

Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 30 October, 2018
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5.00pm

Membership (Quorum - 7)
All Councillors

Addendum Agenda

Mayoral Minute

Mayoral Minute

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MM18.17 Mayoral Minute - Cities Power Partnership

HPERM Ref: D18/372080

Recommendation

That Council

1. Congratulate Darren O'Connell, Energy Management Coordinator and the South East Councils Buddy Group for their recent 'Knowledge Sharing' award from the Cities Power Partnership.
2. Write to Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Wingecarribee and Kiama Councils and acknowledge their contributions as South East buddy group partnership.
3. Write to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation of Councils to alert them to the work of the South East Group so that any advantages can be maximized to include Shellharbour and Wollongong.

Details

The knowledge sharing award recognises the work that has been undertaken by this group of Councils who understand that the issues faced by one of the member Councils is typically similar in the group. There is strength in supporting regional projects such as the South East electric highway proposal and places the South Coast at an advantage when it comes to the electrification of transport.

The other categories for awards were Renewable Energy Achievement Award, Energy Efficiency Achievement, Sustainable Transport Achievement Award, Community Engagement and the CPP Ambassador Award. I encourage all Councilors to investigate the website of the Cities Power Partnership to get a greater understanding of the work that is being undertaken in reducing costs and carbon to Council – this work is underpinned by community support to make change.



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MM18.18 Mayoral Minute - Solarization of Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

HPERM Ref: D18/373360

Recommendation

That

1. The General Manger report on the economic feasibility of solarization of the Shoalhaven Regional Arts Centre, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre and the Nowra Libraray.
2. The General Manager report on how a funding model could provision for these projects with a minimum disruption to the long term financial plan.
3. The General Manger also undertake investigations into the Darebin City Council Solar Savers scheme and report back to Council how such a model could be offered in the Shoalhaven.

Details

The Cities Power Partnership Summit at Kiama on 18 and 19 October was an eye-opener to understand what excellent renewable energy projects are being undertaken across sub national governments.

Professor Lesley Hughes addressed the plenary in respect to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recent publication SR15. The report outlines the impacts that will be experienced when global warming exceeds the current trajectory of 1.5 degrees. These impacts are a matter for public safety and the risks need to be understood, mitigated or managed. The current global policies for managing climate disruption will track temperatures upward by 2.6 – 3.2 degrees which has far reaching and dramatic impacts on human health.

We are still on the RCP 8.5 pathway and need to rapidly move to the RCP 2.6 pathway within the next 3 years as the critical decade comes to a close.

Many of the Councils involved in the summit discussed the economic benefits to their communities for adopting renewable energy pathway. The most stunning being from the keynote speaker Mayor R Rex Paris from Lancaster, California. The headline figures for Lancaster being the reduction in unemployment from 24% to 4% with skills shortages now the main issue. Lancaster is the first Carbon Neutral City and this has had a huge impact on the availability of more cash to undertake more projects (free energy once the capital has paid for itself). Parking lots within the city are covered with solar installations. The cost savings from power bills have been reinvested into the cities economy and household budgets in a myriad of ways – a win-win situation.

MM18.19 Mayoral Minute - Shoalhaven Council support for Save Our Recycling – Waste Levies for Waste Management

HPERM Ref: D18/374185

Recommendation

That:

1. Shoalhaven City Council endorse the LGNSW Save Our Recycling campaign.
2. Council use available resources locally.

Details

Shoalhaven City Council has for many years now raised the issue of waste levies being unfairly charged at Shoalhaven and the unfair redistribution of the levies back to Councils like ours. We have made multiple representations to the Government about the situation in Shoalhaven and we have supplied multiple motions to our peak advocacy bodies ALGA and LGNSW. All these representations have produced little response and in some cases we have been berated by the Government.

It is pleasing to see LGNSW take up the issue with a campaign for the coming election period. In supporting the campaign we are indeed just reconfirming our position that Shoalhaven needs to be reclassified for the purpose of the levy collection to regional or even rural, and that the levy needs to be spent on supporting waste management instead of disappearing into the State's general revenue.

