

**ITEM NO: 15****SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DONATIONS PROGRAM 2009****FILE NO: F04997, F04900**

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**Recommendation:**

*That the Council, as authorised by Section 356 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, grant financial assistance to the community organisations as detailed in the attached schedule (see Attachment 1).*

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**Report by Group Manager, Community & Corporate:****Purpose of this Report:**

The purpose of this report is to present the funding recommendations of the Community Donations Advisory Committee to the Council for endorsement.

The Council's Community Donations Advisory Committee met on 2 June 2009 to consider applications from local community organisations and groups. The committee was comprised of Councillors Terri Hamilton, Chris Van Der Kley and Fiona Creed. Councillor Alison McLaren was unable to attend but did review the applications.

**Funding**

Funds available for local community organisations through the Community Donations Program 2008/2009 total \$49,490. From this total an amount of \$2,500 has already been distributed to the Blue Mountains Family Support Service and to the Lower Mountains Family Support Service to contribute to their Christmas emergency food relief funds. An allocation of \$5,000 has also been made to the Blue Mountains City Band. These allocations have been made in line with the Council's Resolution Minute No.627 at its Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th December 1998.

This leaves \$39,490 available to support local community organisations through the Community Donations Program in the annual 2008/2009 funding round.

**Assessment of Funding Requests**

Community Donations applications were assessed against the Council's adopted Guidelines for Community Donations which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcommunity/communityservices/communitygrants>.

Section 2.5 of these Guidelines states that, "*Proposals that address Access and Equity principles will be given priority.*" Access and Equity activities or strategies are those that benefit both the broad community and/or particular target groups and help to:

- Promote fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those most in need;
- Recognise and promote people's rights and improve the accountability of decision makers;
- Ensure people have fairer access to the resources and services essential to meeting their needs and improving their quality of life; and

- Give people better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives.

### Overview of Community Donations Requests

A total of 60 applications were received requesting Community Donations totalling \$50,495. Of these, 31 applications were for projects or activities with a Citywide focus as distinct from an Area focus (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Number of Applications Received by Area, with amounts of funding requested and amounts recommended.**

Area	Application Total	Amount Requested	Recommended
AREA 1 Mounts – Blackheath	10	\$7,780	\$6,050
AREA 2 Wentworth Falls – Medlow Bath	6	\$6,275	\$4,200
AREA 3 Bullaburra – Linden	3	\$3,000	\$2,750
AREA 4 Faulconbridge – Valley Heights	4	\$4,350	\$4,000
AREA 5 Warrimoo – Lapstone	6	\$5,110	\$4,500
CITYWIDE	31	\$23,980	\$17,990
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$50,495</b>	<b>\$39,490</b>

Of the 60 applications received the Advisory Committee has recommended a total of 57 projects for funding totalling \$39,490.

The Mountains Youth Services Team and the Mountains Community Resource Network did not complete their 2008 projects. The Advisory Committee recommended as per the Community Donations Guidelines that they not receive funding under the 2009 program.

### Section 5.1 - Funding Agreements and Accountability

‘All projects successful in receiving funding will be required to submit a report on the expenditure of the community donation. This report is required before an organisation is able to apply for subsequent funding under the BMCC Community Donations Program.’

The Advisory Committee recommend that the two organisations implement their 2008 project in 2009.

*Attachment 1* provides a summary of the applications received and the funding recommended by the Community Donations Advisory Committee.

### Sustainability Assessment

Criteria	Positive	Negative
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Donations Program recognises the contribution that community organisations make to the quality of life and well being of the local community. These organisations provide a diverse range of activities and services addressing the needs</li> </ul>	Nil

	<p>of local residents. The Council’s contribution to these community organisations builds on and develops their capacity to provide local activities and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial assistance provided to the organisations enhances greatly the capacity of local community organisations, and in many cases unpaid volunteers, to provide services and activities for local residents. The benefits to the local community are returned by local community organisations far in excess of the monetary contribution from the Council’s Community Donations Program.</li> </ul>	
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Economic	Community Donations funding supports local economic activity through expenditure of funding on local materials and events.	Nil

**Legal and Risk Management Issues**

There are no legal and risk management issues to note.

**Consultation**

Requests for funding were called for over a five week period from 18 March 2009 to 27 April 2009. The program was advertised in the Blue Mountains Gazette on 18 and 25 March 2009.

**Conclusion**

The projects and the recommendations of the Community Donations Advisory Committee are outlined in *Attachment 1*. These projects and the work and activities of these community organisations, will bring numerous benefits to Blue Mountains residents. The Community Donations Program is an important contribution to, and acknowledgement by the Council of the important role played by the community sector in improving the quality of life and wellbeing of the local community.

It is recommended that the Council, as authorised by Section 356 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993, grant financial assistance to the community organisations as recommended by the Advisory Committee in *Attachment 1*.

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*Attachment x 1*

Community Donations Summary Sheet and Advisory Committee Recommendations

## Attachment

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
<b>Area 1 ~ Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine to Blackheath</b>						
1.1	Megalong Valley Community Association Inc.		<i>2010 Megalong Valley Family Fun Day</i>	An annual event which provides a free day of fun, recreation and friendly competition for all ages.	\$800	\$800
1.2	Blue Gum Children's House Montessori Preschool		<i>Replacement of Outdoor Furniture</i>	Funds required to replace aging outdoor equipment for the sandpit and vegetable garden.	\$830	\$500
1.3	Blackheath Baptist Church Playtime	Blackheath Baptist Church	<i>Upgrade of Equipment</i>	Playtime is in need of jumping balls, ball inflation pump, puzzles, bulk cottage pack, lamaze activity pack, wooden families for play and a small workbench.	\$300	\$500
1.4	Mountains Youth Services Team		<i>Spray Away - Upper Mountains Graffiti Removal</i>	Funds to employ a graffiti removal supervisor to supervise young people who have been charged for graffiti crimes to undertake graffiti removal as a form of community service.	\$1,500	\$0
1.5	Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre Inc.		<i>Upper Mountains Community Capacity Building Initiative</i>	Support the development of the Blackheath School for Seniors program. To introduce and develop an Upper Mountains Community Choir and to hold a day long community inclusion festival in September 2009.	\$1,500	\$1,500
1.6	St Aidan's Play Centre	St Aidan's Anglican Church Blackheath	<i>Purchase of Story/Picture Books</i>	Purchase of story/picture books for pre-school aged children.	\$300	\$500
1.7	Blackheath Kookaburra Kindergarten Inc.		<i>Blackheath Kookaburra Kindergarten Inc.</i>	To purchase a computer desk with two chairs suitable for 3-6 year olds. The remaining funds will be used to purchase a computer tower for the use of children, this will give the children an introduction to computers and information technology.	\$750	\$500
1.8	1st Blackheath Scout Group	The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch	<i>Construction and installation of handrail on ramp</i>	In response to BMCC requirements a concrete ramp has been built to enable access to the hall by people with disabilities, to complete the project a steel handrail must be manufactured and installed.	\$700	\$700

