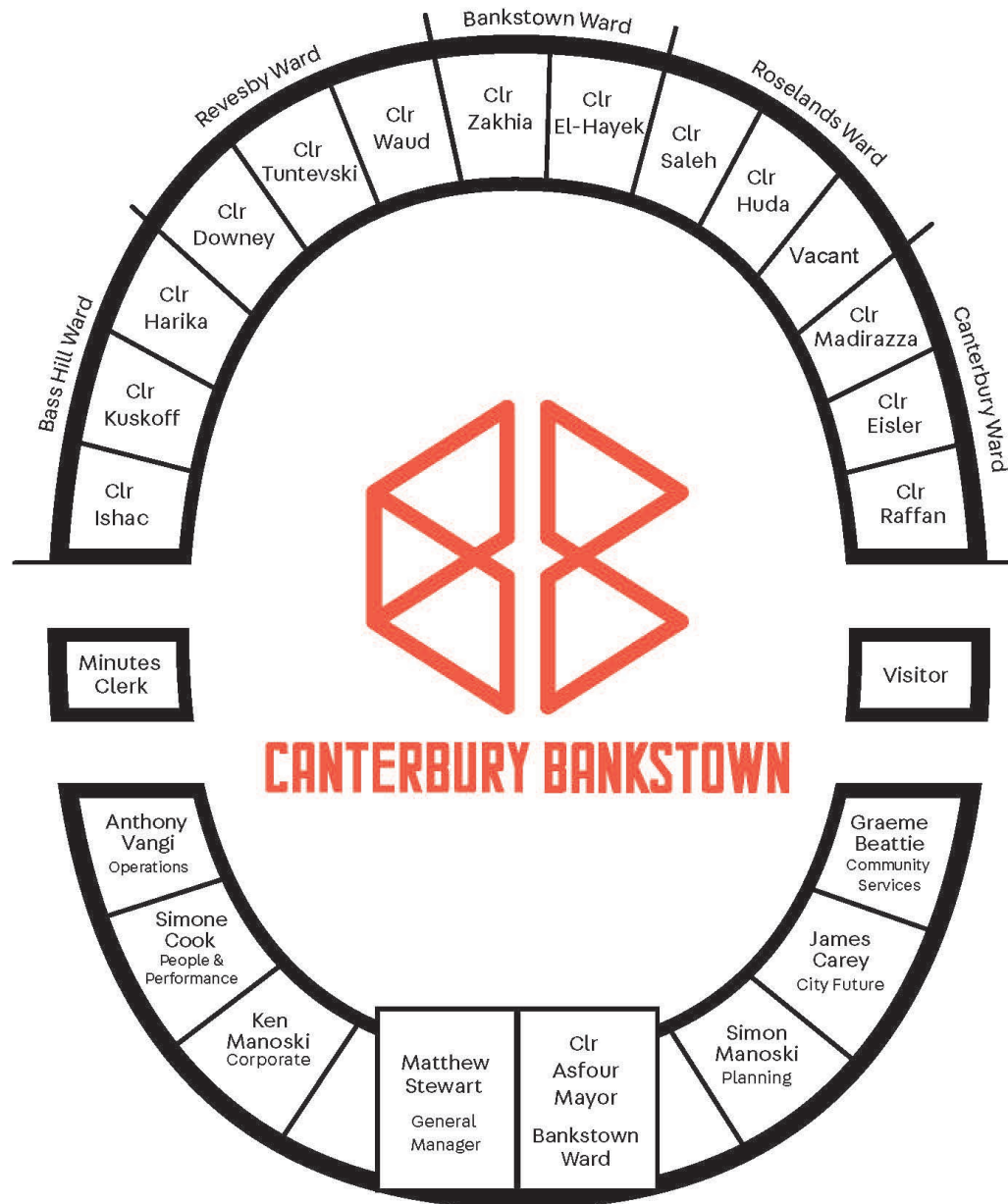




# AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING

28 April 2020

# Gallery



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## **1            CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The following minutes are submitted for confirmation -

1.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council of 24 March 2020 .....	6
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**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Asfour  
Councillors Kuskoff, El-Hayek, Ishac, Raffan, Zakhia, Waud, Eisler, Huda, Saleh,  
Madirazza, Harika, Tuntevski

**APOLOGIES** Nil

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**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 6.06 PM**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

THE MAYOR, ACKNOWLEDGED THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND WHERE WE ARE MEETING TODAY THE DARUG (DARAG, DHARUG, DARUK AND DHARUK) AND THE EORA PEOPLES, AND PAID RESPECT TO THEIR ANCIENT CULTURE AND THEIR ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT.

**REF: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**(873) CLR. WAUD:/CLR. ISHAC**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 February 2020 be adopted.

- CARRIED

**(874) CLR. WAUD:/CLR. ISHAC**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 March 2020 be adopted.

- CARRIED

**SECTION 2: LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**(875) CLR. EL-HAYEK:/CLR. MADIRAZZA**

RESOLVED that Leave of Absence be granted to Clrs Downey and Zaman due to personal reasons.

- CARRIED

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**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**SECTION 3:                   DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR NON-PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In respect of Item 7.4 – Property Matter – Proposed New Lease to Belmore Bowling and Recreation Club of Premises at 1a, 1b and 1c Leylands Parade Belmore, Cllr Madirazza declared a significant Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest due to his association with the Belmore Bowling and Recreation Club and indicated he would vacate the Chamber taking no part in debate.

**SECTION 4:                   MAYORAL MINUTES**

**ITEM 4.1                   CBCITY CARES RELIEF PACKAGE TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS**

**(876)                   CLR. ASFOUR**

RESOLVED that Council endorses the actions outlined in the CBCity Cares Relief Package.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 4.2                   SUPPORTING BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

**(877)                   CLR. ASFOUR**

RESOLVED that Council reaffirms its support for the measures outlined in the Mayoral Minute which continue to provide support for Bushfire affected communities.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 4.3                   OFF THE FLOOR CAMPAIGN**

**(878)                   CLR. ASFOUR**

RESOLVED that Council write to the NSW Government, requesting they fund the establishment and operation of adult laydown change facilities along NSW highways and that there be a requirement within the relevant Code or planning instrument which requires adult laydown change facilities to be incorporated into major highway service centres.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**ITEM 4.4**  
**(879)**                      **LOCAL COMMUNITY BASED DONATIONS**  
**CLR. ASFOUR**

RESOLVED that

1. Council support the request from St Saviour's Anglican Church Cemetery, Punchbowl through a one off maintenance visit of a maximum value of \$550 and that any future requests for assistance be made through Council's Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Program
2. Council support the request from Community Support Services (CSS) through a \$3,000 donation to enable them to continue to provide support to vulnerable families in the local community.
3. These funds to be made available from Council's Community Grants and Events Sponsorship budget.

- CARRIED

**(880)**                      **ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Council adopts all the recommendations on the business paper with the exception of Items 7.2, 7.4 and 11.1.

- CARRIED

**SECTION 5:                      PLANNING MATTERS**

**ITEM 5.1**  
**(881)**                      **PLANNING PROPOSAL AND PLANNING AGREEMENT FOR 5-9 CROYDON STREET, LAKEMBA**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that

1. Council adopt the planning proposal as shown in Attachment A and it be referred to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for finalisation.
2. The exhibited draft planning agreement for 5-9 Croydon Street, Lakemba as shown in Attachment B be endorsed and the necessary steps taken to execute the relevant document.



**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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3. The General Manager be given delegation to make minor mapping or wording changes to the planning agreement, so long as these do not alter its intent or substance.

- CARRIED

**For:-** Clrs Asfour, Eisler, El-Hayek, Harika, Huda, Ishac, Kuskoff, Madirazza, Raffan, Saleh, Tuntevski, Waud and Zakhia

**Against:-** Nil

**SECTION 6: POLICY MATTERS**

Nil

**SECTION 7: GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

**ITEM 7.1 STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND - QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**(882) CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council note the progress report of the implementation of projects funded through the Stronger Communities Fund.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 7.2 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION- ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS**

**(883) CLR. EISLER:/CLR. RAFFAN**

RESOLVED that Council endorse the Proposed Motions 1 and 2 as detailed in the report, subject to the following amendment to Proposed Motion 2.

**Proposed Motion 2**

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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*That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to recognise the Climate Emergency in Australia that has been acknowledged by 94 Councils to date and provide leadership and funding opportunities to assist Councils in meeting their greenhouse gas emission targets through effective mitigation and adaptation strategies and setting tighter targets with stricter timeframes under new action rather than relying on complete historical savings.*

- CARRIED

**ITEM 7.3**  
**(884)**                      **INTERFACE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council not enter into an Interface Agreement with Sydney Metro.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 7.4**  
**PROPERTY MATTER- PROPOSED NEW LEASE TO BELMORE BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB OF PREMISES AT 1A, 1B AND 1C LEYLANDS PARADE BELMORE**

IN RESPECT OF ITEM 7.4 – PROPERTY MATTER – PROPOSED NEW LEASE TO BELMORE BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB OF PREMISES AT 1A, 1B AND 1C LEYLANDS PARADE BELMORE, CLR MADIRAZZA DECLARED A SIGNIFICANT NON PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DUE TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE BELMORE BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB AND VACATED THE CHAMBER TAKING NO PART IN DEBATE.

CLR MADIRAZZA TEMPORARILY RETIRED FROM THE MEETING AT 6.29 PM.

**(885)**                      **CLR. EISLER:/CLR. ZAKHIA**

RESOLVED that

1. The granting of a new three year lease in line with the heads of Agreement be authorised.
2. The Mayor and General Manager be authorised to sign all relevant documentation, including affixing the Common Seal of Council, as required.

- CARRIED

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CLR MADIRAZZA RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT 6.30 PM.

