient, wise and effective management of resources, environmentally responsible actions which are fair and equitable and which promote liveable, vibrant communities with a sense of place and belonging for all.

An opportunity now exists for the Council to respond proactively to issues presented in the *2005-06 Supplementary State of the Environment Report for the City of Blue Mountains* through making decisions and developing policy that will result in more sustainable action by the Council.

ITEM NO: 5

SUBJECT: 2007 BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY PLAN

FILE NO: F00599

Recommendations:

1. *That the Draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan be placed on public exhibition for a period of one month for comments.*
 2. *That the Draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan be forwarded to relevant external stakeholders for comments.*
 3. *That submissions received in response to the exhibition be assessed and reported to the Council for consideration in adopting a Final 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan.*
-

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:

Introduction

The Draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan (separately enclosed) has been prepared to address social issues and to assist decision making around service provision in the City of Blue Mountains. The community planning legislation and guidelines from the Department of Local Government guided the development of the draft Plan. Adoption of a community plan is a legislative requirement.

Purpose

This report recommends that the Council place the draft Plan on public exhibition and sends it to relevant stakeholders for a period of one month seeking comments. The draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan is a joint Council-community initiative aimed at identifying ways we can improve the well being of people living in the City of Blue Mountains. The intention of this document is to ensure that the resources and commitment needed to make the City a better place are effectively coordinated and targeted.

The Preparation of the draft Plan

The 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan is guided by four principles:

- Sustainability;
- Equity;
- Access; and
- Effectiveness, efficiency and Innovation in service delivery.

Community needs have been identified and assessed through reviewing existing plans, conducting research and holding a range of consultations. The draft Plan builds upon achievements and directions established in the 1995 Community Plan and in the Area Plans prepared between 1997 and 2001.

The planning cycle commenced with a review of previous community plans. The review of the 1995 Blue Mountains Community Plan was reported to the Council on 9 July 2002. A demographic profile and other web-based tools including a forecasting tool were developed in order to accurately understand population needs and changes. A review of existing services and facilities combined with the demographic and community needs analysis enabled priority action areas to be determined.

Scope of the draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan

The 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan is a key tool not only for the Council but for all those involved in service provision in the Blue Mountains. The Plan:

- Presents a demographic/socio-economic overview of the Blue Mountains community;
- Presents the results of an assessment of the basic service needs of the general community and groups with special needs;
- Identifies key action areas that need to be addressed by all stakeholders as well as specific actions for the Council of the City of Blue Mountains; and
- Provides an overview of the 2007 Blue Mountains Service Provision Framework, which is being developed by Council to assist decision-makers on service and infrastructure provision in the City of Blue Mountains.

Key Action Areas in the draft Plan

The draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan considers key issues, action and desired outcomes for a range of citywide action areas. Priority action areas for all stakeholders are identified as well as specifically for the Council.

Citywide Action Areas considered in the draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan include:

- Sustainable Living – efficient energy and water use, volunteer and school sustainability action programs, sustainable food initiatives;
- Healthy Vibrant Community – preventative health, mental health;
- Sustainable Economy – local employment, traineeships and apprenticeships for young people, sustainable business development;
- Housing that Meets Community Needs – affordable, equitable housing provision;
- Sustainable Transport – integrated transport planning, cycle infrastructure and accessible public transport;
- Accessible and Fairly Distributed Services and Facilities – development of the Blue Mountains Service Provision Framework, physically accessible public facilities, equitable distribution of services;
- Safe Caring and Inclusive Communities – inclusive society, community safety initiatives, addressing family violence; and
- Learning and Education – school as community centre model, mentoring and training for young people, lifelong learning.

The Local Government Community Planning regulation mandates that the needs of certain target groups must be considered in the Community Plan in addition to those of the general community. Councils can also include information about other specific groups.

