

GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER



**FOR THE ORDINARY
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING**

**TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY,
7 MARCH 2024**

PUBLIC FORUMS

- 1 The council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary council meetings and meetings of committees of the council. The duration of public forums will be 15 minutes and they will commence at 8.45am on the day of a set Council meeting.
- 2 Public forums are to be chaired by the mayor or their nominee. Only the names of speakers, the organisation that they are representing and the topic that they are speaking on will be recorded in Council's Meeting minutes.
- 3 To speak at a public forum, a person must first make an application to the council in the approved form. Applications to speak at the public forum must be received by 12 noon on the Tuesday before the meeting and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.
- 4 A person may apply to speak on no more than two (2) items of business on the agenda of the council meeting.
- 5 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.
- 6 The general manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The general manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.
- 7 No more than three (3) speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the council meeting.
- 8 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the general manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address the council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the council, the general manager or their delegate is to determine who will address the council at the public forum.
- 9 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the general manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the mayor or the mayor's nominated chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.
- 10 Approved speakers at the public forum are to register with the council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to the council at the public forum, and to identify any equipment needs no less than one (1) day before the public forum. The general manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.
- 11 The general manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.
- 12 Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes to address the council. If there are more than three (3) speakers, the maximum time will be reduced to stay within the duration scheduled for the Public Forum. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.
- 13 Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the council meeting they have applied to address the council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.
- 14 A councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.
- 15 Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to two (2) minutes.

- 16 Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the council, councillors, or council staff.
- 17 The general manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the chairperson, address the council for up to three (3) minutes in response to an address to the council at a public forum after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.
- 18 Where an address made at a public forum raises matters that require further consideration by council staff, the general manager may recommend that the council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.
- 19 When addressing the council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant Council codes, policies and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the council's code of conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.
- a) The Mayor or Chair will be guided by Section 10A(2)(a) – (i) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, in not allowing members of the public during community consultation sessions to deal with or discuss or disclose any information with regards to the matters mentioned in this section and subsections of the Act.
 - b) The opinions expressed by community members are not reflective or representative of the views of Council and hence Council cannot be held responsible or liable for such views.

Note: Public forums should not be held as part of a Council meeting. Council meetings should be reserved for decision-making by the Council. Where a public forum is held as part of a Council meeting, it must be conducted in accordance with the other requirements of the Code of Meeting Practice relating to the conduct of Council meetings.

Local Government Act 1993

Section 10A(2) (a) – (i)

The matters and information are the following:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors),
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret,
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,
- (f) matters affecting the security of the council, councillors, council staff or council property,
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,
- (i) alleged contraventions of any code of conduct requirements applicable under section 440.



GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL

Notice is herewith given of an
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

That will be held at the Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre,
William Gardner Conference Room, Grey Street, Glen Innes on:
Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 9:00 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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Bernard Smith
General Manager

Council

Meeting Date: 4th Thursday of the month commencing at 9.00am.

Matters determined by Ordinary meetings will include all those non-delegable functions identified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act as follows:

- *"the appointment of a general manager*
- *the making of a rate*
- *a determination under section 549 as to the levying of a rate*
- *the making of a charge*
- *the fixing of a fee*
- *the borrowing of money*
- *the voting of money for expenditure on its works, services or operations*
- *the compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment)*
- *the acceptance of tenders which are required under this Act to be invited by the council*
- *the adoption of a management plan under section 406*
- *the adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report*
- *a decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6*
- *the fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the council of work on private land*
- *the decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the council for the carrying out of any such work*
- *the review of a determination made by the council, and not by a delegate of the council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under section 82A of the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)*
- *the power of the council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194*
- *a decision under section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons*
- *the making of an application, or the giving of a notice, to the Governor or Minister*
- *this power of delegation*
- *any function under this or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the council."*

Other matters and functions determined by Ordinary Council Meetings will include:

- *Notices of Motion*
- *Notices of Motion of Rescission*
- *Council Elections, Polls, Constitutional Referendums and Public Hearings/Inquiries*
- *Ministerial Committees and Inquiries*
- *Mayor and Councillors Annual Fees*
- *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayor and Councillors*
- *Local Government Remuneration Tribunal*
- *Local Government Boundaries*
- *NSW Ombudsman*
- *Administrative Decisions Tribunal*
- *Delegation of Functions by the Minister*
- *Delegation of Functions to General Manager and Committees*
- *Organisation Structure*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *Code of Meeting Practice*
- *Honesty and Disclosure of Interests*
- *Access to Information*
- *Protection of Privacy*
- *Enforcement Functions (statutory breaches/prosecutions/recovery of rates)*
- *Dispute Resolution*
- *Council Land and Property Development*
- *Annual Financial Reports, Auditors Reports, Annual Reports and Statement of the Environment Reports*
- *Performance of the General Manager*
- *Equal Employment Opportunity*
- *Powers of Entry*
- *Liability and Insurance*
- *Membership of Organisations*
- *Any matter or function not within the delegable function of Committees*
- *Matters referred from Committees for determination*

Membership: Full Council - 7 Councillors.