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
1.9	Mt Victoria Community Association Inc.		<i>Mt Victoria Community</i>	Liability insurance for community events, hall hire and other meeting expenses, youth activities, print & stationery	\$750	\$750
1.10	Possum's Patch Child Care Centre	Mt Victoria Public School Extended Hours Pre-school and Early Learning Centre Inc.	<i>Sand Pit Covers</i>	Made to measure sandpit cover by Shadescape which will be secure, keeping the sand clean and safe to use by children.	\$750	\$500
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AREA 1</b>					<b>\$7,780</b>	<b>\$6,050</b>
<b>Area 2 ~ Medlow Bath to Wentworth Falls</b>						
2.1	Gunedoo Child Protection Service Inc.		<i>Enhancing therapeutic access for carers</i>	Purchase of childcare to assist parents to access both individual and group therapy at the centre, increasing parental support.	\$750	\$800
2.2	The Salvation Army Upper Blue Mountains		<i>The Salvation Army Breakfast Club</i>	To replace kitchen equipment used by volunteers who cook breakfast for the homeless and socially isolated.	\$1,025	\$800
2.3	KU Children's Services		<i>Early Language and Literacy</i>	To purchase quality children's books and engage professional storytellers and parents into the children's program to enhance the children's understanding of language and literature.	\$1,500	\$500
2.4	Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre Inc.		<i>Connecting the Community</i>	1. Provision of free community lunches for people isolated and financial disadvantaged. 2. Newsletters for Katoomba Volunteer Home Visitors. 3. Newsletters for Community Visitors Scheme.	\$1,500	\$1,500
2.5	Katoomba Dance Theatre		<i>The Well Spring Group</i>	An ongoing dance class catering specifically for people with disabilities. Funding will be used to provide safety equipment, such as gym mats and other items to support the needs of the participants, including stimulating and interactive sensory materials.	\$750	\$500
2.6	Katoomba Leura Preschool Inc.		<i>The Private Place Centre</i>	The Private Place Centre will help preschoolers develop a greater understanding of their	\$750	\$500

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				emotions and how to manage their sensory processing needs. It will include soft furnishings, child size furniture, books and mirrors.		
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AREA 2</b>					<b>\$6,275</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>
<b>Area 3 ~ Bullaburra to Linden</b>						
3.1	Lawson Baptist Church		<i>Artificial Ground Cover for Play yard</i>	Purchase and install artificial ground turf for the rear yard / play ground. The natural grass is completely degraded by continuous use and is now unsuitable for outside activities.	\$750	\$500
3.2	Youth Futures Group Inc. (MMYC)		<i>The Mid Mountains Youth Centre</i>	These funds will enable the centre to update equipment ensuring activities, programs and workshops continued resourcing.	\$750	\$750
3.3	Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre		<i>MMNC Support of Community Activities</i>	Publication & distribution of quarterly 'Mid Mountains News', Lawson Volunteer Home Visitors, subsidise hall hire fees to disadvantage groups.	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AREA 3</b>					<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$2,750</b>
<b>Area 4 ~ Faulconbridge to Valley Heights</b>						
4.1	Springwood Neighbourhood Centre		<i>Looking Back - Looking Forward</i>	To research, write and publish the 30 year history of SNCC as it is the oldest neighbourhood centre in the Blue Mountains, this year.	\$1,500	\$1,500
4.2	Winmalee & District Preschool Kindergarten Inc.		<i>Winmalee &amp; District Preschool Kindergarten</i>	To purchase an air-conditioning/heater for the centre's play room.	\$750	\$500
4.3	Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc.		<i>Administration</i>	Administration, including audit fees, photocopy, fax maintenance, stationery and administration of groups and workshops.	\$1,400	\$1,400
4.4	Blue Mountains Disability Services Ltd.		<i>Around the World</i>	To facilitate the learning of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders and other cultures. An interactive program to learn art, music, history and the culture of the world around us.	\$700	\$600
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AREA 4</b>					<b>\$4,350</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Area 5 ~ Warrimoo to Lapstone</b>						
5.1	Glenbrook		<i>Sporting</i>	Replacement of	\$750	\$750

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
	Swimming Club Inc.		<i>Equipment</i>	equipment lost in fire at Glenbrook Pool caused by vandals. Equipment is needed to run club events and fund raising activities.		
5.2	Blue Mountains Creative Arts Centre Inc.		<i>Display Signs</i>	Losses incurred during recent financial years, part of efforts to overcome this problem is to increase awareness of location to the public. Seeking funds to update signage show location and functions.	\$750	\$750
5.3	Euroka Children's Centre Inc		<i>Children's Week Celebrations</i>	To provide opportunities for all local families to have access to educational experiences and to join with Centre in celebrating the lives of children. Events will be free.	\$760	\$500
5.4	Lapstone OOSH		<i>Construction / Engineering</i>	For the purchase of Meccano, Eitech and Woodwork Kits to support a unit on construction and design. Project is specifically designed to inspire creativity and cognitive development and cater for the interests of boys aged 8-12.	\$600	\$500
5.5	Glenbrook Preschool Kindergarten Inc.		<i>Music Library</i>	To purchase equipment and develop a music library for the children and families who attend the service. The music and movement resources will assist in educating the children on the importance of physical activity and weight control.	\$750	\$500
5.6	Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre		<i>Lower Mountains Information Resources</i>	Production of 'Chats' Community information Newsletter. Community Guide to the Lower Mountains.	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AREA 5</b>					<b>\$5,110</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
<b>City Wide</b>						
CW.1	Disability Enterprises		<i>International Day of People with a Disability Banner</i>	Over the past 4 years Disability Enterprises has held a very successful art exhibition at Katoomba Fine Art Gallery. Funding is for 2 x Banners at \$550 each, it is understood that the limit of funding is \$750 but as the banners are promoting BMCC, it is requested that there be one for each direction of	\$1,100	\$600