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CL18.307 Building Better Regions Fund Round 3

HPERM Ref: D18/359852

Group: General Manager's Group

Section: Economic Development

Purpose / Summary

To provide information about the Federal Governments' Building Better Regions Fund Round 3 and determine the projects for which applications will be made by Council.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorse the following projects to proceed as applications under the Infrastructure Stream of the Building Better Regions Fund (Round 3):
 - a. Burton St (Vincentia) Project to the value of \$3m, seeking grant funding of \$1.5m with a Council contribution of \$1.5m
 - b. Sydney & Owen St roundabout at Huskisson to the value of \$1.4m, seeking grant funding of \$700,000 with a Council contribution of \$700,000
 - c. A project at Myola to provide car park, public amenities, and traffic calming to the value of \$1.2m, seeking grant funding of \$600,000 with a Council contribution of \$600,000
 - d. A project at Berry to provide a nature play area, including learn to ride facility, in Boongaree Park to the value of \$1.0m, seeking grant funding of \$500,000 with a Council contribution of \$500,000
 - e. A project at Swanhaven to provide a shared user path bridge to the value of \$1.5m, seeking grant funding of \$750,000 with a Council contribution of \$750,000
2. Note that Council matching contributions for the Infrastructure Stream projects, totalling \$4.05M, will be sourced from a combination of internal borrowing from reserves and future capital budget allocations over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
3. Endorse that Shoalhaven City Council auspice Stage 1 of the Riversdale Masterplan at Riversdale, seeking grant funding of up to \$9.5m from the Building Better Regions Fund (Infrastructure Stream) subject to Bundanon Trust providing evidence of the matching funding and a funding pathway to complete the Stage 1 project by December 2021
4. Endorse the following projects to proceed as applications under the Community Investment Stream of the Building Better Regions Fund (Round 3):
 - a. At Ulladulla, a project to address safety and amenity at Warden Headland to the value of \$200,000, seeking grant funding of \$100,000 with the matching contribution of \$100,000 coming from Crown Lands over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
 - b. At each of the four local Showgrounds, a project to create a Master Plan and Plan of Management at a combined cost of \$400,000, seeking grant funding of \$200,000 with the matching contribution of \$200,000 coming from a combination of Crown Lands and the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
 - c. To develop a Community Needs Gap Report of Disadvantaged Communities, a project to address issues at Bomaderry, Sanctuary Point and Wreck Bay (JB

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Territory) to the value of \$50,000, seeking grant funding of \$25,000 with the matching contribution of \$25,000 coming from the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21

- d. At Ulladulla Skate Park, a project to undertake a Master Plan and final design to the value of \$100,000, seeking grant funding of \$50,000 with the matching contribution of \$50,000 coming from the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
- e. To develop a Bay & Basin Community Precinct Detailed Design, to the value of \$250,000, seeking grant funding of \$125,000 with the matching contribution of \$125,000 coming from the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
- f. At Paringa Park, Nowra, a project to undertake detailed design to the value of \$150,000, seeking grant funding of \$75,000 with the matching contribution of \$75,000 coming from the Community & Recreational budget in 2018/19
- g. To develop a Shoalhaven Public Transport Audit and Strategic Plan to the value of \$75,000, seeking grant funding of \$37,500 with the matching contribution of \$37,500 coming from the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21
- h. To develop a Shoalhaven Health & Wellbeing Strategy to the value of \$100,000, seeking grant funding of \$50,000 with the matching contribution of \$50,000 coming from the Community & Recreational budget over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21

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Options

1. Adopt the recommendation as printed
Implications: Council staff will proceed with preparing the application documents and lodging with business.gov.au by November 15.
2. Adopt an alternative recommendation based on some but not all of the recommendation
Implications: Council staff will proceed with preparing the application documents and lodging with business.gov.au by November 15
3. Not adopt the recommendation
Implications: Council staff will not prepare any application documents until a suitable recommendation and direction to staff is approved

Background

The Australian Government has announced the Building Better Regions Round 3 program to support regional development in non-metropolitan Australia.