The following list shows those groups that the draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan considers and Key Action Areas for each of them:

- Children (aged 0-11) and Families – integration between service providers, early-childhood education services, allied health care;
- Young People (aged between 12 and 24) – training and local secure jobs, youth at risk, investigate options for a youth facility in the Mid-Mountains;
- Older People (aged 55 years and older) – appropriate accommodation, healthy ageing, physical accessibility;
- People with Disabilities - physical accessibility for toilets, town centres and public transport, information on disability services;
- Aboriginal People – preserve and celebrate local Aboriginal culture, young people at risk, employment, training and enterprise development;
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds – local settlement support services, events, Cultural Awareness training;
- Women – health, affordable housing, sexual assault, support for vulnerable and at risk women, local employment;
- Men – support for vulnerable and at risk men, improved information on available support services, local employment and health; and
- People of Diverse Sexualities – safety, health, discrimination.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the draft Plan

The 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan will be implemented by the Council and a range of agencies, organisations and groups. The Council has a specific leadership role and will work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to build healthy vibrant communities and a more sustainable Blue Mountains. The Council will incorporate the actions raised in the 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan into its annual and four yearly Management Plans.

Progress in implementing the 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan will be monitored over time and reported to the community. A number of success measures and pilot trend data have been identified against each of the major action areas of the plan to assist with this process.

Progress on the Key Action Areas for the Council and the pilot trends will be reported in an annual report card. A five-year review will be conducted and reported in 2012, which will report on the Key Action Areas for both the Council and for all stakeholders, the pilot trend data and the success measures listed in the 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan.

Resources required for delivery of the draft Plan

Implementing the proposed 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan will not involve significant additional expenditure to the Council's resources. The Council's existing resources and expenditure will be reviewed to ensure that it is targeting priority areas and attention will focus on improving existing service provision to optimal levels. The Council's Capital Works Program will address priority projects that are consistent with the Service Provision Framework and Sustainable Asset Management Plans. Capital Works Program decisions will continue to be assessed using a triple bottom line and guided by the principles of sustainability, equity, access, effectiveness, efficiency and innovation in service delivery.

Partnerships with Community-based and Non-Government Organisations and other levels of Government will be sought to address priority action areas that require coordinated effort. Grant applications will be coordinated and reviewed to ensure they support the implementation of the 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan action program.

Sustainability Assessment

There will be positive impacts on the environmental, economic and social sustainability in the City of Blue Mountains. The major focus of the draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan is to improve social sustainability in the City of Blue Mountains by analysing community needs and identifying key actions for the Council and a range of stakeholders to implement. While the most significant impact of the draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan will be towards social sustainability, there are also impacts on the economic and environmental sustainability in the City, particularly through the actions identified for the Sustainable Living and Local Employment and Sustainable Economy sections within the draft Plan.

Financial Implications

Implementing the proposed 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan will not involve significant additional expenditure of the Council's resources. The Council's existing expenditure will be reviewed to ensure that it is targeting priority areas and attention will focus on improving existing service provision to optimal levels. Partnerships with Community-based and Non-Government Organisations and other levels of Government will be sought to address priority action areas that require coordinated effort. Grant applications will be coordinated and reviewed to ensure they support the implementation of the 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan action program.

Legal and Risk Management Issues

There are no legal and risk management issues to note.

External Consultation

Consultations were held with the general community (Area-based workshops and issue based forums were held) and with special needs target groups (e.g. children and families). It has involved extensive community consultation with over 1,000 residents as well as groups, government and non-government agencies. Five Area-based community workshops were held in 2005 as part of the Community Plan needs assessment process.

Conclusion

The draft 2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan has been developed for the Council's consideration. The draft Plan outlines action plans for all stakeholders and for the Council to promote social development in the City of Blue Mountains.

The draft Plan has been developed to assist the Council in achieving its adopted 25 Year Vision as articulated in *Towards a More Sustainable Blue Mountains – A Map for Action 2000-2025*. It will guide the development of the 2008-12 Management Plan.

It is recommended that the Council place the draft Plan on public exhibition and sends it to other relevant stakeholders for a period of one month seeking comments. Following the exhibition, an assessment of submissions received will be reported to the Council for consideration, with a report seeking adoption of a final *2007 Blue Mountains Community Plan*.

ITEM NO: 6

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FILE NO: C00101

Recommendation:

That Mr Frank Garofalow, Manager of the Environmental Branch be appointed as the Chairman of the Blue Mountains Local Emergency Management Committee.