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				Great Western Highway.		
CW.2	Blue Mountains Concert Band		<i>Bathurst Eisteddfod</i>	Funding will assist the band in competing at Bathurst Eisteddfod through Coach Hire to transport players and instruments.	\$750	\$500
CW.3	Lower Mountains Family Support Service	The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)	<i>Print Options</i>	LMFSS produces flyers and promotional material for parent groups, family work and emergency relief. We wish to use funds to contribute to the cost of a replacement copier for the service.	\$750	\$750
CW.4	NSW Women's Refuge Movement Working Party		<i>Expressive Art/ Therapeutic Workshops for Women</i>	The workshops are for women who have previously resided at the Refuge and who are now living in the local community.	\$750	\$600
CW.5	Blue Mountains Water Polo Inc.		<i>Fire Damaged Equipment</i>	The funds will be used to purchase replacement equipment which has been damaged or destroyed in a recent fire caused by vandalism at Glenbrook Pool.	\$750	\$750
CW.6	Blue Mountains Family History Society		<i>Family History Special Interest &amp; Access Groups</i>	To develop Family History Special Interest and Access Groups within the Society and BM Community for better access and equity for members and residents in the family history/genealogical research.	\$750	\$400
CW.7	Upper Blue Mountains Combined Division St John Ambulance Aust (NSW)		<i>Fireground Safety Training</i>	The aim of the project is to train members in fireground safety thus enabling St John to provide First Aid services to fire fighters and other involved in major fires within the Blue Mountains at Staging Areas and other locations as directed by the Incident Controller.	\$550	\$540
CW.8	Mikayla Children's Centre Inc		<i>Feeling Safe to Explore my World</i>	The service is supporting a significant number of children who are disadvantaged, vulnerable and have high social and emotional needs. The project will focus on exploring nature, music and their social and cultural environments.	\$550	\$500
CW.9	Blue Gum Inc.		<i>Resource Library Update</i>	To purchase relevant books, visual and audio resources for use of	\$500	\$500

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				clients and workers/facilitators in the provision of services that include counselling, groups and information sessions on issues such as healthy relationships, anger, parenting and breaking isolation.		
CW.10	Academy Singers Inc.		<i>2010 Singing Day</i>	Open to all interested singers in the Blue Mountains LGA. The 2010 Singing Day will consist of free choral workshops - one for men, one for the so-called tone deaf and one focussing on a major choral work with instrumental accompaniment.	\$750	\$500
CW.11	Sylvanvale Foundation		<i>Mixed Abilities Community Choir</i>	Establish a community choir that supports people with intellectual and physical disabilities to sing alongside people from the mainstream community.	\$750	\$500
CW.12	Blue Mountains Food Services Inc.		<i>In Your Face' Collaborative Portrait Workshop</i>	Provide portrait skills workshops to participants of 'Healing thru Creativity' and others living or struggling with mental health problems.	\$520	\$500
CW.13	Mountains Community Resource Network Inc.		<i>Blue Mountains Community Interagency and Building the capacity of our sector</i>	Funds will enable MCRN to adequately resource the Blue Mountains Community Interagency meetings by financing venue hire and other relevant resources. MCRN will use the funds also to further resource the Multicultural Interagency as well as BM ANTaR archives and meetings.	\$1,500	\$0
CW.14	Blue Mountains Family Support Service		<i>Blue Mountains Family Support Service</i>	Purchase of equipment / resources to promote and benefit those who access our service, including those utilising our group community room.	\$750	\$750
CW.15	Mountains Outreach Community Service Inc.		<i>Parenting Young</i>	Funds will be used to enhance the health and wellbeing of young parents in the Blue Mountains through providing personal growth, relationships and leadership workshops to help forward their success as parents and promote fulfilment in their own lives. These	\$1,500	\$1,500

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				workshops can't be provided under our Families NSW funds.		
CW.16	St Hilda's Anglican Church	Anglican Diocese of Sydney	<i>KidzArtz 2008</i>	To fund the children's art/craft program in the July school holidays. Funding will enable the church to provide quality resources while keeping costs low for many families on minimum incomes.	\$800	\$800
CW.17	Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre Inc.		<i>Making ourselves heard</i>	Contribution towards the purchase of a sound PA and microphone suitable for use at larger events held by the Centre. The total cost of equipment is around \$1500. This grant would be a contribution towards the purchase of the equipment.	\$300	\$300
CW.18	Riding for the Disabled		<i>The Friday Night Disco</i>	The money will be used to hire the hall at Lawson for Discos, plus stationery, printing of notices, stamps and equipment needed for the disco - music, CDs etc.	\$750	\$800
CW.19	Springwood Music Club	The Federated Music Clubs of Australia	<i>Classical Music for all Ages, Children to Seniors</i>	To organise 5 classical music concerts in 2009, employing local artists. Supervised children, up to 18 years of age are admitted free. Students and Seniors receive a concession. Costs are artists fees, hall hire and publicity.	\$750	\$500
CW.20	Orpheus Strings Music Society Inc.		<i>Performance 2009</i>	Give four orchestral concerts in the Blue Mountains, perform at Blue Mountains Hospital benefits concert, feature at least two local soloists and perform one or more works by local composer.	\$750	\$500
CW.21	Fusion Blue Mountains		<i>High School Breakfast Clubs and Festivals</i>	To purchase tables, chairs and shade shelters for use in breakfast clubs in the local high schools (Katoomba, Winmalee, Springwood and Blaxland) and for community festivals and day trips with local youth.	\$750	\$500
CW.22	Blue Mountains Recreation and Respite Service Inc.		<i>Fantastic 'Super Dooper' Christmas Extravaganza</i>	BMRRS will provide an opportunity for people who are isolated and financially disadvantaged to share a Christmas meal, entertainment and a gift. Approximately 35 adults with a disability	\$750	\$500