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**ITEM 7.5**                      **CASH AND INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2020**  
**(886)**                         **CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that

1.     The Cash and Investment Report as at 29 of February 2020 be received and noted.
2.     The Certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer incorporated in this report, be adopted.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 7.6**                      **INFORMATION UPDATE - 30-34 PADSTOW PARADE AND FARADAY ROAD, PADSTOW**  
**(887)**                         **CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

- CARRIED

**SECTION 8:**                 **SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**ITEM 8.1**                      **ABOLISHMENT OF LIBRARY OVERDUE FEES**  
**(888)**                         **CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council abolish Library Overdue fees for the Canterbury Bankstown Library Service.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**ITEM 8.2**                      **PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE - TERRACE LANE BANKSTOWN**  
**(889)**                        **CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that

1.     The process of road closure under Division 3 of the *Roads Act 1993* (NSW) be undertaken with respect to Terrace Lane Bankstown.
2.     The matter be reported to Council following the public notification for consideration.

- CARRIED

**SECTION 9:**                      **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ITEM 9.1**                      **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**(890)**                        **MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2020**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 March 2020, be endorsed.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 9.2**                      **MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2020**  
**(891)**                        **CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Canterbury Bankstown Council Traffic Committee meeting held on 10 March 2020, be adopted.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**SECTION 10: NOTICE OF MOTIONS & QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

**ITEM 10.1 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**(892) CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.2 SUPERANNUATION FOR COUNCILLORS**

**(893) CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that

1. Council make a submission to the Office of Local Government in support of the option that would see the Local Government Act amended to make it compulsory for councils to pay an amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee in addition to councillor and mayoral fees; and
2. All Councillors are encouraged to similarly make a submission to the Office of Local Government.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.3 PRICE GOUGING**

**(894) CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council writes to the NSW Department of Fair Trading and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission requesting action be taken immediately to protect consumer rights during periods of crisis.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**ITEM 10.4**  
**(895)**                      **RETURN AND EARN REVESBY WOOLWORTHS**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council write to Tomra-Cleanaway, the operator of the NSW Government's Return & Earn scheme, requesting they take appropriate measures to ensure the carpark and surrounding areas at the Marco Avenue Revesby reverse vending machine are sufficiently maintained.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.5**  
**(896)**                      **VOLUNTEERING WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council, through its established communication channels, promotes the pathways available to volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Service.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.6**  
**(897)**                      **SUSPENDING FEES AND CHARGES**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Canterbury Bankstown council consider suspending fees and charges for sporting and community organisations who have suspended or cancelled activities due to the Coronavirus pandemic until such public gathering restrictions are lifted.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.7**  
**(898)**                      **SPEED CALMING MEASURES**  
**CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Canterbury Bankstown Council investigate and trial cost effective speed calming measures.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**ITEM 10.8                      COMMUNITY PLANTING IN PARKS**

**(899)                              CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council considers a mechanism that allows the community to carry out indigenous plantings on council land in order to increase biodiversity.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.9                      DUPLEX DEVELOPMENT IN NARROW STREETS**

**(900)                              CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council:

1. Provides an update to Councillors on its progress into the review of planning controls for dual occupancies in narrow streets as per the actions in Connective City 2036.
2. The update is to specifically outline how streets under 8m are being investigated and how we plan to define narrow streets.
3. This update be provided to Councillors before September 2020.

- CARRIED

**ITEM 10.10                    WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE**

**(901)                              CLR. ASFOUR:/CLR. TUNTEVSKI**

RESOLVED that Council donates \$1,500 to the Leukaemia Foundation considering participation in the World's Greatest Shave will be significantly impacted by social distancing resulting from COVID-19.

- CARRIED

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 24 MARCH 2020**

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**SECTION 11: CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

**(902) CLR. ISHAC:/CLR. WAUD**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the Public and the Press be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to determine Item11.1 in confidential session for the reasons indicated:

Item 11.1 T03-20 Ready Mix Concrete

*This report is considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c) of the Local Government Act, 1993, as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.*

- CARRIED

**COUNCIL RESOLVED INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION AT 6.31 PM AND  
REVERTED BACK TO OPEN COUNCIL AT 6.34 PM.**

**ITEM 11.1 T03-20 READY MIX CONCRETE**

**(903) CLR. ISHAC:/CLR. MADIRAZZA**

RESOLVED that

1. Council notes that there were no tenders received for the supply and delivery of Ready Mix Concrete.
2. Council agrees to manage its servicing needs for the supply and delivery of ready Mix Concrete, as outlined in the report.

- CARRIED

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.35 PM**

Minutes confirmed 28 APRIL 2020

.....  
Mayor



## **2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**



**3        DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR NON-  
PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST**



## **4            MAYORAL MINUTES**

The following items are submitted for consideration -

4.1    Stimulating Local Government	23
4.2    Community Grants Program Advancement	27
4.3    Local Community Based Donations	29



### **ITEM 4.1                      Stimulating Local Government**

Local Government is about providing for the community. Here at Canterbury Bankstown I'm proud to say we have led our community with a decisive, and an empathetic approach, in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last month, I introduced an 18-point plan to assist our community and local businesses survive this crisis and recover quickly. Our decisions were in the best interests of the community, to safeguard and ultimately protect people's lives. And for the tireless efforts of those frontline heroes saving lives, we will continue to assist you. But there is always more to be done and we will continue to do it.

I have written to the NSW Premier, and been in contact with several other Ministers, to put forward some ideas on what further action is needed in supporting councils and communities across the state. I am pleased at the bipartisan approach taken and that some of these ideas have been adopted, while others are currently being explored.

The stimulus response to COVID-19, by the Federal and State Governments has been historic for the billions pledged and the speed at which it has been implemented. Canterbury Bankstown Council commends them for their leadership during this crisis, however, in their rush to roll out the various relief packages, they have forgotten about the financial strain on Local Governments.

My message to the Federal Government is clear, as it was to the NSW Government: do not forget local government. Local Government stands committed to working in partnership with our Federal and State Governments to protect community health and sustain local economies through this crisis. Not only do we, as a sector, provide services critical in supporting the healthy and safe functioning of our communities, but we have an enormous multiplying effect in economic terms.

Whether it is fast tracking infrastructure investment, education and training of staff in areas of critical shortages, or providing bush care initiatives, councils will be at the forefront of this recovery. It is Councils that are best placed to quickly fuel economic activity whilst simultaneously delivering benefits for communities across the State.

Over the past weeks, the local government sector has campaigned for assistance and put forward several ideas and initiatives to help deal with the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Tonight, I am calling on Councillors to support their campaign and furthermore support the following proposals.

I am calling on both the NSW and Federal Governments to:

- Provide stimulus funding to councils for projects that will help sustain council operations and boost local economies. This could be achieved through increasing or bringing forward funding under existing funding programs or introducing new programs. Existing Federal funding programs include the Roads to Recovery, Bridges Renewal and Road Safety Blackspots programs. State programs include Fixing Local Roads, Fixing Country Bridges and the Stronger Country Communities programs. During this time it is important that funding come directly to councils to swiftly deploy within local communities.

I am calling on the Federal Government to:

- Increase Financial Assistance Grants payments to 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue to help councils maintain essential functions and services, acknowledging the increased costs and mounting revenue losses arising from COVID-19 (and drought and bushfire where affected) as well as giving councils capacity to provide hardship assistance to businesses and residents.

(Note: The Commonwealth Government collects about 80% of Australia's total tax revenue while local councils are responsible for 33% of Australia's public infrastructure, including 75% of the nation's roads. To address the disparity between service delivery responsibilities and revenue collection, a system of intergovernmental financial transfers exists. Local government has been a part of that system since the 1970s following the establishment of the Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). The relative value of the FAGs, however, has declined from 1.01 per cent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1995-96 to now under 0.6%)

- Immediate financial assistance to support council employees in areas required to close due to COVID-19 orders, especially libraries and aquatics.
- Increased access to TAFE, VET and other apprenticeship opportunities that council staff can undertake to address skill shortages, especially for staff in non-essential services who are unable to be redeployed.
- Investigate changes to superannuation rules which will allow for greater flexibility for workers nearing retirement age.

I am calling on the NSW Government to:

- Where the Federal government fails to, to provide immediate financial assistance to support council employees in areas required to close due to COVID-19 orders, especially libraries and aquatics.
- Provide stimulus funding to councils for projects that will help sustain councils' local works during this time of unprecedented income loss and cash flow crisis.
- Extend interest free loans to NSW councils to assist with cashflow issues and/or to maintain spend on critical maintenance and capital works programs
- Commit to a zero increase in 2020/21 State Government fees, levies and charges, for example emergency services, waste levies, audit fees and vehicle registration
- Put in place suitable mechanisms for councils to recuperate lost revenue resulting from any pausing of rate increases, without the need to pursue a special rates variation;
- Include in the 2021/22 rate cap (and future rate caps, if required) an allowance for recovering lost revenue.



- Assist by covering lost interest from both the waiving of interest on deferred rates due to COVID-19 and lost opportunity costs of depleting cash reserves to both continue operations and deliver capital works with severely reduced income and cashflows.

There is no doubting all levels of Government have an enormous task ahead and I commend both the NSW and Federal Governments on their actions to date in dealing with the crisis. But there is much more to be done. If we simply sit back and watch idly, we will miss the opportunity to make a real difference to our communities.

I move this motion, and that we write to our local Federal Members, and State Members, Prime Minister, NSW Premier, Federal Treasurer, NSW Treasurer, NSW Local Government Minister, Federal Minister for Local Government, Federal Opposition Leader, NSW Opposition Leader, Federal Shadow Minister for Local Government and the NSW Shadow Minister for Local Government, to confirm their support for increased financial assistance and stimulus funding for local government to help councils maintain essential services and employment during the COVID-19 pandemic and the range of other measures outlined by Canterbury Bankstown Council and the local government sector's campaign for assistance.



### ITEM 4.2

### Community Grants Program Advancement

We all know how vital our Community Organisations are in supporting those most in need during this pandemic crisis. That is why, tonight, I propose the fast tracking of \$200,000 from next year's community grant program to this year, to assist those outstanding organisations helping our community to deal with the impacts of the Coronavirus.

I recently held a video hook up with several Community Organisations. They shared some distressing stories on how tough it was for some families to make ends meet. One organisation told me they had two cases of people sleeping in their cars because they couldn't afford accommodation.

However, they also shared some of the amazing work they are doing to support people such as these.