Previous programs along similar guidelines have been offered in the past and Council has had mixed success with its applications. A summary is below:

- National Stronger Regions (2015) –
 - Mind the GaP (UoW) – **Approved**
 - Agreements to mitigate Cl exposure
 - Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre - unsuccessful
- National Stronger Regions 3 (2016) –
 - Ulladulla Harbour Berthing Facility – **funded** under Community Building Fund

- Building Better Regions 1 (2017) –
 - Community – Nowra Waterfront – ineligible (studies only)
 - Community – Stewart Place – ineligible (studies only)
 - Infrastructure – Riversdale – ineligible – no committed matching funding
 - Infrastructure – Woollamia Boat Repair facility – **funded** under SCRJIP
- Building Better Regions 2 (2017)
 - Community – Nowra Revitalisation – ineligible – no works
 - Infrastructure – Ulladulla STP - unsuccessful (better projects approved)
 - Infrastructure – Paringa Park – non-motorised Water Sports Precinct – unsuccessful

Round 3 of the \$641.6 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government’s commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- create jobs
- have a positive impact on economic activity, including Indigenous economic participation through employment and supplier-use outcomes
- enhance community facilities
- enhance leadership capacity
- encourage community cohesion and sense of identity

For Round 3, \$200 million is available, with up to \$45 million of this funding earmarked to support tourism-related infrastructure projects.

There are two streams of funding available under the program:

- Infrastructure Projects Stream
- Community Investments Stream

Applications for both funding streams close on **15 November 2018 at 5:00pm**

Unlike previous rounds, there are no limits to the number of applications that can be made by a single applicant.

Local government are eligible to apply for both streams.

Commonwealth, state or territory government agencies or bodies (including government enterprises) are not eligible.

Infrastructure Projects Stream

This stream will support projects for new infrastructure or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.

The grant has earmarked up to \$45 million for tourism-related infrastructure projects that will help stimulate local economies by investing in the tourism sector.

- The minimum grant amount is \$20,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$10 million

Shoalhaven City Council will have to contribute a minimum of 50% toward the project cost. The contribution must be in cash and not in-kind and can come from:

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- Council as the applicant
- State or territory governments
- Not for profit organisations

Contributions can also come from the Aboriginal Benefits Account and Financial Assistance Grants to local government, as these are not considered to be Commonwealth funding.

To be eligible, a project must:

- be for new infrastructure or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- not have started construction
- be ready to commence shortly after execution of the grant agreement. Commencement is considered to be taking steps to allow construction to commence, including the procurement of contractors or actual construction work commenced.

Any project should be investment-ready. Investment-ready projects:

- have confirmed all funding contributions
- have identified all required regulatory and/or development approval
- can demonstrate robust planning
- if successful, are able to commence soon after the execution of a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

For the project to be competitive, it must address all the merit criteria in the application. There are four merit criteria, being:

1. Economic benefit of your project for the region (15 points)
2. Social benefit of your project for the region (15 Points)
3. Project delivery (5 points)
4. Impact of grant funding (5 points)

A cost benefit analysis is a mandatory document for projects with a grant request of over \$1 million.

Community Investments Stream

This stream provides organisations with grants of between \$5,000 to \$10 million for new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, or leadership and capability strengthening activities that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.

- The minimum grant amount is \$5,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$10 million

Given the nature of eligible projects under the Community Investments Stream, it is expected that most grants will be under \$100,000.

Shoalhaven City Council will have to contribute a minimum of 50% funding toward the project, if the project has a value greater than \$20,000. Projects with a total eligible cost of less than \$20,000 can apply for 100% funding, though contributions are encouraged.

Projects must be completed within 12 months of the project start date and by 31 December 2021.

Eligible activities

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and must be one of the following:

- local events and workshops
- strategic planning
- regional leadership and capability

Local events and workshops

Investment in local events provides economic, social and cultural opportunities for people living in regional areas. Events and workshops drive economic growth, promote community participation and inclusion, encourage volunteerism and build on a region's identity.

You can only receive funding for an event or workshop once under this program. Funding is intended as seed funding for local events or workshops that are new to the community, or to support a significant addition to an existing event. It is not intended to fund existing event activities.

Strategic planning

Activities that facilitate the development of quality regional or sectoral plans that will help drive the development of strong regions. Plans should focus on pursuing economic opportunities and/or addressing identified challenges across a region or industry sector.