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				living in the Blue Mountains will participate.		
CW.23	Blackheath Phoenix Choir Inc.		<i>Music Learning Skills</i>	To enhance uniform music learning choir would like to purchase computer software package and blank CD's to reproduce (with copyright permission) appropriate sections of selected music	\$300	\$500
CW.24	Blue Mountains Youth Accommodation and Support Service		<i>Young Women's Social Network</i>	Provide ongoing support to young isolated women experiencing homelessness and isolation via the tools of a regular social network club facilitated by BMYASS.	\$500	\$500
CW.25	Upper Blue Mountains Group - ABA	Australian Breastfeeding Association	<i>Venue Hire for Group Discussion Meetings</i>	Venue hire in Lawson and Katoomba for fortnightly discussion meeting. To make meetings accessible to as many as with to come - mothers and their support people.	\$380	\$200
CW.26	Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains Inc.		<i>To provide updated BBQ equipment to meet regulations in order to continue to do community BBQs</i>	The club has been involved in undertaking community BBQs (at no cost) for many community events from Katoomba to Woodford, for schools, retirement villages and indigenous groups. The club would like to purchase equipment to construct a portable BBQ system which will make it easier to cook and serve.	\$750	\$800
CW.27	Iris Society of Australia/NSW Region		<i>Annual Iris Show at Blackheath October 2009 plus maintenance of Iris trial gardens at Everglades, Leura</i>	Iris trial gardens at Everglades require fertiliser, mulch and manure plus weeding etc. The annual show involves hall hire, advertising, printing, laminating, many trophies, hired help etc.	\$700	\$200
CW.28	Dance Oolites Inc.		<i>Dance Oolites Shoes &amp; Shirts</i>	Funding will purchase jazz shoes for dance students/volunteers. At present, students are experiencing difficulty due to footwear worn. Funding will also purchase rehearsal shirts with the logo.	\$750	\$0
CW.29	Blue Mountains Special Olympics		<i>No project title</i>	Sports uniform for state competition, also to be used at Regional competitions athletes have been wearing non	\$750	\$800

Schedule of Projects Recommended for Community Donations Funding in 2009						
No	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AUSPICE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Requested	Recommended
				standard shirts for competition		
CW.30	Connect Child & Family Services		<i>Training Package - 'Parenting from the Heart'</i>	Last year community donations program funded the development at a volunteer Parent Home Visiting Scheme to support parents with young children. This years funds will be used to further develop and implement a training package for the volunteers involved in the scheme.	\$1,500	\$1,500
CW.31	Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre		<i>Mens and Womens Cultural Days</i>	To develop a series of cultural activities for men and women to reconnect to their cultural identity. The project will undertake to engage with the community to come together and create ongoing support networks and develop linkages to other services.	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED CITY-WIDE</b>					<b>\$23,980</b>	<b>\$17,990</b>
<b>TOTAL APPLICATIONS</b>					<b>\$50,495</b>	<b>\$39,490</b>

**ITEM NO:** 16

**SUBJECT:** BLUE MOUNTAINS LGA AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTION

**FILE NO:** F05348/F04900

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**Recommendations:**

1. That the Council notes the outcomes of the Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices project involving the development of guidelines providing a framework for continuous improvement in the food choices made available by the Council.

2. That the Council take a precautionary approach towards Genetically Modified (GM) food production in the LGA, until the long term benefits and risks associated with it are better understood, by:

- Opposing the introduction of GM crops in the LGA in principle;
- Advocating for the mandatory labelling of all GM products;
- Writing letters to the State and Federal Government requesting:
  - That the State Government re-impose GM Free Zones that ban commercial GM Canola; and
  - Support of mandatory labelling of all GM food.
- Making a formal request to the State Government, for Blue Mountains LGA to become a zone free of GM food production;
- Promoting the GM free Public Register on the Council's websites; and
- Promoting the Council's commitment to a precautionary approach to GM food production.

3. That the Council takes a precautionary approach towards GM food supply in the Council's food services, until the long term benefits and risks associated with it are better understood, by amending food service contracts to specify that the Council favours GM free food supplies.

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

**Reason for report**

At the Council meeting of 24 June 2008, it was resolved:

*“That the Council receive a report on the outcomes of the ‘Healthy Food Choices’ project in Quarter 4 of 2008-2009 to inform a potential way forward regarding whether or not Council should resolve to make the Blue Mountains LGA a zone free of genetically modified food production.”*

(Minute No. 526, 24/06/08)

**Background**

Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices Project

The ‘Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices - Guidelines for all Council Managed Food Services’ was launched by the Mayor on 16 March 2009. The Guidelines were well received

by approximately 25 people at the launch, consisting of a mix of internal staff members and external stakeholders from within the City.

The Guidelines provide a framework for continuous improvement in the food choices made available by the Council. The Guidelines deal with both nutrition and sustainability issues around food (such as environmental impact, chemical use, food miles, genetically modified and Fair Trade foods). It is expected that the areas of the Council that the Guidelines will cover will include:

- Council-operated leisure centre kiosks and vending machines;
- Vending machines at council facilities;
- The coffee cart at Kids Kingdom (Katoomba);
- The coffee cart at Council headquarters; and
- External catering provided for the Council.

The Guidelines provide information, resources and tools (such as an annual monitoring tool, a food and drink classification tool and recipes) that will assist food providers in making changes to more healthy and sustainable foods.

The next steps of this project are for all persons involved in providing food for Council events or services being personally briefed about the Guidelines by the Sustainability Coordinator and the Public Health Nutritionist from Blue Mountains Hospital. In particular, staff from the Leisure Centres, Executive Services, administrative staff and external caterers will be briefed. Further, the Guidelines will be made available to all staff on the intranet and advertised through the staff newsletter.