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate Group:

The State Emergency and Rescue Management Act of 1989, No 165 in Section 28 (1) requires that there is established a Local Emergency Management Committee for each local government area. The committee is responsible for the preparation of plans in relation to the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies in the local government area for which it is constituted. Each committee is to consist of a senior representative of the council of the relevant local government area, a senior representative of each emergency services organisation operating in that local government area, representatives of organisations providing services in functional areas (ie: water and electricity providers), and the Local Emergency Operations Controller (senior Police Officer) for that local government area.

The Act requires, under Sec 28 (2), “each Committee is to consist of:

- (a) a senior representative of the council of the relevant local government area nominated by that council, who is to be the Chairperson of the Committee.”

The Act further requires under Sect 28 (3), “ The Chairperson of a Committee is to be a person who has the authority of the council to co-ordinate the use of the council’s resources in the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies.”

The position is traditionally filled by a senior manager from council who is engaged in the active supervision of the emergency management portfolio. The manager must have the authority and the ability to commit council’s resources during times of emergency. Mr Garofalow meets these requirements.

Mr Garofalow has acted as the Chairman of the Blue Mountains Local Emergency Management Committee in excess of two years and has earned a reputation of credibility in that position from members of that Committee.

It is recommended that Mr Frank Garofalow, Manager of the Environmental Branch be appointed as the Chairman of the Blue Mountains Local Emergency Management Committee.

ITEM NO: 7

SUBJECT: YELLOW ROCK BUSH FIRE STATION

FILE NO: C01728

Recommendation:

That the information contained in this report be noted.

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:

Introduction

At the ordinary meeting of Council on 21 November 2006, Council resolved:

“That a report be made available outlining current research into land availability at Yellow Rock for use by the Yellow Rock Bush Fire Brigade”.

(Minute No. 814, 21/11/06)

Background

The Rural Fire Service in the Blue Mountains has an established Rural Fire Station at Winmalee. This station services the areas of Winmalee, Hawkesbury Heights and Yellow Rock. Winmalee Rural Fire Brigade has a number of fire appliances to provide fire cover for this area:

- Two heavy tankers, (Winmalee 1A & 1B)
- One pumper (used for village fire protection, Winmalee Pumper)
- One personnel carrier.

All vehicles are garaged at the Winmalee Rural Fire Station with the exception of Winmalee 1B which is housed on private property (by mutual agreement with the RFS and the land owner) at Yellow Rock.

The RFS regards any future facility at Yellow Rock to be a satellite of the Winmalee Brigade, managed by the Winmalee Brigade. The RFS has stated that a one bay station was the preferred choice of construction for the Yellow Rock area. RFS further advised that there was no money available for the project at this time.

During the 2004/05 financial year Council completed the Megalong and Wentworth Falls RFS stations. These stations ended up costing Council well in excess of the cost estimate provided by the RFS. This impacted upon other Council capital works priorities. Subsequently, Council informed the RFS that there were no further Council funds available for the construction of RFS stations for the foreseeable future. A meeting was held between the Mayor and senior council staff, the State Member for the Blue Mountains, and senior members of the RFS, including the Commissioner. At that meeting the RFS agreed to fund all capital costs for future RFS station construction in the Blue Mountains. It was agreed that one station would be built every two years starting from 2005/06 running until 2010/11.

Commencing in 2005, the RFS established a station building program for the Blue Mountains consisting of a \$235,000 grant each year for a period of six years. To date the Faulconbridge Station has been completed (2006/07) and the Valley Heights Station has been identified by the RFS as their next priority (scheduled to be completed: 2008/09). This is to be followed by Lawson (Scheduled to be completed: 2010/11). Yellow Rock would then be considered, along with Shipley, although there is no current funding allocated or timeframe set by the RFS.

Identified Sites

Despite the fact that no work is scheduled to proceed on this station for at least 5 years some investigative work has been undertaken. The Rural Fire Service has identified the following locations as possible sites:

- Crown Road,
Unformed Road, off Illingsworth Road.
- BMCC owned land,
110 Illingsworth Road.
- Education Department land
318 Singles Ridge Road.
- Vacant Crown Land, 233 Single Ridge Road,
Girl Guide Hall Site.