The advanced grants scheme, "helping you, help others", will enable eligible Community Organisations to apply for funding to carry out much needed programs and assistance to our community.

The grants will focus on two key areas. Emergency Relief and Alternate Practices and Innovation.

Emergency relief will provide funding for Community Organisations to deliver targeted services to those in genuine hardship for example providing the basics like food, clothing, shelter and other critical needs.

The Alternate Practices and Innovation category will provide funding directly to Community Organisations to improve their technology and practises, so they can deliver things differently. For example, if a Community Organisation had to stop providing face to face mental health care because of social distancing rules, they can use the grant to develop new and innovative ways to engage, allowing their service to continue.

As a Council that leads the way in caring for its community, we have a role in supporting those Community Organisations on the front line at this most critical time.



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## Mayoral Minutes - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 4.3

### Local Community Based Donations

The following community based organisations have approached Council for financial assistance.

#### **Gear Up Girl Event**

The Heart Foundation Gear Up Girl is a Bicycle NSW concept to encourage more women to ride more regularly. Designed to get women and girls of all ages and abilities on their bikes, Gear Up Girl gives women support and confidence to ride, while creating a community to ride with.

What started as an annual Gear Up Girl ride from Cronulla to Sydney Olympic Park in NSW has grown into an Australia wide movement which coincides with International Women's Day. Last year the Rosedale Reserve along the Cooks River cycleway was the first rest stop along the 80km, 60km and 40km route.

I recommend that Council waive the fee of \$174.50 for the use of Rosedale Reserve and that any future requests for assistance be made through Council's Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Program.

#### **Recipes For Ramadan (R4R)**

The R4R Program is a virtual Iftar invitation to share recipes and food as a replacement for Haldon Street night markets and other Ramadan activities that have been cancelled during the COVID-19 crisis. Seena Incorporated have asked for financial assistance to enable them to deliver a special project for a very different Ramadan in 2020 to the local community by making a donation of \$5,000.

R4R will provide a virtual invitation to all (Muslim and non-Muslim) to virtual home Iftars, sharing in different families' food, culture, stories and beliefs across the month of Ramadan and beyond. It is a project that encourages people to try others' recipes and to become familiar with their stories and build a sense of community around Ramadan in which Muslims and non-Muslims can share.

Ramadan 2020 will be different to any previous Ramadan. No Friday prayers at the mosque, no Haldon Street market in Lakemba, no Eid Festivals. As lockdowns and #stayathome go on, Muslim leaders and schools have identified growing concerns for the social and emotional connectedness of communities.

Accordingly, I recommend that Council support Community Support Services through a \$5,000 sponsorship.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

I propose that Council provide the financial assistance as outlined above and that these funds be made available from the Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Program Budget.



## **5 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following item is submitted for consideration -

- |     |  |    |
|-----|--|----|
| 5.1 | Canterbury Development Contributions Plan - Works Program Review | 33 |
|-----|--|----|





### **ITEM 5.1**                      **Canterbury Development Contributions Plan - Works Program Review**

**AUTHOR**                      **City Future**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

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To consider the exhibition of amendments to the works program for the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013.

#### **ISSUE**

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An interim review of the 2013 Canterbury Development Contributions Plan Works Program has been undertaken to ensure the proposed program of works reflects current priorities for local infrastructure projects.

It is important to note that this housekeeping review does not propose any changes to the way in which developer contributions are levied or how the Plan is implemented. Instead, this review predominantly updates the Open Space Embellishment program of works to ensure it corresponds with Council's Operational Plan, Delivery Program and recently adopted Strategic Plans.

It is recommended to exhibit the amendments to the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013 Works Program. This report therefore summarises the amendments to the Plan for exhibition purposes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**    That -

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1. Council exhibit the amendments to Works Program contained within the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013 as shown in Attachment A.
2. A further report be submitted to Council following the exhibition period.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachment](#)

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- A. Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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This housekeeping review of the Works Program within the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan is an administrative amendment to the existing Plan. It does not alter the policy intent or contribution rates of the Plan and is a further step towards aligning the contributions plans across the City of Canterbury Bankstown.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Canterbury Development Contributions Plan, as adopted in 2013, outlines approximately \$106 million of infrastructure improvement works in the former Canterbury LGA over the life of the plan. The projected contributions income to Council remains the same, estimated at \$86 million over the life of the plan. As a result, there will still be a requirement for Council to supplement the shortfall of the plan through other sources of income including grants, general revenue or loans. This shortfall will be managed through Council's annual budgetary processes as part of the development of the annual capital works program.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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The Canterbury Development Contributions Plan remains committed to approximately \$106 million of infrastructure works for open space, recreation facilities, community facilities and public domain facilities over the life of the plan.

Should Council decide to proceed, the next step is to place the revised works program on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

It is intended that the housekeeping amendments to the Works Program incorporated into the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013 would come into effect from 1 July 2020.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

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### Background

The Canterbury Development Contributions Plan (the Plan) was adopted by the former Canterbury Council in 2013.

The Plan was prepared to address anticipated demand for local infrastructure generated by both residential and non-residential development within the former Canterbury Local Government Area (LGA) over a twenty year period. It is based on a population growth of approximately 12,700 new residents over the life of the Plan. These growth figures are based on projections at the time the Plan was adopted. Once the review and consolidation of Council's Local Environmental Plan is completed, a city wide development contributions plan will be prepared based on updated growth projections.

Specifically, the Plan provides the mechanism to enable Council to impose Section 7.11 contributions and Section 7.12 levies on development to help fund the cost of providing new public local infrastructure and services in the former Canterbury LGA (except for the Canterbury Town Centre and Riverfront Precinct which is subject to a separate plan).

The Plan also identifies infrastructure projects that will be funded by these contributions and levies. The works program is based on the application of local infrastructure contributions along with funds from other sources towards the delivery of a prioritised list of infrastructure items (ie items listed in Part 5 of the Plan). It is noted in the Plan that the scope of, and priority attached to, each of the infrastructure items will likely change over the life of the Plan. It is also likely that the estimated cost of items will need to be adjusted as facility designs are firmed up and indexed as time passes to ensure project costs are covered.

At the time of its adoption in 2013, the Plan proposed approximately \$106 million in works and it was projected that contributions paid under this Plan would provide for over \$86 million of these works.

### Update to the Works Program

The Works Program in the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan sets out the infrastructure delivery priorities for the land to which the Plan applies.

It is important that these priorities are consistent with Council's suite of integrated planning documents and adopted strategic plans. More recently, Council and the community have experienced a shift in infrastructure priorities arising from the adoption of multiple strategic documents and the identification of works required to increase the carrying capacity of important community infrastructure assets.

Given the Plan has been in effect for several years, it is timely to undertake a housekeeping review of the Works Program.

In reviewing the works program, Council has considered the need to incorporate projects which align with recently adopted strategic plans and a higher demand for local infrastructure.

In 2019, Council adopted the Leisure and Aquatic Strategic Plan. This document forms the strategic position for Council on the provision of leisure and aquatic services and facilities into the future. It highlights the demand for such facilities due to growth and identified the upgrade of Canterbury Leisure & Aquatic Centre as a priority.

As part of the 2019/20 Operational Plan, Council has also been undertaking an investigation into a synthetic field on the eastern side of the city. Construction of synthetic sporting fields have numerous benefits and provide greater carrying capacity as opposed to grass fields.

Through these pieces of work, Council has identified two significant projects attributed to changes in the local area that require a level of funding from development contributions and levies to ensure their implementation. They are:

- Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre - These proposed upgrades, as identified in the Leisure and Aquatic Strategic Plan, are being undertaken in order to address the current asset condition of an older facility and to cater for growth. For this reason, the cost of works can only be partially apportioned to growth and therefore development contributions will fund a portion of the cost of these upgrades.
- Rudd Park Synthetic Field – The cost of this facility will be fully apportioned to the expected population growth. This is reasonable because the extra population will demand additional sporting fields, and Council will partly meet that demand by increasing the carrying capacity of existing fields through the provision of a synthetic sportsfield.

The Works Program in the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013 (Attachment A) has been updated to reflect the above.

### **Exhibition**

Should Council support the recommendations in this report, the amendments to the Canterbury Development Contributions Plan 2013 Works Schedule will be exhibited for a minimum 28 days. Following the exhibition, this matter will be reported back to Council with the outcomes of the exhibition.

## **6            POLICY MATTERS**

The following item is submitted for consideration -

6.1    Policy Updates - CBCity Relief Package	39
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### **ITEM 6.1                      Policy Updates - CBCity Relief Package**

**AUTHOR                      Corporate**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the revised Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy and the Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy, particularly to:

- Formalise the administration of Council's CBCity Cares Relief Package, in responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency; and
- Administer any other future Emergency Events as they arise - as determined by Council.

#### **ISSUE**

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As Councillors would recall, at its Ordinary Meeting in March 2020, the Mayor unveiled the CBCity Cares Relief Package designed to offer relief and support to our community experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency.

This report is to formalise the waiving of payments and/or reduction of fees, as they relate to Council's CBCity Cares Package and amendments to relevant policies to financially assist our community for any future emergency events, as determined by Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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That Council endorse the proposed actions as outlined in the report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS                      [Click here for attachments](#)**

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- A.     Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy
- B.     Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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The Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy has been revised to formalise the Mayor's CBCity Relief Package.

Similarly, Council is also amending the Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy so it can cater for those experiencing financial hardship during emergency events, such as the COVID 19 crisis.

Notwithstanding Council's endorsement of its CBCity Relief Package, the NSW Government has similarly announced changes to s610E of the Local Government Act that have broadened its scope to enable Councils to waive or reduce fees under a new COVID-19 emergency category, added as part of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

This means that Council can immediately reduce fees or apply a waiver without establishing a new category or going through the normal public notice requirements as stipulated under s610E(2) for adding new categories. The decision to waive or reduce fees is voluntary and a decision of Council.

Notwithstanding the Government's legislative amendment to S610E of the Act, it is proposed that Council continue to broaden its relevant Policies to financially assist our community in dealing with the COVID 19 crisis and importantly any other future emergency events, as determined by Council.

When adopted, both the Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy and the draft Grants and Sponsorship Policy will supersede the existing policies.