Eligible activities include:

- regional skills audits
- research projects to support regional development strategic plans
- collecting socio-economic information
- strategic plan development.

Ineligible activities include:

- land use planning
- service delivery planning
- capital funding for research centres
- feasibility studies or benefit-cost analysis for specific projects, including infrastructure development
- activities that the organisation undertakes as part of its usual business practices and responsibilities.

Regional leadership and capability

These activities will build the capability of regional leaders, equipping them with the skills to effectively drive change and champion positive futures for their communities. All leadership and capability activities will need to demonstrate clear and definitive outcomes, including broad benefits for the community.

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Eligible activities include:

- leadership courses
- participation and community building measures for young people
- participation in activities to improve local business and industry leadership capability.

Ineligible activities include:

- vocational education and training (VET)
- apprenticeships
- higher education qualifications
- funding education and training providers
- funding for staff wages or leadership positions within an organisation
- internally provided staff training.

To be competitive an activity must score highly against all of the criteria:

1. Economic benefit of your project for the region (10 points)
2. Social benefit of your project for the region (10 points)
3. Project delivery (5 points)
4. Impact of grant funding (5 points)

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Potential Council projects for Round 3 Funding

The following project are put forward for consideration and endorsement by Council:

Infrastructure Stream		
<p>Burton St Mall, Vincentia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makeover of precinct into alfresco dining area and venue for community activities and entertainment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$3m • BBR funding sought: \$1.5m • Council matching funds of \$1.5m (city streetscape funds) 	<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs in hospitality & retail • Activation of tired retail precinct • Provide incentive for modernisation of retail premises
<p>Sydney & Owen Streets roundabout at Huskisson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of a broader streetscape master plan for that iconic location, which is one of the most significant entrance points to Jervis Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$1,400,000 • BBR funding sought: \$700,000 • Council matching funds of \$700,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautifies iconic entrance to Huskisson • Safety • Manage high traffic volumes from tourist visitation
<p>Myola car park, public amenities, and traffic calming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$1,200,000 • BBR funding sought: \$600,000 • Council matching funds 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In need of infrastructure improvement to address tourism demand and offset the adverse impacts on the surrounding residential area, since the operation of the passenger ferry

	of \$600,000	to Huskisson commenced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces traffic on roads at peak times
<p>Swanhaven Shared User Path bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mirror the Moona Moona Creek SUP design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$1,500,000 • BBR funding sought: \$750,000 • Council matching funds of \$750,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just like Moona Moona Creek, this is a much-needed safety and accessibility improvement in this tourist hot spot
<p>Boongaree Park (Berry) Nature Play and Learn to Ride</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$1,000,000 • BBR funding sought \$500,000 • Council matching funds of \$500,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility will attract people from out of area as well as those passing by to stop. • Increased business for local shops • Enhance Berry as a tourist destination
<p>Riversdale Proposal (on behalf of Bundanon Trust)</p> <p>Implementation of Riversdale Master Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyd Art Gallery • Creative Learning Centre & Accommodation Wing • Administration and Access • Upgrade existing Boyd Education Centre • Upgrade existing Riversdale Homestead complex <p>Implementation of Stage 1 of the Riversdale Masterplan to include Boyd Art Gallery, auditorium, visitors' services facilities and necessary supporting infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 estimated cost \$19,000,000 • BBR funding sought: \$9.5m • Funding secured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSW \$8.592m • Bundanon funding through donations and reserves secured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$908,000 	<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Gross Regional Product in the short term by \$21.5 million (construction and limited operations and visitation/events) • Increase Gross Regional Product, once operational, by \$7 million per annum thereafter (including increasing operations and events/visitation) • Create 50 direct jobs (+84 indirect jobs) during construction and output over and above the construction budget of a further \$28 million • Create up to 17 more ongoing jobs (+7 indirect jobs) once operational • Create \$1.8 million in flow-on spending p.a., once operational • Increase visitation from 12,462 (2015/16 average) to 76,163 (once fully operational) • Create visitation impact of \$6 million of direct output and further \$4.4 million in supply-chain and consumption effects per annum, equating to 36 direct (+16 indirect jobs) for the region