Council identified the only other BMCC owned land in the area as:

- Yellow Rock Reserve
Off Cooroy Crescent

Investigation Results

Unformed Road Opposite 50 Illingsworth Road

This site is an unformed Crown road, running from Illingsworth Road in a south easterly direction between private land holdings. To place a fire station on this land would require closing the road which is a lengthy process. This could only be done if no private land required the road for access, however, one private block may need this road for access for any future development. This cannot be determined without detailed study. The road reserve is only 10 m wide, which will not allow an adequate turning circle for a large truck. The site is zoned BC, Protected Areas – Escarpment Areas and may require rezoning before any building could be constructed. It is considered that this land is not suitable for building a Rural Fire Station.

110 Illingsworth Road

This parcel of land is situated on the Eastern escarpment and has a substantial slope. The land lies at the foot of a steep hill along a very narrow carriageway. The land is zoned Rec-EP, Protected Area escarpment area. Clearing of vegetation and station construction may be inconsistent with the PA-EA classification and may require a rezoning. This site has no reticulated water, no reticulated sewer and would necessitate very costly power line extensions.

The isolation of the area may make any proposed building vulnerable to vandalism and theft. Any heavy fire appliance that was deployed from this location would be hampered by the isolation and geography. It is considered that this land is not suitable for building a Rural Fire Station.

318 Singles Ridge Road

This site was originally owned by the Department of Education. Several years ago, both Council and the RFS approached the Department seeking the land for the station. Officers from the Department said they would only consider sale of the property to Council for full market value. Neither Council nor the RFS were able to provide the funds for this. A recent search of Council's records reveal that the Department has now sold this land to private owners. This land is not available for consideration.

233 Singles Ridge Road

This land is vacant Crown land. It is fenced and currently houses the Girl Guides Hall. The site has power. There is only a small amount of cleared land, which is mostly taken up by the Girl Guides Hall. The remaining vegetation is Shale Sandstone Transitional Forest, which is an Endangered Ecological Community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. At this stage no determination has been able to be made as to whether a fire station could be fit into the remaining cleared land. The RFS may be able to negotiate with either the Department of Lands or the Girl Guides Association to erect a single bay Rural Fire Station to one side of the site if it is able to fit. If co-location can be arranged by the RFS with the Guides Association and the station can fit within the existing cleared area, then this site may be a potential candidate for a Rural Fire Station.

Yellow Rock Reserve:

This parcel of land is situated on a severe slope that falls away to a cliff. It is zoned Rec-EP, PA-escarpment area. It is extremely vulnerable to any fire attack that may come from the deep gully behind it. This land is not suitable to build any structure on.

Conclusion

Council is using its limited resources to focus on the stations that the Rural Fire Service has identified as having the highest priority. In accordance with the RFS priorities, there are no plans to commence significant work on Yellow Rock Bushfire Station for a number of years.

Yellow Rock has limited potential locations for a Rural Fire Station and co-location may be the best option. As no activity is scheduled for a number of years, other opportunities may arise in the meantime.

ITEM NO: 8

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE / DONATIONS –
RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

FILE NO: C00944

Recommendation:

That the Council approve the following donations from the Councillors' Minor Local Projects Vote:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Springwood Chamber of Commerce Foundation Day Committee</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre Inc</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>
<i>Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>

Report by General Manager:

On 11 July 2000 the Council adopted a revised Policy for Councillors' Minor Local Projects allocations for the provision of community assistance/donations. The following recommendations for donation, which appear to fall within the ambit of the Policy, have been received and are submitted for approval.