Council's Policy Register will then be updated to reflect the adopted policy positions.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The financial implications from this report are addressed in the Council Report on the Review of the 2019/20 Operational Plan and Budget.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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The endorsement of both the revised Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy and the Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy will demonstrate Council's continued commitment to supporting the Canterbury Bankstown community that is experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, and any future emergency events.

Changes to both policies will provide our community with temporary relief from the COVID-19 emergency and future emergency events by way of rate relief and other forms of relief for those experiencing hardship during these unprecedented times.



## DETAILED INFORMATION

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### Background

As outlined by the Mayor at Council's Ordinary Meeting in March 2020, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the community. In response, Federal and State Governments have implemented a raft of measures to slow the spread of the virus. Measures included a number of legislative changes, public health orders, social distancing, the temporary closure of many businesses, have curtailed the way we operate and socialise. Such measures have had a financial and social impact on our community.

Council has recognised the impact of these measures and in response, the Mayor unveiled the CBCity Cares Package at the 24 March Ordinary Meeting. A key part of the package was to offer temporary relief to those experiencing financial hardship in the Canterbury Bankstown Local Government Area.

The report provides for Council to formalise its previous decisions, and reflect necessary changes to its Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy and Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy, to deal with the COVID 19 crisis and more broadly any other emergency events – as determined by Council.

### Proposed Policy Changes

#### *Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy*

- Council's Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy has been revised to provide additional hardship assistance to those who have been impacted during emergency events (such as by COVID-19), particularly to provide added flexibility for ratepayers to make their payments during the periods of the emergency.
- To assist with the COVID 19 crisis and any other future emergency events, two additional sections have been added to the policy. The changes include:

- Section 5.3.5 *Hardship assistance- Emergency Event*, states:

*In an emergency event, Council recognises that managing financial hardship is a shared responsibility. Council is therefore committed to providing assistance to its ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship;*

- Section 5.3.5.1 *Administrative Guidelines*, states:

*During an emergency event, the General Manager is authorised to implement separate Administrative Guidelines to address the event. These guidelines, referred to as 'Administrative Guidelines Debt Recovery and Annual Charges- Emergency Event', will only apply during the period of the emergency event and as determined by Council.*

- As Councillors may be aware, Council's Policy is supported by various Guidelines to enable the General Manager to effectively administer the Policy. In this case, a specific Guidelines will be prepared to support the COVID 19 crisis and provide relief to those most affected.
- Broadly, the Guideline will enact support for the following ratepayers throughout our community:
  - *Residential Ratepayers* – those who can substantiate that they have lost their job or loss of substantial income (ie. receiving Jobseeker and/or Jobkeeper Subsidy);
  - *Small Business Ratepayers* – those entities where their aggregated turnover is less than \$10M and are able to demonstrate/substantiate that their turnover has dropped by more than 30%; and
  - *Small Business Landlord Ratepayers* – where a landlord's tenant is a Small Business and they are able to demonstrate that they are suffering considerable financial hardship (ie. obtaining mortgage relief from their bank and their tenant is being provided rental relief).
- Where any of the above Ratepayers substantiate their hardship, Council will require those Ratepayers to enter into a formal payment arrangement, where they will be allowed to:
  - Defer and/or vary instalment payments dates as specific in the Act;
  - Ratepayers to nominate a start date and frequency (weekly, fortnightly or monthly). Provided all rates and charges are brought up to date by 30 June 2021 (including future instalments to 30 June 2021) any interest accrued to 30 June 2021 will be waived if ratepayer abides by payment arrangement; and
  - Debt recovery action will be suspended till 30 June 2021 if ratepayer abides by payment arrangement.

#### *Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy*

- Council's Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy has also been revised to provide relief to those that may experience financial hardship during emergency events.
- Notwithstanding the Government's legislative amendment to S610E of the Act, it is proposed that Council continue to broaden its relevant Policies to financially assist our community in dealing with the COVID 19 emergency/crisis and importantly any other future emergency events, as determined by Council.
- Two additional sections have been added to the policy. The changes include:
  - The first section 5.1.6 *Delivery and Acquittal*, states:

*An organisation that received a Community Grant under this Policy is required to deliver and acquit the grant within 12 months of receipt of funds, or as otherwise agreed to by Council.*

- The second section 5.5 *Emergency Event*, states:

*Council is committed to ensuring the community is supported during times of emergency events such as fires, earthquakes or epidemics. In times of such emergency events, Council facilities may be closed and Council services may be disrupted or suspended.*

*In such cases or events, Council may financially assist the community including waiving, refunding and/or postponing amounts, fees, charges, or other incomes as determined by Council.*

*For purposes of s610E of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and subject to Council approval, the General Manager may exercise and/or administer the requirement of this section of the policy.*

### **Waiving of Payments and/or Fees Reduced for Council Services**

Having regard to Council's CBCity Cares Package and changes to the Regulations, a number of payments and/or fees have been waived in providing relief to those most in need throughout our community. A summary of the changes include:

- Leisure and Aquatics – Learn to Swim program;
- Property Rentals – specific leases/licenses associated with Council facilities;
- Community Halls and Facilities – casual hire fees/bookings;
- Sports and Recreation – casual hire fees/bookings and licence arrangements;
- Children's Services Fees;
- Outdoor Dining Fees; and
- Waiving of interest – rates (as noted above)

The expected financial impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic to Council's operations is expected to around \$18M. A more comprehensive financial impact of this change is separately reflected in Councils March 2020 Quarterly Budget Review and 2020/21 Annual Budget.

### **Proposed Approach**

As outlined above, the Government recently introduced amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to provide Councils flexibility to financially support those most affected by the COVID 19 crisis throughout their communities.

The changes to the Regulation provides Council the flexibility to now enact/implement all its initiatives presented in its CBCity Cares Package, without altering any of its policies or being required to exhibit the waiving of any payments and/or reducing fees.

That said and for the purposes of, clarity, transparency and good governance, Council's Policies have been amended to:

- Enable Council to specifically support those most vulnerable during the COVID 19 crisis and any future emergency events that may arise;
- In order to enact the specific provisions of the Policy, Council would need to declare, by way of resolution, an Emergency Event and outline the parameters of financial support that Council would provide throughout the community.
- Any decision to waive payments of, or reduce fees for future emergency events will require Council to publicly exhibit (Section 610E(2)), at that time.

Given the above, it is recommended that:

- Council note the recent amendments made to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Section 413J), with regards to waiving payments or reducing fees relating to the COVID – 19 Pandemic.
- The changes to the Regulation be applied to the waiving of payments and/or fees for Council services outlined above.
- Council endorse the amended Rates and Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy and Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Policy and the policy, as outlined in the report.

## **7            GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

The following items are submitted for consideration -

7.1	Review of the 2019/20 Operational Plan and Budget to March 2020	47
7.2	2020/21 Draft Operational Plan, Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges	53
7.3	Vacancy in Civic Office	77
7.4	Insurance Renewals and Brokerage Services	81
7.5	Cash and Investment Report as at 31 March 2020	85



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## Governance and Administration Matters - 28 April 2020

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### **ITEM 7.1                      Review of the 2019/20 Operational Plan and Budget to March 2020**

**AUTHOR                      City Future**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The review provides a summary of progress on the delivery of Council's 2019/20 Operational Plan. Separately, the report considers the review of Council's financial results and proposed budget adjustments for the March 2020 Quarterly Budget Review period.

#### **ISSUE**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework which stipulates that regular progress reports are required to be provided to Council and the community.

It demonstrates the organisation's performance in delivering the actions outlined in Council's 2019/20 Operational Plan and the 2018-21 Delivery Program. These are key documents for our City as they translate our priorities and services into measureable actions for the financial year and Council term.

In providing information on performance measures, status of projects, highlights and achievements, this report is divided into the following components:

- Operational and Delivery Plan progress; and
- Financial performance.

Of note, the report also outlines implications for Council as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, particularly the financial impact for this financial year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Council note the quarterly review of its 2019/20 Operational Plan to 31 March 2020 and adopt the March 2020 Quarterly Budget Review as outlined in this report.
2. Council allocate Ward Funds as outlined in the report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachments](#)

- A. March 2020 Quarterly Review of the Operational Plan - Summary Report
- B. March 2020 Quarterly Review of the Operational Plan - Detailed Report
- C. March 2020 Budget Revision Reports
- D. March 2020 Budget Revision Review

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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The review integrated planning documents is prepared in accordance with Section 406 of the Local Government Act, 1993, which requires regular progress reports to be provided to Council and community. Council currently generates reports on a quarterly basis to ensure thorough monitoring of the commitments it has made to the community.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The report presents Council's operating result as at 31 March 2020.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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The report provides the community with an understanding of Council's performance in delivering its yearly Operational Plan, three-year Delivery Program as well as an update on the financial position as at 31 March 2020.



## DETAILED INFORMATION

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### **PART A – Quarterly progress of the 2019/20 Operational Plan to March 2019**

Given the health and environmental challenges this quarter, progress on Council's Operational Plan has been very good, with 85% of projects listed as complete or on track for completion by June 2020. Timing and delivery of so many services were impacted by the summer bushfire season (which restricted or closed some services due to poor air quality), January floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

While some services have been closed or reduced in the interests of public safety, Council staff have worked hard to ensure that essential services like waste collection, street cleaning, parks maintenance, roads maintenance, development services, regulation and compliance, and Meals on Wheels continue to be delivered at current or even increased levels where needed. Specific impacts on programs are highlighted in the attachments to this report, and impacts on income and expenditure are detailed later in this report.

Despite these challenges, Council has shown compassion, courage and resilience, adapting and changing the way we operate to ensure unhindered delivery of key services for our community. We are still working to understand the ongoing impacts of the current situation and will continue to monitor and review our response, and our delivery of services, programs and projects to ensure we can continue to provide for the changing needs of the community. This needs to be balanced with likely, but largely unknown changes to our income and expenditure, and our adaptive response to new challenges as they arise.

At the close of the third quarter, 47% of Council's Capital Works Program is complete. This equates to 249 projects valuing \$28.1 million, including 147 transport projects, 27 building projects, and 44 sportsfield, playground and open space projects. A further 36% of projects are in progress or in the design phase. A snapshot of capital works progress across the city is provided in Attachment A.