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Community Investment Stream		
<p>Warden Headland Strategic Safety Plan</p> <p>Application made with Safer Communities Fund. Letters of support gained. Crown lands committed \$200k towards. Working group already active</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost \$200,000 • BBR funds requested \$100,000 • Council matching funds of \$100,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan will provide for enhancement of infrastructure and landscaping at the site which will increase its attractiveness as a tourist attraction leading to increased visitation to the Ulladulla area • Design will also include infrastructure to improve safety / suicide mitigation, the consequence of which will be to reduce the incidence of self-harm / suicide and reduce the impacts associated with such incidents on a wide range of government and NGO-funded services and the unrecorded / unmeasured impacts on family and friends.
<p>Showgrounds (4) Master Plans/Plan of Management package for Nowra, Berry, Milton and Kangaroo Valley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est cost \$400,000 • BBR funds requested \$200,000 • Crown Lands funding \$78,444 • Council matching funds of \$121,556 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan / strategy will provide facility to conduct events which will attract visitation from out of the region
<p>Community Needs Gap Report of Disadvantaged Communities (Bomaderry, Sanctuary Point, Wreck Bay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue already identified in - Perspectives on Poverty in the Shoalhaven 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est cost \$50,000 • BBR funds requested \$25,000 • Council matching funds of \$25,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shoalhaven has a high number of low---income households • The Report will allow Council to identify projects and programs that respond to the issues of poverty and exclusion and decrease social disadvantage
<p>Ulladulla Skate Park Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan & Detailed Design • Ready to construct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est cost \$100,000 • BBR funds requested \$50,000 • Council matching funds of \$50,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan / strategy will provide facility to conduct events which will increase visitation from out of the region – both National and International
<p>Bay & Basin Community Precinct Detailed Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est cost \$250,000 • BBR funds requested \$125,000 • Council matching funds of \$125,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To become shovel ready • Detailed design will provide a destination which will attract greater visitation leading to increased jobs in hospitality, tourism and sport. • Location will attract events

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		enhancing local economy.
<p>Paringa Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Est cost \$150,000 BBR funds requested \$75,000 Council matching funds of \$75,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed design will provide for a facility to conduct events which will attract visitation from out of the region in the sports of rowing, sailing, dragon boat racing.
<p>Shoalhaven Public Transport Audit and Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently working with Transport NSW but with limited resources Master Plan to identify gaps & provide foundation for advocacy of SCC and support regional strategic plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Est cost \$75,000 BBR funds requested \$37,500 Council matching funds of \$37,500 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and addressing gaps in the public transport system will break down access barriers which prevent some sections of the community from maintaining a presence in the workforce.
<p>Health & Wellbeing strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan to provide framework to guide Council in the pursuit of wellbeing and evaluate the effectiveness of our investments, programs and assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Est cost \$100,000 BBR funds requested \$50,000 Council matching funds of \$50,000 	<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy aims to keep people fit in the workforce, therefore, maintaining productivity. The strategy will also focus on keeping people out of hospital, reducing burden on health budgets.

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The request from the Bundanon Trust for Council to auspice an application on their behalf has been received. A Commonwealth agency, Bundanon Trust is ineligible to apply. Previously, Council had submitted an application under BBR2 in 2017 but the application was not fully assessed as the application was declared ineligible as the matching money had not been secured. The current scenario seems to tick that box.

A similar scenario existed when Council auspiced an application on behalf of the University of Wollongong and its partners for the “Mind the GaP” project. This application by Council was successful and this brought a new set of conditions that were imposed upon Council by the CoA. Prior to Council executing the contract with the CoA, Council negotiated a “mirror agreement” with the UoW to address issues such as:

- WH&S during construction and subsequent operations on the site for the requisite period (for Bundanon, this will be 5 years post completion of construction)
- Project outcomes (employment, courses, accommodation services, etc.) as outlined as deliverables in the application for the 5-year period
- Reporting responsibilities to the CoA
- The project, its procurement and other such matters that are applicable to Council under the Local Government Act are to be implemented as would apply to Shoalhaven City Council under that Act.

This agreement worked well with UoW but required weekly liaison between Council’s ED staff and the University project management group.

Community Engagement

The suggested projects have all been subject to extensive community engagement in various forms and are well supported.