It is proposed that performance measures and targets will be developed to support the implementation of the Guidelines.

#### Healthy Food Choices Guidelines and Genetically Modified food

The Guidelines have included a section about Genetically Modified foods that sits under the heading of 'Natural Foods' in the 'Sustainability and Healthy Eating' section. This section is shown in *Attachment 1* of this report and includes a description of what Genetically Modified foods are, the types of foods that genetic modification can affect, some of the controversies surrounding Genetically Modified foods, where Genetically Modified foods come from (in Australia and overseas) and the labelling of Genetically Modified foods in Australia. In addition, readers are directed to two external sources of more information about Genetically Modified foods.

#### Current status of GM food production in the Blue Mountains LGA

There is currently no commercial GM food produced in the Blue Mountains. There are some GM canola sites in the central west, to the west of the Blue Mountains.

#### What does being a zone free from GM food production mean?

If the Council were to become a zone free of GM food production it would essentially restrict any commercial production (i.e. cropping) of GM food, including trial plots.

This differs slightly to being a 'GM free zone' which would extend the restriction to the supply of food that may have GM ingredients. As described below this is possible for the Council to do for its' own food services, but more difficult for the Council to enforce in the greater community.

### How can a Council become a zone free from Genetically Modified food production?

There are a number of actions that a Council can take to support a zone free of genetically modified food production. These include:

#### 1. Adopt a precautionary approach

The Council can formally adopt a statement that supports a precautionary approach to the introduction of GM food production until the long term risks and benefits are better understood and / or resolved. The precautionary approach might remain until:

- Stronger national laws are in place regarding GM food production;
- Mandatory labelling on all products using gene technology occurs;
- GM free zones have been established where GM free crops can be grown safely;
- Independent research results show GM organisms are harmless to health and environment; and
- A strong and enforceable liability and insurance regime is in place for GM products.

This type of statement has been adopted by a number of other Councils including Yarra Ranges Council (VIC), Palerang Council (NSW) and the City of Fremantle (WA).

#### 2. Lobby Federal and State Government

The Council could lobby State Government to re-impose GM Free Zones that essentially banned commercial GM Canola. The initial ban was lifted in March 2008. The State Government have the power to re-impose this ban (under Section 21 of the Commonwealth Gene Technology Act 2000).

Further, the Council could encourage that Australia's food standards are brought in line with stricter European rules on the labelling of GM food, so that all foods produced using gene technology are fully labelled.

#### 3. Have Blue Mountains LGA declared a zone free of GM food production

The State Government has the power to create GM Free areas via a policy principle made under Section 21 of the Commonwealth Gene Technology Act 2000. To date this has not been achieved by a Local Council.

#### 3. Promote the Gene Ethics Public register of all GM release sites etc

The Gene Ethics Network have created maps and a register of all GM release sites, GM free Council areas, GM free restaurants, GM processors etc. The Council could promote this register on the Sustainable Blue Mountains Website.

#### 4. Amend LEP to restrict GM Food

The Gene Ethics Network has sought advice from the Environmental Defenders Office which indicates that it would be possible for a council to seek to prohibit any agricultural use of GM crops by requesting that amendments be made to environmental planning instruments covering its area.

This approach is not recommended at this time, due to the significant resources it would take to achieve.

#### 5. Promote a commitment to GM free production

The Council could use its two websites and the Council pages in the Blue Mountains Gazette to promote its intention to be a zone free from GM food production.

The actions listed above only address the steps that a Council could take to become a zone free of GM food production. There is also a relatively easy action that a Council can take to ensure that the Council’s food services do not include GM ingredients. This addresses the issue of GM food supply.

A Council can amend food service contracts to require GM free foods for all Council food services. This action leaves the onus of responsibility to the food processors. Food processors are required by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) to document whether their foods are GM or not (regardless of the level of labelling required). Only GM soy, corn, canola and cotton products are sold commercially at this time, so this request should be achievable. It is recommended that the Council address the issue of supply by amending its’ food service contracts.

**Recommended Approach**

It is recommended that the Council take a precautionary approach to GM food production in the LGA. Due to the geographic nature of the LGA, it is unlikely that GM food production would become a major issue, however given the extensive controversy and unknown affects of GM food crops on both health and the environment, a precautionary approach would be a responsible way forward for the Council.

It is recommended that a precautionary approach consist of the Council:

- Formally adopting a statement:
  - Opposing the introduction of GM crops in the LGA; and
  - Advocating the mandatory labelling of all GM products.
- Writing letters to the State and Federal Government requesting:
  - That they re-impose GM Free Zones that ban commercial GM Canola;
  - Mandatory labelling of all GM food.
- Making a formal request to the State Government, for Blue Mountains LGA to become a zone free of GM food production;
- Promoting the Gene Ethics GM free Public Register on the Council’s websites; and
- Promoting the Council’s commitment to a precautionary approach to GM food production.

**Sustainability Assessment:**

This report supports a precautionary approach to GM food production in the LGA. This approach has a number of positive sustainability outcomes as summarised in the table below.

<b>Effects</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
Environmental	Limits the potential for unknown environmental and biodiversity damage that may result from GM crops.	No significant negative environmental implications.
Social	Shows positive leadership by the Council on an issue of concern to the community.  A precautionary approach protects the health of the community now and in the future.	May restrict the choice in seeds that can be cultivated on a broad scale in the LGA.
Economic	Supports the organic food industry and local and / or small-scale growers not engaged in GM food production.	No significant negative implications for local economy.

**Financial implications for the Council**

There would be no direct financial implications for the Council in taking a precautionary approach to the production of GM foods in the LGA. Some staff time would be required to implement the recommendations.

**Legal and risk management issues for the Council**

There would be no known legal or risk management implications for the Council in taking a precautionary approach to the production of GM foods in the LGA.

**External consultation**

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Sustainability Officer, Byron Shire Council;
- Local Government and Shires Association; and
- Gene Ethics Network.