Attachment A provides an overview of key highlights and achievements for this quarter structured around the seven destinations. The destinations are: Safe & Strong; Clean & Green; Prosperous & Innovative; Moving & Integrated; Healthy & Active; Liveable & Distinctive; and Leading & Engaged. They help to identify how Council is progressing towards achieving the community's aspirations in each of these areas.

Detailed actions for the entire 2019/20 Operational Plan are outlined in Attachment B.

The combined attachments highlight the progress of many important projects and initiatives, and confirm our firm and continued commitment to Council's contribution to CBCity 2028. Our most important, though unplanned, initiative was the CBCity Cares Package committing Council to a number of initiatives to support the community while the COVID-19 threat exists. Other key highlights for the quarter are outlined below.

- Safe & Strong
  - Delivery of the Marveloo (portable accessible friendly changeroom) in January, increasing the ability for people with different accessibility needs to participate in events and celebrations with the rest of their community.

- Adoption of the Child Friendly City Action Plan in February, providing for safe and secure spaces for children and access to quality children's services.
- Clean & Green
  - The Eyes On It rubbish dumping prevention campaign completed its third phase, reporting a tripling of public reports tripling and a drop in dumping incidents by a huge 40 per cent.
- Prosperous & Innovative
  - A CBCity first with Council taking part in the Sydney Festival in January, hosting Black Drop Effect play at the Bankstown Arts Centre.
  - Over 6,500 people were attracted to Australia Day celebrations with pool parties held at Birrong, Canterbury, and Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centres as well as a Twilight Party at Belmore Oval.
  - Bankstown Arts Centre won the Best Arts Program Award for its 2019 Boundless Festival.
- Moving & Integrated
  - Council secured nearly \$2.5 million in funding under the Active Transport Grant for the construction of a shared path under the Canterbury Road/ Cooks River bridge.
  - \$4.7 million was secured for construction of traffic facilities under the 2020/21 NSW Government's Safer Roads Program.
- Healthy & Active
  - 'Keep Them Alive, Always Supervise' campaign was announced at our leisure and aquatic centres.
  - Roselands Leisure and Aquatic Centre reopened its dedicated toddler's wading pool for the first time since 2016.
- Liveable & Distinctive
  - Plans to energise and enhance community life in Hurlstone Park were placed on exhibition for community feedback.
- Leading & Engaged
  - Over \$10,000 was donated for recovery and emergency assistance for those affected by the fires that raged across NSW and Australia.
  - Residents have access to a new and improved Have Your Say webpage to make it easier to have a say on Council's community projects.

## **PART B – March 2020 Quarterly Budget Review**

### **Financial Performance**

Following a review of the third quarter's financial performance, Council's broader financial position continues to reflect a Net Result of negative \$12.1M. Once adjusted for one-off capital grants and contributions (which establishes/provides the true result of managing our day-to-day operations), Council's net result further declines to negative \$43.4M.

As has been discussed with Councillors, whilst the negative net result does not present any immediate financial concerns, it does convey Council's inability to adequately fund (in the long term):

- the replacement of our infrastructure assets (Depreciation Expense);
- pressure to both align and/or increase service levels across the local government area;
- exponential increases in non-discretionary costs, such as the emergency services levy, local government election costs and waste levies; and

- recoup the loss of rating revenue to fund services/capital (i.e. former Canterbury Council Special Rate Variation - \$5.1M per annum).

Council's long term financial plan demonstrates that we must look to address the imbalance and importantly develop a path which ensure we remain financially sustainable.

As is the case each quarter, Council's ongoing commitment to refining/reviewing our cost-base, particularly through ongoing efficiency improvements throughout our operations, ensures that we are making every effort to deal with the pressures, as noted above.

The recent developments of the COVID-19 virus have greatly affected many of Council's operations. As Councillors would be aware, Council resolved a number of initiatives and support packages to assist our community throughout the pandemic.

Some of the broader aspects of the changes impacting this financial year are summarised as follows:

- Council's income, particularly User Charges and Fees, for services such as aquatics, use of community halls and recreation facilities for the fourth quarter has reduced by around \$6.0M;
- Council's operations, including the ongoing employment of staff, has largely continued as normal, and thereby has not resulted in any decreased costs;
- With the exception of some funding for child-care services, Council will not receive any Government funding and/or assistance to deal with the pandemic.

Notwithstanding this, both the Mayor and General Manager continue to make representation on behalf of the Council, be it directly to relevant Federal & State Ministers as well as through associated external bodies, including ALGA, LGNSW and SSROC with regards to the matter;

- In dealing with the financial impact, Council is required to draw upon its infrastructure cash reserves to balance its budget in funding the economic cost of the pandemic. Naturally, this will significantly impact and/or further erode our ongoing ability to manage our asset renewal requirements.
- A complete summary of the major proposed changes is outlined in attachment C.

Further, in support of our community, Council is currently reviewing its rates relief policy pertaining to the collection of outstanding rates. Whilst the impact is still unclear, Council's challenge will be managing debt and its cash flow, where it will balance any working funds shortfalls from existing cash reserves to ensure Council's operations can continue through this extraordinary period.

Throughout this review, Council Operating Result has declined by \$3.2M (or \$3.3M when adjusted for one-off capital grants and contributions), when compared to the result forecast as part of the December revision process. A summary of the major proposed changes is outlined in attachment D.

Separately, Council's capital works and acquisition program is now expected to be \$113.9M, having increased by \$2.5M for this quarter. These adjustments are a part of Council's ongoing review which ensures that the capital works and acquisition program reflects the forecast pattern of expenditure.

In reflecting the adjustments made as a part of this revision, Council's level of cash and cash equivalents is expected to decrease by approximately \$5.7M (assuming no carryovers exist at 30 June 2020).

In addition, requests to allocate the following Ward Funds for specific projects have been received and reflected as part of this quarterly review process.

Description / Project	Councillor	Allocation
<b>Funding toward the Milperra Community Hall Upgrading Project</b>	Downey	\$1,000
<b>Funding toward the Milperra Community Hall Upgrading Project</b>	Tuntevski	\$500

Further detailed analysis regarding the March review, including the Quarterly Budget Review Statements, is provided in Attachments C and D. The review contains details of any major variations which are reflected by the adjustments detailed in the Quarterly Budget Review Statements.

## Conclusion

The Quarterly Report (Attachments A and B) provide a progress report for the third quarter of Council's 2019/20 Operational Plan. The provision of this report ensures Council is meeting its obligations under the Integrated Planning and Report Framework and contributes to the ongoing enhancement of good governance across Council. The data contained within these reports will also be made available on Council's website.

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## Governance and Administration Matters - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 7.2                      2020/21 Draft Operational Plan, Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges

**AUTHOR**                      City Future

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements (*Local Government Act 1993* S402-406) include the need for Council to develop a Delivery Program and supporting annual operational plans. Together, these documents represent Council's response as an organisation to the 10 year community strategic plan for the City – *CBCity 2028*:

- The 2018-21 Delivery Program sets out the principal services Council will undertake, priorities, service commitments, transformative actions and measures for the period 2018 to 2021. It was adopted in June 2018; and
- The Operational Plan, which outlines the financial resources to be allocated and the projects to be completed in that financial year. It includes a breakdown of Council's operating budgets and planned expenditure, as well as other financial information, and Council's Revenue Policy, Pricing Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges. Operational Plans are prepared annually and, following a minimum 28 day exhibition period, are usually required to be adopted by Council prior to 1 July each year.

The aim of both documents is to maintain and improve services, deliver on infrastructure needs, and provide a tangible contribution to *CBCity 2028*.

#### **ISSUE**

This report seeks Council's endorsement to exhibit the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan, including the draft 2020/21 Budget (and accompanying financial statements), and the draft 2020/21 Schedule of Fees and Charges. It has been developed as Council and the community cope with the impact of the environmental and health emergencies during 2019/20, which have altered Council's ability to provide services and facilities in the present, and to fund and provide for future operations.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. In accordance with Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the draft Operational Plan 2020/21, including the draft 2020/21 Budget and draft 2020/21 Schedule of Fees and Charges, be placed on public exhibition.
2. The proposed Rating and Annual Charges for 2020/21 as outlined in Annexures F and G (forming part of Attachment A to this report) be adopted. The proposal is based on the following:

- (a) For areas covered by the former City of Bankstown
- (i) Council's ordinary and special (CBD Infrastructure Improvement) rates for 2020/21 making provision for an ad valorem structure and an increase to Council's general income equivalent to the percentage of 2.6%, as specified by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
  - (ii) A Minimum Ordinary Residential Rate of \$636.80 in respect of each separate parcel of rateable land in the City categorised as Residential land.
  - (iii) A Minimum Ordinary Business Rate of \$778.70 for each parcel of rateable land in the City categorised as Business.
  - (iv) Annual charges from Domestic Waste collection be set at \$565.00 for all Residential properties.
  - (v) The maximum mandatory pensioner rebate of \$250.00 per annum. In addition Council continue to provide a further voluntary rebate, which equates to \$40.00 per annum in accordance with Council's 'Rates and Charges Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy'.
  - (vi) Annual Charges for Stormwater Management Services as follows:
    - **Residential Properties**
      - Annual Residential Charge of \$25.00 per property.
      - Annual Residential Strata Charge of \$12.50 per property.
    - **Business Properties**
      - Annual Charge of \$25.00 per property plus an additional \$25.00 for each 350 square metres or part of 350 square metres by which the area of the parcel of land exceeds 350 square metres.
    - **Mixed Development**
      - Adopt the dominant Rating category as applied to the parcel of land as determined by the Valuer General and apply to each relevant property.
      - In the event that a mixed development is 50% residential and 50% business, Council will apply a residential charge.
    - **Exemptions**

In addition to the exemptions stipulated in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, the following exemptions will also apply in managing the service:

- Council-owned land;
  - Bowling and Golf Clubs - where the dominant use is open space;
  - Properties zoned:
  - Open space 6(a);
  - Private Recreation 6(b); and
  - Rural
- (vii) A maximum rate of interest on overdue rates and charges as specified by the Minister for Local Government.
- (b) For areas covered by the former City of Canterbury
- (i) Council's ordinary rates for 2020/21 making provision for an ad valorem structure and an increase to Council's general income equivalent to the percentage of 2.6%, as specified by the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
  - (ii) A Minimum Ordinary Residential Rate of \$713.90 in respect of each separate parcel of rateable land in the City categorised as Residential land.
  - (iii) A Minimum Ordinary Business Rate of \$713.90 for each parcel of rateable land in the City categorised as Business.
  - (iv) Annual charges from Domestic Waste collection be set at \$530.00 for all Residential and Business properties.
  - (v) The maximum mandatory pensioner rebate of \$250.00 per annum. In addition Council to provide a further voluntary rebate, which equates to \$40.00 per annum in accordance with Council's 'Rates and Charges Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy'.
  - (vi) Annual Charges for Stormwater Management Services as follows:
    - **Residential Properties**
      - Annual Residential Charge of \$25.00 per property.
      - Annual Residential Strata Charge of \$12.50 per property.
    - **Business Properties**
      - Annual Charge of \$25.00 per property plus an additional \$25.00 for each 350 square metres or part of 350 square metres by which the area of the parcel of land exceeds 350 square metres.
    - **Mixed Development**
      - Adopt the dominant Rating category as applied to the parcel of land as determined by the Valuer General and apply to each relevant property.