Financial Implications

For infrastructure projects, it is intended that the upfront matching funding required will be sourced from internal borrowing from General Fund reserves (strategic projects; committed capital works; communications towers) and future capital budget allocations over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21. Dependent upon the extent of internal borrowing required, longer term financial strategies will be developed to ensure repayment to the reserves within a reasonable timeframe.

Existing budgets over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 will be used to fund community investment projects. Depending on which projects are successful, alternate funding sources may become available that are not specifically allocated; this can be determined on a case by case basis.

Risk Implications

With each project, there are specific risks associated with approvals (shovel readiness), project scheduling, contractor availability but these can be identified and articulated at the application stage. The inability to provide matching funds is a critical risk.

With the Riversdale application, there are other risks associated with any agreement between Council and Bundanon; these will need to be signed off prior to Council entering into a contract.

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CL18.308 Building Resilience to Climate Change Workshop

HPERM Ref: D18/372528

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: HR, Governance & Customer Services

Purpose / Summary

To consider Councillor attendance at the Building Resilience to Climate Change Workshop scheduled for 21 November 2018 in Parkes, NSW.

Recommendation

That Council

1. Notes the details of the Building Resilience to Climate Change Workshop scheduled for 21 November 2018 in Parkes, NSW.
2. Authorises available Councillors to attend the Workshop and such attendance be deemed Council Business.
3. Travel, registration fees, accommodation and all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses be met in accordance with its adopted policy.
4. Request Councillors attending the Workshop to provide a written report within 30 days of returning from the Workshop.

Options

1. As per the recommendation.
2. That Council limit the number of Councillors attending the Workshop and such attendance be deemed Council Business.
3. That Council not approve Councillor attendance at the Workshop as Council Business.

Background

The Building Resilience to Climate Change Workshop is considered relevant to local government. Information in relation to the Workshop can be found on the conference website:

<https://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/building-resilience-climate-change-workshop-0>

Costs associated with the Workshop are estimated as follows:

- registration : Nil
- travel, accommodation and out of pocket expenses : not yet determined.

An option available to Council is to define the number of Councillors attending the Workshop and for Council to determine the appropriate Councillors authorised to attend.

The Workshop commences at 9.30am and concludes at 3.30pm on 21 November and the following Council Business is scheduled within the period of the Workshop:

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- Council meeting, 20 November 2018
- Business and Employment Development Committee, 21 November 2018.

Policy Implications

The Council Members – Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy limits attendance at conferences to three per annum per councillor exclusive of any conference arranged by either the State or National Local Government Associations.

Financial Implications:

Funds are available for Councillors to attend this Workshop.

CL18.309 Drought affected Farmers - Assistance Measures

HPERM Ref: D18/373381

Group: Shoalhaven Water Group

Section: Water Customer & Business Services

Purpose / Summary

This report provides further information following the public notification period of Councils proposal to provide a range of financial assistance measures for drought affected farmland.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the details contained in this report
2. Proceed with the financial assistance measures for drought affected farmers as resolved at the Strategy and Assets Committee Meeting of 18 September 2018.

Options

1. As Recommended
2. Council could seek additional information or make changes to the proposed range of assistance measures.

Implications: Subject to any proposed changes further public notification may be required.

Background

Council, at its Strategy and Assets Committee Meeting of 18 September 2018, resolved (MIN18.705 and MIN18.740) to:

1. *Provide upon application a water rebate to customers classified for the purposes of water consumption as rural/agricultural to take effect from 1 October 2018 and for the duration of the drought.*
2. *Calculate the rebate as a 50% reduction of the water usage charge for the difference between the calculated daily average consumption on a billed account and the daily average consumption of the previous corresponding three periods.*
3. *Note the actions taken to date in promoting the NSW Government's Drought Assistance.*
4. *Amend its Hardship Policy to allow all Farmland rated property owners experiencing financial hardship due to the drought to make an application to have their rates deferred to the 2019/20 financial year.*
5. *Endorse the issue of two Drought Relief Waste Disposal vouchers for each Shoalhaven property with a 'Farmland' or 'Farmland – Dairy Farmers' rating.*
6. *Note that Council staff, as an interim measure, will process any payment plan for the 2018/19 financial year submitted by eligible farmers experiencing financial hardship.*
7. *Promote the measures outlined in this report that provide practical support to drought affected farmers across the Shoalhaven.*