Minor Local Projects

<u>Recommending Councillor</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cr C Van der Kley	Springwood Foundation Day Committee	Springwood Foundation Day Prize	\$50.00
Cr L Trindall	Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre	Now and Then Club Project Promotion	\$50.00
Cr L Trindall	Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre Inc	Support for International Women's Day 2007	\$60.00
Cr A Brown	Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre Inc	Support for International Women's Day 2007	\$100.00
Cr A Brown	Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre	Administrative Costs	\$300.00

ITEM NO: 9

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS PAPER – TENDER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE BLAXLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY, CONSTRUCTION OF CRIPPLE CREEK DIVERSION B, CONSTRUCTION OF LANDFILL B AND THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SITE ENTRANCE: CONTRACT NO. EM BWMF 01/2006

FILE NO: F00113

Recommendations:

1. *That the Business Paper be deferred for consideration until all other business of this meeting has been concluded.*
 2. *That the Council close part of the Council Meeting for consideration of the Business Paper Tender for the Operation of the Blaxland Waste Management Facility, construction of Cripple Creek Diversion B, construction of Landfill B and the design and construction of a new site entrance: Contract No. EM BWMF 01/2006 pursuant to the provisions of Section 10A(2)(c) and (d) of the Local Government Act 1993, as the report contains, and discussion is likely to involve:*
 - a) *information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business; and*
 - b) *commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.*
-

Report by General Manager:

This matter has been listed in the Confidential Business Paper because consideration of the matter will involve discussion of sensitive contract issues that would best take place in a meeting which has been closed to the public in accordance with the provisions of Section 10A of the Local Government Act 1993.

The matter to be dealt with relates to a tender submission and a recommendation to negotiate specific aspects of that submission.

Section 10A of the Act requires that any proposal to close part of a meeting to the public be notified in the agenda, and a resolution to close part of a meeting to the public be passed setting out reasons for doing so. In this case, the reason for closing that part of the meeting to consider Item C1 in the Confidential Business Paper is that the report contains, and discussion is likely to involve, information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting business and contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

PRECIS OF SELECTED
CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NO: 10

SUBJECT: PRECIS OF SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE, 20/2/2007

FILE NO: C00680

Recommendation:

That the Precis of Selected Correspondence be received and appropriate letters forwarded where necessary.

1. 8/1/2007 – Australian Red Cross

Inviting the Council to become a Local Government Friend of Australian Red Cross.

2. 22/1/2007 – Resident of Wentworth Falls

Thanking the Council staff for the prompt action taken when a garbage bin was not fully emptied.

3. 22/1/2007 – Resident of Wentworth Falls

Thanking the Council ranger who attended the dog attack matter that they reported. The resident stated that the ranger is a “quite considerable asset to the Council team”.

4. 29/1/2007 – N.S.W. Rural Fire Service

Thanking the Council and staff for the support provided during the Lawson’s Long Alley s44 Bush fire.

5. 30/1/2007 – Wyatt Consultants Pty Ltd.

Letter expressing sincere and profound appreciation for the excellent customer service received when recently contacting the Council Rangers.

6. 31/1/2007 – Electoral Commission NSW

Notifying the Council of changes to the electoral legislation regarding the display of posters which contain electoral material.

7. 1/2/2007 – Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Congratulating the Council on winning a range of Local Government and Shires Association awards for various Council environmental management projects and activities.

8. 2/2/2007 – Chamber of Commerce and Industry Lawson

Thanking the Council for erecting a new, far more sturdy, gate on the vehicle access point onto the former Lawson Golf Course.

9. 5/2/2007 - Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

Congratulating the Council and staff members on gaining five awards at the recent 2006 NSW Local Government Environmental Awards.

10. 5/2/2007 - Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services

Informing the Council that the applications for funding under AusLink's Strategic Regional Programme have been unsuccessful.

11. 6/2/2007 – Letter sent to Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc

Attachment 1 is a copy of the letter sent after the resolution of the Council Meeting of 30/1/2007, (Minute No. 10).

Attachment 1
(The Council letter to Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc)



6 February 2007



Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc
PO Box 17
Wentworth Falls 2782

Dear Society Members,

Historical Development of Local Government in the Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains City Council, at a recent meeting, has resolved to document on behalf of the public the historical development of local government in the Blue Mountains.

A copy of the relevant Business Paper is attached for your information and the background history information available from our Library Service.

We would appreciate the input of the Blue Mountains Historical Society Inc to the presentation of the historical activities to the community. The historical facts researched by our library staff, John Merriman and John Low, is contained with the report.