- In the event that a mixed development is 50% residential and 50% business, Council will apply a residential charge.

- **Exemptions**

In addition to the exemptions stipulated in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, the following exemptions will also apply in managing the service:

- Council-owned land;
- Bowling and Golf Clubs - where the dominant use is open space;
- Properties zoned:
- Open space 6(a);
- Private Recreation 6(b); and
- Rural

- (vii) A maximum rate of interest on overdue rates and charges as specified by the Minister for Local Government.

3. A further report be submitted to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

[Click here for attachment](#)

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- A. Draft Operational Plan 2020/21



## **POLICY IMPACT**

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The draft Operational Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The draft Operational Plan sets out Council's draft Revenue Policy, Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2020/21 financial year. Considerable financial impacts have been felt during 2019/20 due to severe bushfire and other weather events and the COVID-19 health emergency, and these impacts will continue to be felt as we enter the new financial year. The current and estimated financial effects are reflected in budget considerations for income and expenditure in 2020/21. Actual and projected income and expenditure will continue to be reviewed and adjusted as we work through the existing and future challenges.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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The draft Operational Plan details the projects, activities and finances to implement in 2020/21 to align to the 2018-21 Delivery Program. The Operational Plan is a pivotal integrated planning document which ensure that Council continues to focus the priorities identified by the community and that resources are properly allocated to address them.

The budget has been premised on providing as many business-as-usual services and facilities as possible, and with the need to be flexible and sensitive to changing community and staff needs during 2020/21.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

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### Draft Operational Plan 2020/21

Under the Local Government Act, councils are required to develop a hierarchy of plans known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework. This Framework requires councils to draw their various plans together and to understand how they interact.

While Council's hierarchy of integrated planning documents focus on short- and long-term issues facing the City, no amount of preplanning could predict the current circumstances faced by Council staff in delivering services and facilities to our community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council will review all longer-term plans following the 2021 local government elections, but must adopt an annual budget that copes with the current and challenging times.

While all levels of government strive to deal with the current health emergency of COVID-19, it is imperative that local government continues to operate and deliver local services and facilities. As we enter the 2020/21 financial year, CBCity will focus on delivering essential services like waste collection, street cleaning, parks maintenance, roads maintenance, development services, regulation and compliance, and Meals on Wheels at current or increased levels. Other council services and facilities like leisure and aquatics, libraries, community centres, sport and recreation programs, will become more available when the safety of community and staff are not compromised.

The draft 2020/21 Operational Plan provides for a \$342.5 million operating budget, with a \$73.8 million capital program. Of the capital works program, \$54.9 million will be spent on replacing and/ or restoring ageing infrastructure throughout the City and the balance on priority initiatives. The capital works program provides for:

- playground upgrades at Parry Park, Flinders Slopes, Playford Park, Northcote Reserve and Harold Reserve;
- Canterbury Road underpass;
- regional road reconstruction of Chapel Road, Bankstown and stage one of road rehabilitation works at Haldon Street, Lakemba;
- bridge widening works at Hector and Wolumba Streets, Chester Hill;
- continued implementation of the Smart City Road Map;
- a night-time economy strategy and buy local campaign;
- a City Events and Activation Strategy including a new signature event for the City;
- a new community space in Hurlstone Park, an outdoor learning centre at Ewen Park and design for a community centre at Thurina Park;
- detailed designs for the upgrade of Canterbury Leisure and Aquatic Centre and concept designs for the upgrade of Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centre;
- a new synthetic field surface at Rudd Park;
- reconstruction of playing surface at Kelso Park South;
- upgrade of court surfaces at Roger Bowman Tennis Courts;
- restoring the ponds at Wiley Park;
- illegal dumping initiatives;
- preparing a Bankstown Place Strategy and Campsie town centre masterplan;
- implementing the Local Strategic Planning Statement – Connective City 2036; and
- continued advocacy for improved planning outcomes for the City.

These are some of our major commitments for 2020/21, for now. Council will strive for a business-as-usual environment, and will continue to monitor, review and reassess these to ensure that, when required, funds and resources are channelled where they can best meet community needs.

While no-one fully understands the long-term impact of the health and environmental emergencies that the world experienced in 2019/20, we at CBCity continue to be and flexible and compassionate in responding to community needs; and vigilant in providing the local services and facilities.

### **Financial Management**

Whilst Council's current financial position is considered sound, Council's broader financial position continues to reflect a Net Result of negative \$0.1M. Once adjusted for one-off capital grants and contributions (which establishes/provides the true result of managing our day-to-day operations), Council's net result further declines to negative \$33.2M.

As noted in previous Quarterly Reports, whilst the negative net result does not present any immediate financial concerns, it does convey Council's inability to adequately fund (in the long term):

- the replacement of our infrastructure assets (Depreciation Expense);
- pressure to both align and/or increase service levels across the local government area;
- exponential increases in non-discretionary costs, such as the emergency services levy, local government election costs and waste levies; and
- recoup the loss of rating revenue to fund services/capital (ie. former Canterbury Council Special Rate Variation - \$5.1M per annum).

Council's long term financial plan demonstrates that we must look to address the imbalance and importantly develop a path which ensure we remain financially sustainable.

Council has an ongoing commitment to refining/reviewing our cost-base, particularly through ongoing efficiency improvements throughout our operations, to ensure that we are making every effort to deal with the pressures, as noted above.

In addition to the above, the recent developments of the COVID-19 virus have greatly affected many of Councils operations. In responding to the crisis, Council has implemented a number of initiatives and support packages to assist our community throughout the pandemic. The total financial impact of the pandemic on Council's operations is estimated to be around \$18M (2020/21 impact - \$12M). Further details are outlined in the report.

Council's Financial Management Strategy addresses Council's long term financial sustainability challenges including our commitment to slow expense-growth, adequately fund the maintenance and renewal of infrastructure, and manage our liabilities for future generations.

Our strategy includes measures to tackle and absorb the broader economic environment and ensure we are ready to respond to issues, such as:

- Harmonising services and revenue funding across the local government area;

- The expected growth in housing and its impact on our service and infrastructure needs;
- Revitalising and re-investing in our CBD, town centres, libraries and recreational facilities;
- Enforcement of required regulatory and compliance standards expected of our community;
- Preserving our fragile natural environment;
- Building confidence in our City by identifying relevant opportunities to support our local economy and attract investment; and
- Taking a positive and leading role in responding to the reforms set out by the NSW Government.

Notwithstanding the above, fundamentally Council has a significant funding imbalance/gap in its ability to continue funding its operational costs and long term asset management requirements.

Whilst the subject of a more detailed discussion with Councillors in the future, Council's long term financial plan suggests that Council requires a further \$30M per annum to adequately meet its ageing asset renewal obligations. This of course does not include any additional funding for new initiatives.

Whilst explained further on in the report, by way of summary, Council's funding shortfall is best explained as follows:

#### **Summary of Required/Restored Funding**

<b>Amount to Recover – one off adjustment</b>	<b>\$M</b>
<b>COVID 19 Adjustment</b>	17.9
<b>Former Canterbury SRV – previous years</b>	10.2
<b>Total Amount to Recover</b>	<b>28.1</b>

<b>Recurrent Annual Funding Shortfall</b>	<b>\$M</b>
<b>Former Canterbury SRV – annual</b>	5.0
<b>Asset Renewal Funding – annual</b>	25.0
<b>Total Recurrent Annual Funding Shortfall</b>	<b>30.0</b>

In addition to the recurrent shortfall of funding of \$30M, Council would also need to consider the need to recover lost income of around \$28M, due to loss in former Canterbury SRV funding and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

As indicated, this will be the subject of a further discussion with Councillors in determining how best to address its long term financial planning requirements.

#### **Financial Framework and Objectives**

Council's financial approach provides the required framework for managing its objectives and financial decision making. This focuses on continuing to ensure that the financial parameters, principles and objectives applied in developing the budget to achieve a balance between financial stability, sustainability, asset maintenance, construction and the provision of services to our community.

The principal financial objectives are to:

- provide adequate investment in recurrent operational and asset replacement programs/projects;
- incorporate all necessary governance and administrative costs required in delivering Council's objectives;
- manage cash restrictions based on agreed policies and statutory requirements;
- meet the cost of accrued liabilities such as loan repayments and employee entitlements as they fall due; and
- maintain a sound financial position.

Council's financial goals continue to include:

- maintaining an adequate level of unrestricted working funds and liquidity levels to preserve our sound financial position;
- increasing non-rates revenue through investing in income generating activities, effective pricing and property management;
- providing affordable services through productivity and efficiency improvements which will also include a continued assessment of core/non-core services being provided to the community; and
- achieving an optimum balance in satisfying our financial objectives and other planned activity outcomes.