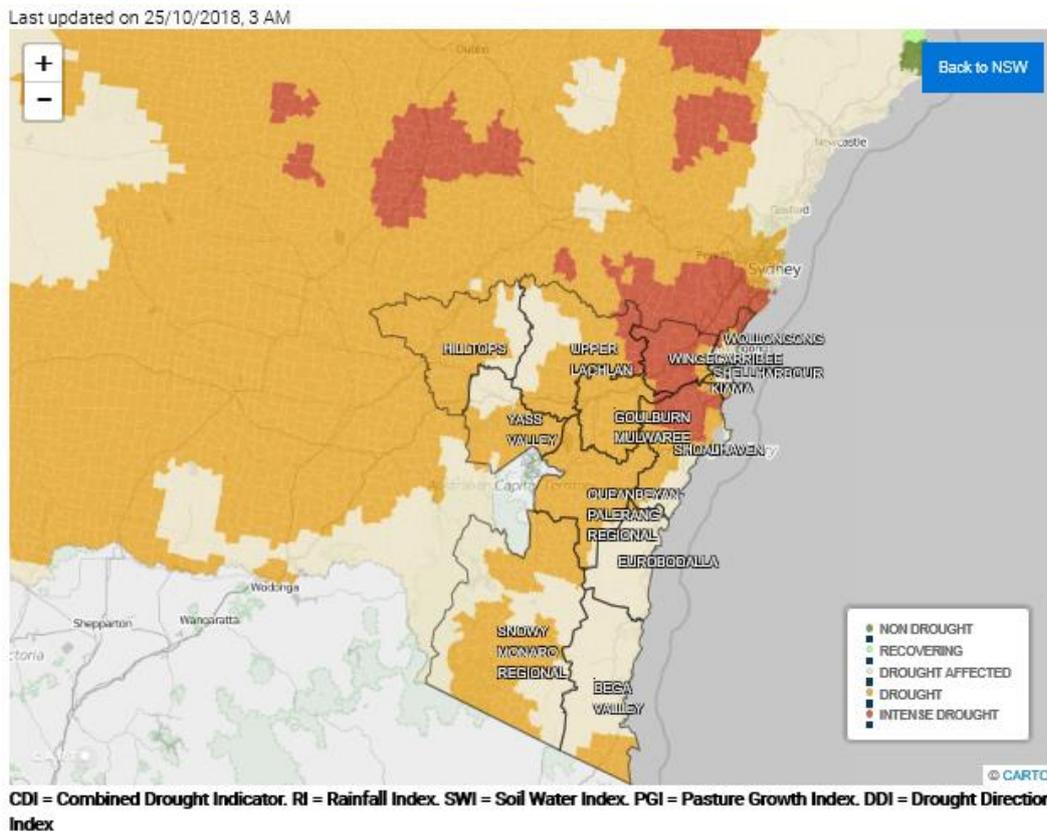
8. Place the financial assistance measures it proposes for drought-affected farmland on public notice, in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act, and receive a further report following the notification period and review any written submissions received.

Details of the proposed assistance measures were advertised in three local and three regional newspapers commencing 26 September 2018. Submissions were sought up to 5pm 23 October 2018 being 28 days notice as required by Section 356 of the Local Government Act.

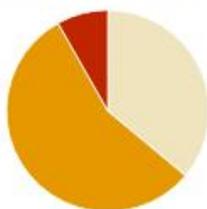
No submissions have been received.

Update on the drought

As at 25 October 98% of NSW remained in drought (intense, affected or recovering) and in the SE region this extended to 100% as shown in the NSW DPI Combined Drought Indicator below. Whilst there have been isolated rainfalls over the last 6 weeks across NSW the overall drought conditions have not improved significantly.



South East Summary



For more information please refer to the NSW DPI [State Seasonal Update](#)

- Non Drought: 0.0 %
- Drought Affected: 36.1 %
- Drought: 55.7 %
- Intense Drought: 8.2 %

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