**Conclusion**

This report recommends that a precautionary approach be taken by the Council towards GM food production in the LGA. It is recommended that this consist of the Council:

- Formally adopting a statement:
  - Opposing the introduction of GM crops in the LGA; and
  - Advocating the mandatory labelling of all GM products.
- Writing letters to the State and Federal Government requesting:
  - That they re-impose GM Free Zones that ban commercial GM Canola;
  - Mandatory labelling of all GM food.
- Making a formal request to the State Government, for Blue Mountains LGA to become a zone free of GM food production;
- Promoting the Gene Ethics GM free Public Register on the Council's websites; and
- Promoting the Council's commitment to a precautionary approach to GM food production.

Further, this report recommends that the Council take a precautionary approach towards GM food supply in the Council's food services, until the long term benefits and risks associated with it are better understood, by amending food service contracts to specify that the Council favours GM free food supply.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Attachment x 1*

Excerpt about GM foods from the Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices - Guidelines

## Attachment 1 – Excerpt about GM foods from the Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices – Guidelines

### *Genetically Modified (GM) Foods*

Genetically modified (GM) foods are foods made from genetically modified organisms (GMO) that have had their DNA altered through genetic engineering. GM foods were first put on the market in the early 1990s. The most common modified foods are derived from plants: soybean, corn, canola, and cotton seed oil.

Controversies surrounding GM foods and crops commonly focus on food production, human and environmental safety, labelling and consumer choice, intellectual property rights, ethics, food security, poverty reduction and environmental conservation. GM organisms are very much an unknown quantity, and it is impossible to anticipate all potential effects on human health and the environment. The risks of new technologies and their implications for human health and the environment can only really be assessed after they have been in use for many years.

There are two sources of GM food in Australia, locally grown and imported.

**Local:** In mid 2008 there are two GM food crops approved for growing in Australia, GM cotton and GM canola. GM cottonseed oil is used extensively in Australian fast food outlets, and GM cotton plant by-products are used for animal feed. GM canola will enter the food chain as oil for human consumption and probably in by-product form (“canola cake”) for animal feed.

**Imported:** The Federal Government, via Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ), has approved the sale of the following imported GM food items, either whole or as processed ingredients: soy, corn, potato, sugar beet, canola, cotton, and several food processing enzymes of GM origin. These GM products may be found in food for human consumption and in animal feed.

### *The Labelling of GM Food in Australia*

In July 2000 Australian and NZ Health Ministers resolved to require the labelling of GM foods; these resolutions became law in December 2001. There are exemptions to labeling however, which include:

- • highly refined food (eg. sugars or oils);
- • processing aids and food additives (eg. refined soy lecithin);
- • flavours in small amounts;
- • food prepared at the point of sale (e.g. fast food outlets and restaurants);
- • food containing up to 1% of GM material - “where its presence is unintended”;
- • eggs, meat and milk from animals that have been fed GM feed.

### *More information about GM Foods*

- • GreenPeace True Food Guide [www.truefood.org.au](http://www.truefood.org.au)
- • Blue Mountains Food Co-op ‘Eating Naturally and Avoiding GM Foods Information Guide’ [www.bluemtnsfood.asn.au](http://www.bluemtnsfood.asn.au)

**ITEM NO:** 17

**SUBJECT:** TENDER FOR RETAIL SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY

**FILE NO:** F04316 – 09/093211

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**Recommendations:**

- 1. That the Council accept the tendered rates for retail electricity supply for major sites from TRUenergy for the 18 month period commencing 1 July 2009.*
  - 2. That the Council accept the tendered rates for retail electricity supply for street lighting from TRUenergy for the 30 month period commencing 1 July 2009.*
  - 3. That the Council accept the tendered rates for retail electricity supply for greenpower from COzero for the 18 month period commencing 1 July 2009.*
  - 4. That should the withdrawal from the State Government Contract 777 attract a penalty greater than the savings made by acceptance of the above recommendations 1 – 3 inclusive, then:*
    - a). The Council continue with the State Government Contract 777 for supply of electricity for major building sites and for greenpower, for the 12 month period commencing 1 July 2009.*
    - b). The Council accept the tendered rates for retail electricity supply for street lighting from TRUenergy for the 12 month period commencing 1 July 2009.*
    - c). The Council continue to participate in further tendering processes for supply of retail electricity for major building sites and greenpower, for the immediate period following expiration of the State Government Contract 777.*
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**Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate**

**Reason for report**

This report has been prepared to seek the approval of the Council, in accordance with the Council Tendering Policy, and the Local Government Act 1993, to enter into a contract for the retail supply of electricity for the Council's major sites, unmetered street lighting and greenpower. The tender was coordinated by the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC), and included nine participating Councils.

**Background**

The Council has been a party to State Government Contract 777 for the period 1 July 2006 until 30 June 2009 for the retail supply of electricity to the major building sites. The State Government Contract 777 nominated supplier is Energy Australia. Major building sites are those which consume in excess of 160MWhrs per annum and include:

- Council Headquarters
- Springwood Office & Library
- Katoomba Depot
- Katoomba Civic Centre & Shopping Arcade
- Katoomba Caravan Park
- Katoomba Emergency services Centre
- Katoomba Sports and Aquatic Centre
- Springwood Sports and Aquatic Centre
- Glenbrook Aquatic Centre

During 2007 the Council resolved to supplement the original contract with the inclusion of 10% greenpower at these sites.

Retail electricity for unmetered street lighting had been purchased under a 3 year contract with Integral Energy which expired on 30 September 2008. Since then this electricity has been purchased from Integral Energy outside of a contract at market rates. Market rates for street lighting have averaged out at lower than current contract rates, but are subject to significant monthly fluctuations.

In December 2008 the Department of Commerce (DoC) determined to extend the State Government Contract 777 for a further 12 months from 1 July 2009, albeit at increased rates. The Council was notified of this extension late in December 2008 and in order to be a party to the contract was required to commit to the offer by 30 January 2009.

Discussions were being held within WSROC regarding tendering for electricity supply, however there was not sufficient time to arrange for formal tendering before the closure date for the State Government Contract 777.