The budget is premised on a number of elements, including:

- no increase in rates above that approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART);
- unless known, the growth in other revenues and operational costs be increased to reflect Council's pricing principles outlined in the Long Term Financial Plan;
- not relying on recurrent loan borrowing programs for asset replacement purposes;
- redirecting savings in debt servicing costs towards asset replacement purposes; and
- maintaining strategic indicators and cash restrictions at acceptable levels.

## **2020/21 Planned Budget**

Council's focus for the forthcoming financial year continues to be about balancing the provision of services, delivering on infrastructure and preserving/managing on our cash reserve position, whilst dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 crisis has certainly placed significant pressure on Council's operations, its management of cash flows and regrettably, reduced funding for capital works (infrastructure).

Whilst the financial impact of COVID is outlined in detail throughout the report, some of the broader and/or more pertinent issues impacting on the draft budget for the 2020/21 financial year are outlined below.

### *Financial Impact of COVID-19*

- Council's income, particularly User Charges and Fees, for services such as aquatics, use of community halls and recreation facilities, trade waste, regulatory, child care for the year has reduced by around \$11.9M;
- Council's operations, has largely continued as normal as we continue to deliver our essential services to our community, and thereby has not resulted in any decreased costs;
- With the exception of some funding for child-care services, Council will not receive any Government funding and/or assistance to deal with the pandemic.
- In dealing with the financial impact, Council is required to draw upon its infrastructure cash reserves (\$18M in total over two (2) financial years) to balance its draft 2020/21 budget in funding the economic cost of the pandemic. Naturally, this will significantly impact and/or further erode our ongoing ability to manage our asset renewal requirements.

As is the case each year, the various broader economic elements, service expectations and revenue projections have been assessed in formulating Council's 2020/21 budget. The framework applied in setting Council's budget is as follows.

## **REVENUE POLICY**

Where evident, revenue budgets have been adjusted to reflect known issues, while others are largely estimated around current year trends. Council has also incorporated a number of industry specific factors, where applicable (see below).

## **General Rates and Annual Charges**

On the 29 March 2017, the NSW Parliament passed the Local Government Amendment (Rates – Merged Council Areas) Bill 2017 providing rate protection for residents of NSW Merged Councils. The Bill effectively froze rates on their current paths for a period of 4 years, an obligation which continues until 30 June 2020. This was subsequently revised by the Government to 30 June 2021.

Given this, Council is required to:

- Maintain both former Council's rate structure whereby rate assessments are based entirely upon property valuations (ad valorem) but with minimum rates applying where appropriate;
- Incorporate a permissible rate increase of 2.6%, as determined/set by the NSW Government;
- Reduce its income (specifically for the former Canterbury Council area only) by \$5.1M as a result of its SRV ending on 30 June 2019 (on average \$180/annum reduction for former Canterbury properties); and
- reflect an anticipated staged growth of around 750 dwellings throughout the year.

In total, Council's net increase in rating income is expected to be around \$5.0M. Councillors should note that Council will continue to allocate rating income raised from its remaining Special Rate Variation (Sustainability Levy) for the former City of Canterbury for the purposes of renewing assets within the former City of Canterbury area.

That said and in keeping with Council's commitment to assist those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council's Rates and Hardship Policy and relevant Guidelines provides flexibility for those experiencing financial hardship.

As a result, Council's budget will reflect a reduction in interest income associated with the deferred payment of rates and annual charges.

Annexures F and G in the financial statements summarise the rate in the dollar and minimum charges for each category.

### **Minimum Rates**

Proposed minimum rates reflect a 2.6% increase to that levied throughout 2019/20.

### **Special Rates – Bankstown CBD Town Centre**

Council's special rate in respect of the Bankstown CBD Town Centre has similarly been increased by 2.6%. Any expenditure will reflect projects and priorities based within the CBD.

## Pensioner Rates

Approximately 20,500 pensioner ratepayers qualify for Council's voluntary rate rebate and the State Government's mandatory rate rebate, which are granted to persons in receipt of the pensioner concession cards. The maximum mandatory rebate, which is 55% funded by the State, is \$250.00 per annum.

In accordance with Council's proposed rates and charges, debt recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy, an additional voluntary rebate which equates to \$40.00 per annum will be provided to all eligible pensioners. The total rebate will cost Council approximately \$2.2 million in net terms for 2020/21 of which approximately \$0.8 million is Council's discretionary concession.

## Domestic Waste Fee

As Councillors would be aware, Council will be harmonising its waste operations, commencing February 2021. The new contracts will reflect increased/standardised service levels throughout the local government area, across all waste services.

In setting its fee, Council is required to:

- apply cost recovery principles in setting its fee, including the need to account for increasing non-discretionary state government costs, such as tipping fees and levies;
- reflect the increased service levels costs;
- reflect required capital resourcing to accommodate the new service;
- restoring relevant cash reserves (former Canterbury Council); and
- maintaining adequate cash reserves for ongoing vehicle and bin replacement, including tip rehabilitation and deploying Council's waste strategy

In harmonising its services, Council will also look to gradually equate the annual fee across the local government area over a two (2) year period. Whilst the fee will be assessed on an annual basis, the fee is expected to be set on the following basis:

Description	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Former Bankstown – Charge</b>	\$550	\$565	\$580
<b>Former Bankstown - % Increase</b>	-	2.6%	2.6%
<b>Former Canterbury – Charge</b>	\$485	\$530	\$580
<b>Former Canterbury - % Increase</b>	-	9.3%	9.3%

Councillors should also note that the fee/charge for the former Canterbury area was based on a particularly competitively priced contract entered into by the former Council, some eight years ago. Whilst well priced (and therefore resulting in a lower fee/charge for ratepayers), the contract has not delivered on Council's servicing expectations.

Separately, the former Council's fee/charge did not adequately provide for and/or recoup sufficient funding for its longer term obligations, including replacing assets, tip remediation/restoration costs and importantly pricing risk for a new contract. As a result, the inadequate amount/level of reserve funding now needs to be dealt with and/or corrected to ensure that Council can meet its ongoing servicing and legislative requirements.



Annexure E provides the financial details relating to the service.

### **Stormwater Levy**

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is the principal authority responsible for the local management of stormwater. On behalf of the public, Council:

- maintains stormwater drainage pipes;
- implements essential flood mitigation measures to protect life, property and infrastructure;
- conserves the natural waterways of the City;
- harvests and reuses stormwater to reduce potable water use;
- protects water quality in our creeks and rivers by installing water sensitive urban design features and pollution control devices; and
- protects riparian bushland and other natural assets from the impacts of urban runoff.

In recognition of Councils' key role in stormwater management, the NSW Government made amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* (amended October 2005) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (amended April 2006) to allow councils the option of levying a stormwater management service charge.

The charge was introduced to help council to cover some or all of the costs of providing new or additional stormwater management services to eligible land, above and beyond those that council could provide with their own funds.

The implementation of the charge recognises that increasing urbanisation has resulted (and continues to result) in a significant increase in impervious surfaces and has significantly increased the volume of stormwater (and therefore pollutant loads) flowing into urban waterways and urban drainage systems. These pressures have increased the costs of stormwater management for local councils.

In accordance with Section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, Council has in place a Stormwater Charge on eligible properties within Canterbury-Bankstown. In managing the annual charge the following structure will be applied:

#### **Residential Properties**

Annual Residential Charge of \$25.00 per property.

Annual Residential Strata Charge of \$12.50 per property.

#### **Business Properties**

Annual Charge of \$25.00 per property plus an additional \$25 for each 350 square metres or part of 350 square metres by which the area of the parcel of land exceeds 350 square metres.

## **Mixed Development**

Adopt the dominant Rating category as applied to the parcel of land as determined by the Valuer General and apply to each relevant property. In the event that a mixed development is 50% residential and 50% business, Council will apply a residential charge.

## **Exemptions**

In addition to the exemptions stipulated in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, the following exemptions will also apply in managing the service:

- Council-owned land;
- Bowling and Golf Clubs - where the dominant use is open space; and
- Properties zoned:
  - Open space 6(a);
  - Private Recreation 6(b); and
  - Rural.

Annexure H provides details of the Stormwater Levy funded projects for 2020/21.

## **Other Fees and Charges**

The general principle being applied is that fees should reflect true costs less the amount Council is willing to subsidise as a community service obligation. In general, it is proposed to increase the 2020/21 fees and charges by 2.6%, subject to rounding where required. Details of each charge are attached in Section 5.

That said, relevant income fees and charges associated with the COVID-19 crisis will continue to be waived for a period of up to six (6) months.

## **Loan Borrowings**

Council's long-term financial strategy reflects a budgeting model whereby General Fund Revenue is generated to maintain our infrastructure asset replacement program and that loans will only be acquired to support certain community self-funding initiatives that Council endorses.

At present, Council has not identified and/or planned for any such initiatives and as such does not propose to obtain any new borrowings as part of its 2020/21 budget.

## **Interest Income**

Council will continue to carefully manage its investment portfolio having regard to prevailing market conditions, industry benchmarks and allowable investment opportunities, as they arise. Having regard to Council's current investments and market expectations, Council's budget includes a weighted average return of around 1.6% per annum.

In total, Council expects its interest income to reduce by around \$2.7M, which is attributable to both the revised market conditions and waiving of rating interest charges attributable to the COVID-19 crisis.

## **COSTING PARAMETERS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **Inflation**

Inflation expectations are as per the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) target, which is set at a rate of 1.8%.

As a guide, Council's costs, where required, have been adjusted by 1.8% to accommodate and/or reflect relevant escalation in proposed budgets for the 2020/21 financial year, particularly those of a contractual nature.

### **Employee Costs**

Council's employee costs in the 2020/21 Budget include an estimated award increase of 2.5%. Council's full time equivalent employee numbers (organisational structure) for the 2020/21 financial year is set at 1,457. An increase from 2019/20 of 42, mainly related to the Domestic Waste Service being brought in-house for former Canterbury Council residents.

Separately, Councillors should note that Council's budget has also incorporated the relevant conditions associated with the Local Government Splinter Award, which will support the ongoing employment of staff during the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Depreciation Expense**

Council's operating expenses include an amount for Depreciation Expense, a non-cash item which aims to broadly account for the level of use/consumption of assets on an annual basis. An amount of \$74M has been reflected in Council's 2020/21 Budget to reflect this cost. Council assesses depreciation annually as part of preparing and reviewing its Asset Management Strategy.