Quorum: 4 members

Chairperson: The Mayor

Deputy Chairperson: The Deputy Mayor

The Mayor will read the following statement:

“This Council Meeting is being streamed live, recorded and published in accordance with Council’s Live Streaming of Council Meetings Policy. No other persons are permitted to record the Meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so.

To those present in the gallery today, by attending a public meeting of the Council you are consenting to your image, voice and comments being recorded and published.

Anyone who is invited to speak during the meeting will be recorded and their voice, image and comments will form part of the live stream and recording.

All speakers are requested to ensure their comments are relevant to the issue at hand and to refrain from making personal comments or criticisms.

The Chair and/or the General Manager have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of live streaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.

Attendees are advised that they may be subject to legal action if their actions result in inappropriate and/or unacceptable behaviour and/or comments.

Thank you.”

The Mayor will read the following statement of ethical obligations:

“Councillors are reminded that they remain bound by the Oath/Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act or any other Act, to the best of their skill and judgement.

Councillors are also reminded of the requirement for disclosure of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.”

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

“I acknowledge the Ngarabul people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respect to the Elders past, present and emerging. I also extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.”

2 APOLOGIES

3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS / PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

4 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

REPORT TITLE: 4.1 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY SECURITY GUARANTEE

ECM INDEXES:

Subject Index: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: Loans

Customer Index: New England Weeds Authority

Property Index: NIL

AUTHOR: Bernard Smith - General Manager

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to give consideration to a request from the **New England Weeds Authority (NEWA)** for Council to provide a security guarantee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

1. *Council authorises the provision of a guarantee as security for loan funding provided to the New England Weeds Authority.*
2. *The amount of the guarantee to be provided to the Commonwealth Bank, shall be \$143,486 calculated in proportion to Council's member contributions for the coming financial year, relative to the total member contributions of all four constituent councils: Glen Innes Severn, Armidale Regional, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils.*
3. *That the Mayor and General Manager are authorised to execute the loan security documents provided by the Commonwealth Bank.*

REPORT

(a) Discussion

At its Ordinary Meeting held in April 2020, NEWA's Council proposed the purchase of land in the Armidale AirSide Business Park, on which to construct a new Office and Depot facility. This decision was first recorded in its 2021-2022 Operational Plan. The cost to acquire land and to construct the new facility was to be funded using both accumulated reserves and loan funding. This approach was reflected in NEWA's 2022-2023 and subsequent **Long Term Financial Plans (LTFP)**.

In February 2023, NEWA resolved to sign a Fixed Price Construction Contract.

In accordance with NEWA's LTFPs and 2023-2024 Operational Plan, by resolution of Council negotiations were commenced with both T-Corp and the Commonwealth Bank. Following TCorp's advice that they were unable, for 'regulatory reasons', to lend to a County Council, a loan agreement was finalised with the Commonwealth Bank in September 2023.

It was the desire of NEWA's Council that the constituent councils were not required to provide a 'cash injection' or for their normal annual contributions to be increased, in order to service/repay the loan. It has therefore been agreed with the CBA, that security for the loan to NEWA, in the form of guarantees from each constituent council and equalling, in aggregate, the total loan amount, be provided. General Purpose Councils have income enshrined in legislation in the form of rates, however NEWA has no similar security of income and therefore no ability to borrow without providing specific financial loan security.

The provision by Council of a security guarantee removes the need to provide a cash injection to NEWA. Similarly, Council's Annual Member Contributions will not need to be increased in order to service the loan. NEWA's 10-year LTFP indicates the ability for NEWA to service and repay the proposed loan, without need for external financial support by member councils. Review of NEWA's cash flow for the period of the LTFP, also showed an ability to reduce the loan principal from \$1M to \$700,000, and for the term of the loan to be 10 years.

(b) Options

Council has the option not to support the request.

IMPLICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

(a) Financial

NEWA's LTFP anticipates that the New England Weeds Authority has the ability to service/repay the proposed loan over the coming 10-year period without separate cash funding required from its constituent councils. No further risk is identified.

(b) Governance/Policy

Nil.

(c) Legislative/Statutory

Nil.

(d) Risk

There is minimal financial risk to Council.

(e) Social

Nil.

(f) Environmental

NEWA provides an important environmental service and should it be unable to continue to provide that service, the responsibility would fall back onto Council.

(g) Economic

Nil.

(h) Asset Management

Nil.

CONSULTATION

(a) External

Uralla, Guyra, and Armidale Regional Councils.

(b) Internal

The Management Executive Team (MANEX).

LINK/S TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM/OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report links to Council's Delivery Program Environment Heritage Principal Activity EH 4.7.1: Provide a noxious weed management function and service and continue to maintain environmental weed control on "high Conservation Value" roadsides.

CONCLUSION

The provision of the guarantee is important through supporting the financial position of NEWA. NEWA's financial statements are being finalised and it is anticipating an unqualified audit.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no annexures to this report.