Comparative costing was sought from other retailers, however the State Government Contract 777 rates remained at the time, the best option for the Council, in that it provided surety of cost for 2009/10 until alternative tendering could be arranged. This same approach was adopted by six other Councils that ultimately took part in the WSROC tender process.

Currently the Council is a party to State Government Contract 777 for the retail supply of electricity for major building sites (including 10% greenpower), and is purchasing retail electricity for street lighting at open market rates.

#### **Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils - Tender**

In response to the increases in the above referred State Government Contract (up to 45% increase for peak period supplies), the Council joined with other WSROC Councils in calling for tenders for the retail supply of electricity for major building sites, street lighting, and greenpower. Participating Councils in this tender process have been:

- Auburn Municipal Council
- Baulkham Hills Shire Council
- Blue Mountains City Council
- Fairfield City Council
- Hawkesbury City Council
- Kiama Municipal Council
- Liverpool City Council

- Penrith City Council
- Wingecarribee Shire Council

WSROC Supply Management Group appointed Trans Tasman Energy Group (TTEG) to call public tenders for the supply of retail electricity to the Councils, and administer the tender process. The tender was advertised widely from 7 April 2009.

Five companies submitted Tender Responses:

- AGL Energy Pty Ltd
- COzero Pty Ltd
- Energy Australia
- Integral Energy Australia Pty Ltd
- TRUenergy Pty Ltd

Tenders closed on 30 April 2009. Tenders were received and assessed by the Tender Evaluation Panel made up of TTEG Senior Consultants in conjunction with the Convenor of the WSROC Supply Management Group. Recommendations of the panel contained herein were received by the Council on 7 May 2009.

In order to secure the offers made by the recommended tenderers, letters of intent to enter into the recommended contracts were provided by the Council to TTEG on 13 May 2009. These included the provision that any acceptance of the offers made was subject to the resolution of the Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 June 2009.

The submitted tenders are for retail electricity supply rates only. The actual value of the tender therefore cannot be accurately defined. Based on estimated consumption however, the approximate value is in the order of \$463,000 for Blue Mountains City Council.

### **General Tender Considerations**

Evaluation of the tenders received included consideration of mandatory, price and non-price criteria as follows:

- Mandatory Criteria

Possession of retail licence for supply of electricity in NSW

All submissions made met this requirement.

- Non Price Criteria

Technical requirement

Greenpower source

Reporting capabilities

Contract conditions

Invoicing and payment terms

Other related services

All submissions made with the exception of AGL, met the requirements of the Non-Price Criteria and were very evenly scored

- Price Criteria

Validity of tender prices

Unit rates

Future pricing

All tenders submitted included short validity periods for their tenders, hence the need for this report, and resolution of the Council.

Tenderers were invited to submit rates for varying periods of contract from 12 months to 3 years. Given the volatility and uncertainty surrounding the electricity supply industry at the present time this is an important consideration in the evaluation process.

It is important to note that the cost comparison has been made on the basis of raw retail energy rates (applied to estimated consumptions, metering charges, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and NSW Greenhouse Abatement Charges (NCACs) only. Other costs of supply such as transmission, distribution, maintenance, and losses are regulated and are therefore the same for all retailers.

The tendering process has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. The recommendations of the TEP have been formulated after exhaustive consideration of the options provided with regard to the various contract periods and submitted charges for each.

In summary:

- All submitted charges are fixed for the respective contract periods;
- The recommended contracts accept variable quantity of consumption;
- All submitted offers include 30 day payment terms; and
- All submitted offers include the option of additional services such as tailored reporting and energy management services.

### **Major Building Sites Recommendation**

The recommendation of the TEP is that the Council enter into a contract with TRUenergy for an 18 month period commencing 1 July 2009. The TRUenergy submission represents an estimated \$27,000 per annum saving on the State Government Contract 777.

### **Street Lighting Recommendation**

As noted earlier, retail electricity for street lighting is currently purchased outside of any contractual arrangement, at market rates. This procurement method is not recommended into the future as it is subject to substantial market fluctuations, and is particularly risky given the volatility of industry pricing expected over the next couple of years.

The recommendation of the TEP is that the Council enter into a contract with TRUenergy for a 30 month period commencing 1 July 2009. The TRUenergy submission represents an estimated \$23,000 per annum saving on the State Government Contract 777.

### **Greenpower Recommendation**

Greenpower is purchased as a 'premium' over and above the cost of black energy. As such it can be purchased separately to black energy and in most cases the percentage can be varied during the period of the contract.

The lowest price retailer for greenpower for the first 12 months was Energy Australia, however this can only be purchased if coupled with the higher priced State Government Contract 777.

The recommendation of the TEP is that the Council enter into a contract with COzero for an 18 month period commencing 1 July 2009. The COzero submission represents an estimated \$2,000 per annum additional cost to the State Government Contract 777.

### **Sustainability Assessment**

An assessment of the key effects resulting from the proposed recommendations has been undertaken and outlined in the table below:

<b>Effects</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
Environmental	10% greenpower is included as per previous Council resolution.	Nil.
Social	Nil.	Nil.
Economic	Participation in a competitive market place contributes to competition in pricing that has economic benefits to the whole community.	Nil.

### **Withdrawal from State Government Contract 777**

Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) have entered into the State Government Contract 777 extension for the retail supply of electricity to the major sites, and for 10% greenpower. Six of the other participating Councils have also entered into the same contract. Of those six, all have included street lighting in their contracts.

Initial advice from DoC was that WSROC member Councils who have previously taken up the 12 month extension to the State Government Contract 777, could withdraw from the contract without penalty. Energy Australia, the State Government Contract 777 nominated supplier, have taken issue with this advice and are currently negotiating with the WSROC Supply Management Group as to what if any, penalty may be applicable, if any Council withdraws from the contract.

The contract stipulates under what conditions parties to the contract can terminate, however is silent on what penalties may be applicable should the purchaser withdraw.

The recommendations contained in this report are subject to a satisfactory resolution of this matter with Energy Australia.

### **Financial implications for the Council**

The retail electricity industry is currently experiencing significant uncertainty with regard to costs to be incurred over the next few years. As a result it appears this uncertainty is being covered by the retailers, through significant increases in charges to consumers including the Council.