I would appreciate discussing this profile with you at your earliest convenience and am available on either 02 47805509 or 0414 195509.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bargenquast
Executive Officer

Encls.

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RESPONSE(S) TO QUESTION(S)
WITHOUT NOTICE

RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Ordinary Meeting, 20/2/07

ITEM NO: 11

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – ACCESS AND EQUITY WORKING GROUP

FILE NO: C07796

Question from Councillor Trindall (30/1/07):

Who is on the Access and Equity Committee and what is the status of this Committee?

Response from Group Manager, Community & Corporate:

In January 2000, the Blue Mountains City Council adopted the Access and Equity Policy. Through adoption of this Policy, it has provided a framework for the Council to support an ongoing “whole of Council” approach to achieving access and equity in service provision and in its day to day practises.

Since its initiation in 2001, the Blue Mountains City Council Access and Equity Working Group has coordinated Access and Equity work across the organisation and with external groups.

In 2005, the Access and Equity Working Group, for a period of 12 months, did not meet due to staffing issues; however it was re-established in June 2006. The Working Group is made up of the Council’s representatives and community representatives.

The Council staff on this Committee are from the following branches:

- Corporate Planning;
- Human Resources;
- Assets;
- Executive Services;
- Library Services; and
- Building and Construction.

The community representatives on the Working Group are from the following organisations:

- Mountains Community Resource Network;
- Multicultural Cultural Residents Associations; and
- Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre: Disability Services.

The Council’s Aged and Disability Services Development Officer convenes the Working Group and coordinates the actions of the Working Group. The Working Group meets on a monthly basis, every second month the meeting is attended by the community representatives.

The Working Group since its re-establishment in June 2006 has implemented the following initiatives:

- In consultation with the Council's Assets Branch installed the Master Lock Access Key (MLAK) on key disabled toilets across the Blue Mountains to assist people with a disability, their carers and special needs groups to access the toilet facilities that are normally locked after hours;
- Provision of information on the Master Lock Access Key System and how to obtain a key on the Council's website;
- Briefing session for the Access and Equity Working Group and key community representatives from the Disability Sector on the Lawson Town Centre redevelopment;
- Review of products to assist the hearing impaired better communicate with Councils Customer Services staff at the Council;
- Review of the Council's Access and Equity training needs;
- Installation of Braille signage at Katoomba Falls;
- Input into Access and Equity issues in relation to the Cultural Centre Precinct;
- Upgrading of pedestrian access across Leura Mall in the town centre;
- Provision of a plastic wheelchair for Blackheath Pool; and
- Installation of a mobility hoist at Springwood pool to assist people with a disability.

The Access and Equity Working Group is currently developing its action plan for 2007/2008.

Proposed key actions for 2007/2008 include:

- Initiate Access Awards with local businesses and community groups to promote best practise methods in the provision of access for people with disabilities;
- Develop a mobility map for a town centre to assist the disabled, those with temporary mobility difficulties and parents with children prams better access the town centres;
- Implement Access and Equity training program for the Council's Officers; and
- Ongoing input into the Lawson Town Centre redevelopment and the Cultural Centre Precinct.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT
NOTICE**

Item 12 - Ordinary Meeting, 20/2/07

ITEM NO: 12

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – PETITIONERS
IN PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

FILE NO: C00680

Question from Councillor McInnes (30/1/07):

Can we ensure the number of petitioners be included in any relevant correspondence for the Precis of Correspondence?

Response from Executive Officer:

When the Precis of Selected Correspondence report is compiled the number of petitioners will now be included.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT
NOTICE**

Item 13 - Ordinary Meeting, 20/2/07

ITEM NO: 13

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – LETTER ON
INFORMATION**

FILE NO: C07871

Question from Councillor Myles (30/1/07):

Can a letter be sent from Acting General Manager to John Low and John Merriman on the quality and efficiency with which information on the historical development of local government in the Blue Mountains was executed?

Response from Executive Officer:

Letters were sent to John Low and John Merriman dated 8 February 2007, signed by the Acting General Manager.