Preparation of the Council budget for 2009/10 commenced in December 2008. At this time there was sufficient evidence that retail electricity charges for 2009/10 were going to be significantly higher than the charges the Council had experienced under the State Government Contract 777 since 2006. Increased costs estimated by the staff in December have proven to be in alignment with those of the State Government Contract 777. By entering into the State Government Contract 777 extension for 2009/10, the Council had taken measures to provide at least predictability in costs to be incurred during the next financial year.

The WSROC tendering process has provided an opportunity to increase that security beyond the 2009/10 financial year at lesser cost.

In summary the comparison of the recommended suppliers to the State Government Contract 777 are as follows:

Major Building Sites	estimated savings on State Government Contract	- save	\$27,000
Street Lighting	estimated savings on State Government Contract	- save	\$23,000
Greenpower	estimated additional to State Government Contract	- cost	\$2,000
	Total estimated savings on State Government Contract	- save	\$48,000

There are no known significant financial issues associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

**Legal and risk management issues for the Council**

As the Council intends to resolve the issue of withdrawal from the State Government Contract 777, prior to confirming commitment to the recommended contracts, there are no known legal or risk management issues associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

**External consultation**

No external consultation has been entered into regarding this report.

**Conclusion**

This report seeks the approval of the Council to enter into retail electricity supply contracts with TRUenergy for major sites, and with CoZero for greenpower. The recommendations are subject to resolve of the penalty if any, caused by the withdrawal of the Council from the State Government Contract 777, for major sites and greenpower, being less than the estimated savings outlined in the report.

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**ITEM NO: 18****SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS RUGBY****FILE NO: F02319 - 09/89848**

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**Recommendation:**

*That Council receive and note this report.*

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**Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate****Reason for report**

At the meeting of 24 March 2009, the Council resolved:

*“That a report comes to the Council regarding access by Blue Mountains Rugby to a further location for both training and junior games. That the report analyse any potential areas that may be available and their efficacy, recognising current usage”.*

(Minute No. 108, 24/03/09)

**Background**

Blue Mountains District Rugby Football Club (BMDRFC) has been the main historic winter season user of Lapstone Oval for almost forty years. The BMDRFC have contributed greatly to the development of the Lapstone Oval facilities, most notably the construction of the clubhouse complete with toilets, change rooms and showers.

An increase in the number of junior and senior registrations for the current 2009 winter season has resulted in the BMDRFC seeking access to a further location for both training and junior games. There are now five junior teams and four senior teams in the BMDRFC.

**BMDRFC Requirements**

For junior competition matches BMDRFC advises they require a sportsground with rugby goalposts installed and a field size approximately 100m in length and 60m in width. For training purposes BMDRFC advises that they require a sportsground with adequate floodlighting, a minimum of 50lux.

BMDRFC require training times after 4pm Monday - Thursday and between 9am and 5pm weekends for competition games. The sportsgrounds located from Faulconbridge to Glenbrook have been included in the “availability/efficacy” table. The Club have advised this is an appropriate area to analyse recognising acceptable travel distances.

The Council’s Sportsground Hire & Use Handbook gives precedence to ongoing historic bookings with new booking requests accommodated around them.

Table 1

Sportsground Name/Location	Winter Season User Groups	Availability	Efficacy
Lapstone Oval	Blue Mountains District Rugby Football Club	Currently seeking additional location for training and junior games.	Home ground of Blue Mountains District Rugby Football Club.
Tom Hunter Park, Faulconbridge	Blue Mountains AFL	Some times may be available. Negotiation with existing user groups required.	AFL/Athletics sportsground with AFL goal posts. No ability to practically install Rugby Posts for junior games without disrupting current use. Impending installation of floodlights at this location may make it suitable for BMDRFC training purposes.
Lomatia Park, Springwood	Blue Mountains Baseball Club/Springwood District Dog Training Club	Facility used by cricket in summer. Some times are available. Negotiation with existing user groups required.	Turf wicket maintained by cricket unsuitable for sports played with football boots with studs, which can rip the turf.
Summerhayes Park, Winmalee	Springwood United Football Club/Lower Mountains Touch Football Association	Unavailable. Fully booked during winter season.	Soccer/Touch Football sportsground with soccer goal posts. No ability to install Rugby Posts for junior games without disrupting current use.
Sun Valley Reserve	Sun Valley Pony Club	Currently unsuitable for use.	Sun Valley Reserve, to make suitable for use, requires sportsground earthworks and turfing, floodlighting (if used for training), goal posts and appropriate fencing. There is potential for the Council to create two additional sports fields that could be used by BMDRFC for junior games at this location, if funds were available.
Warrimoo Oval	Lower Mountains Junior Rugby League	Unavailable. Fully booked during winter	Suitable infrastructure.

	Club/Lower Mountains Touch Football Association	season.	
Blaxland Oval	Blaxland Soccer Club	Unavailable. Fully booked during winter season.	All ready fully booked.
Glenbrook Oval	Christian Soccer Association/Blaxland Soccer Club/Athletics Coaching	Some times are available. Negotiation with existing user groups required.	Suitable for training purposes. Lighting soon to be upgraded. Soccer/Athletics sportsground with soccer goal posts. Difficult to install Rugby Posts for junior games without disrupting current use.
Glenbrook Park, Glenbrook	None	Yes	Lacks floodlights. Sportsground size too small for junior games.
Knapsack Park/Glenbrook	Blue Mountains Soccer Club	Unavailable. Fully booked during winter season.	Soccer sportsground with soccer goal posts. Difficult to install Rugby Posts for junior games without disrupting current use.
Schools	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

**Conclusion**

There are two locations within acceptable travelling distance of Lapstone Oval where some additional training could be negotiated for BMDRFC with the existing users. These are Glenbrook Oval and after floodlight installation, Tom Hunter Park. Glenbrook Oval, being closer to Lapstone Oval, may be preferable.

There are no known Council sites available for junior games however there may be some potential for the BMDRFC to negotiate with schools.

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