## **PRICING OF GOODS AND SERVICES (PRICING POLICY)**

Council establishes its pricing levels through a range of factors, which are broadly dependent on the nature of the good or service being provided and the extent to which Council recognises an obligation to subsidise provision of the good or service. Council's Pricing Policy is subject to review on an annual basis or where appropriate, according to need. Where appropriate, Council will assess and apply a user pays model in setting its pricing based on the following provisions:

### **Cost of provision**

The cost to Council of providing goods or services is a primary consideration when determining pricing. Council recognises that rational and relevant pricing decisions can only be made when there is a full understanding of the cost to Council and the community, of resourcing specific service areas.

## Community Service Obligations

Council acknowledges that it has an obligation to provide some goods and services as a community service. As a result, Council accepts responsibility for at least partially funding these goods and services from other sources of revenue. This is reflected in varying degrees of pricing subsidy, dependant on the nature of the good or service being provided. Where it is not feasible to collect fees from private beneficiaries for a good or service, which provides a wider community benefit, full subsidy will be applied. Where cost-recovery can be achieved but Council recognises an obligation in terms of equity and social justice considerations, and the merit and well-being of the community, an appropriate level of subsidisation will be applied.

## Private Benefit

Some goods and services provided by Council are not provided on the basis of wider community benefit, and are used by private beneficiaries. Goods or services of a commercial nature will be subject to commercially competitive pricing principles, which reflect market conditions and full cost recovery.

Where Council are engaged in providing any commercial/business operations, it will price such services at full cost recovery, to cover both the cost of capital and a commercial rate of return.

Council will look to generate an agreed positive return on assets so as to not reduce financial viability. Where required, Council will ensure compliance with 'competitive neutrality' provisions of the National Competition Policy and categorisation (i.e. category 1 or 2 business activity). Council has not identified any category 1 or 2 business activities for the 2020/21 budget.

## Statutory Limitation

It is acknowledged that certain fees, charges and levies are set by legislation and Council has no control over pricing in these circumstances.

## Planned 2020/21 Budget

The expected operating result for the 2020/21 financial year is:

	2020/21 \$M	2019/20 \$M	Variance \$M	COVID-19 Impact \$M
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	342.4	338.2	4.2	(11.9)
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	342.5	329.6	12.9	-
<b>Operating Deficit (Including Capital Income)</b>	(0.1)	8.6	(8.7)	(11.9)
<b>Less Capital Grants and Contributions</b>	33.2	26.5	6.7	-
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	<b>(33.2)</b>	<b>(17.9)</b>	<b>(15.3)</b>	<b>(11.9)</b>

The 2020/21 Budget is assessed against the 2019/20 Original Budget given that it provides a comparable base to assess the broader movement between financial years.

Council's Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions is estimated to be negative \$33.2M, reducing by \$15.3M when compared to Council's 2019/20 Original Budget. Once capital grants and contributions are added, Council's projected Operating Result for the year is expected to be negative \$0.1M.

As Councillors will note the negative variance is largely attributable to the likely/estimated impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

A break-up of both the Revenue and Operating Budgets proposed for the forthcoming financial year is shown below.

#### Revenue Budget

Council's Revenue Budget (excluding capital grants and contributions) is expected to be \$309.3 million, a decrease of \$2.4 million (-0.8%) to that originally planned for 2019/20. A break-up by income category is as follows:

Category	2020/21 \$,000	2019/20 \$,000	Variance \$,000
<b>Rates / Domestic</b>	244,349	233,977	10,372
<b>Charges / Fees</b>	15,495	23,023	(7,528)
<b>Interest</b>	7,170	9,880	(2,710)
<b>Grants / Contributions – Operating</b>	24,423	23,874	549
<b>Other</b>	17,816	20,883	(3,067)
<b>Total</b>	<b>309,253</b>	<b>311,637</b>	<b>(2,384)</b>

The variation of negative \$2.4M, is a result of the following movements:

Component	Variance \$M
<b>Rating Revenue</b>	5.0
<b>Domestic Waste</b>	5.4
<b>User Fees &amp; Charges</b>	(7.5)
<b>Other Fees and Revenues</b>	(3.1)
<b>Interest Income</b>	(2.7)
<b>Operating Grants</b>	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>

Revenue projections for 2020/21 have been set to reflect known elements and/or current year trends. An explanation of the major variations is as follows:

- Council has factored in a loss of income for a 6 month period in relation to the expected impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on Council's services and operations totalling \$11.9M as summarised below;

<b>Component</b>	<b>Variance \$M</b>
<b>Aquatics</b>	(3.3)
<b>Children's Services</b>	(1.2)
<b>Interest Income</b>	(2.3)
<b>Property Rentals</b>	(1.9)
<b>Sports and Recreation</b>	(1.5)
<b>Other User Fees &amp; Charges</b>	(1.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(11.9)</b>

- Reflected the approved 2.6% rate-pegging limit to its rating revenue budget and expected growth in properties throughout the local government area;
- Council's annual Domestic Waste Levy for residential properties will increase by \$15 (2.6%) for former Bankstown residents and \$45 (9.3%) for former Canterbury residents per annum which reflects a general increase in the cost of providing the service and the longer term costs associated with replacing plant, bins and rehabilitating various waste facilities – see Domestic Waste Fee section above for detailed explanation;
- Operating Grants, including the Financial Assistance Grant, are included where the grant has been confirmed and the level of funding can be reliably calculated, and additional grant funds will be reported during the year as part of the quarterly budget reviews; and
- Council's level of interest income is expected to decrease by \$2.7M, which is a reflection expected market conditions and the estimated level of cash on hand throughout the year; and

In terms of specific purpose capital grants and contributions, Council expects to receive approximately \$33.2M of funds for various capital outcomes throughout 2020/21. A summary of those contributions is as follows:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount \$M</b>
<b>Development Contributions</b>	13.0
<b>Roadworks/Traffic – Various</b>	14.3
<b>Bridges</b>	4.3
<b>Buildings</b>	1.2
<b>Open Space</b>	0.3
<b>Other</b>	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.2</b>

Council's Budgeted Income Statement, which outlines the various revenue categories is attached in Annexure A.

#### Operating Expenses (OPEX)

Council's proposed operating expenditure budget is analysed to ensure that allocations are comparable to current trends. Council's Operating Expenditure Budget is expected to be \$342.5M, an increase of \$12.8 million (3.9%) to that adopted for 2019/20. A break-up of each operating expenditure category is as follows:

Category	2020/21 \$,000	2019/20 \$,000	Variance \$,000
Employee Costs	146,919	139,632	7,287
Borrowing Cost Expense	470	470	0
Depreciation	74,311	67,306	7,005
Materials & Contract	83,687	84,401	(714)
Other Expenses	37,064	37,801	(737)
<b>Total</b>	<b>342,451</b>	<b>329,610</b>	<b>12,841</b>

A summary of the major variations by category is as follows.

#### Employee Costs

A comprehensive planning process has been carried out to ensure that the Employee Costs budget accurately reflects required resources in managing Council's operations.

Council resolved at the February meeting to set Council's full time equivalent (FTE) employee numbers (organisational structure) for the 2019/20 financial year at 1,415. The 2020/21 establishment of 1,457 FTE is an increase of 42 FTE based on Council endorsing the Canterbury residents Domestic Waste Service be brought in house. The new roles include positions in Waste, City Cleaning, Customer Service and Fleet units, and the increase in employment costs will be mostly offset by a decrease in expenditure budgets for contractor costs, tipping fees and other expenditures.

The budgeted increase in employee costs of \$7.3M is largely attributable to the Local Government Award Increase of 2.5% and its broader impact on employee entitlements (e.g. superannuation) as well as the costs associated with the new FTE positions.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation expense has been adjusted by \$7.0M as the 2019/20 original budget was completed prior to the finalisation of the infrastructure revaluations which provided amendments to infrastructure values and useful lives resulting in increased depreciation charges.

### Material / Contracts and Other Expenses

Materials and Contracts and Other Expenses are expected to decrease by around \$1.5M or -1.2% when compared to Council's adopted 2019/20 budget.

The increase in Materials & Contracts and Other Expenses mainly relates to reduction in Tipping Fee costs and waste contract costs – moving service to in-house operations.

Council's current financial position, although considered sound, suggests that the impact of increasing non-discretionary costs (those largely imposed upon us by the State), will continue to grow at a rate far greater than planned inflation/CPI. This will have an ongoing impact on our longer term ability to absorb similar cost increases in the coming years and/or continue to preserve our current sound financial position.

Council's Budgeted Income Statement, which outlines the various OPEX categories is attached in Annexure A.

### Capital Works (CAPEX)

Council continues to improve its approach to managing its infrastructure, with a rolling schedule of comprehensive condition assessments of infrastructure assets from year to year.

This allows Council to clearly determine the extent of funding required to restore or rationalise certain assets within the City. Although the management and financial impact requires a long-term commitment well beyond the 2020/21 budget, the identified framework provides Council with a level of confidence in determining an effective approach to formulate its long term planning.

In terms of 2020/21, Council's focus will largely be to ensure the timely replacement / maintenance of existing assets throughout the Local Government Area.

As has been outlined above, Council's ability to maintain its ongoing funding for asset management purposes, based on current income trends is concerning. Without increasing its revenue base (Rates) Council's ability to fund depreciation will continue to erode. Graphically, the current trend is as follows:



## Ability to Fund Depreciation - %



### 2020/21 Draft Annual Budget

#### Ability to Fund Depreciation - %



Based on current estimates (adjusted for a reduction due to COVID-19), Council has the capacity to fund depreciation of around 33% in 2020/21. This equates to an estimated funding shortfall of \$42M.

That said, Council will also be carefully considering its long term asset management requirements, particularly addressing its backlog and broader long term initiatives for the Local Government Area. Further details are contained within Councils Asset Management Strategy.

Council's total expenditure on assets throughout 2020/21 (excluding any potential carryovers from the current financial year) is expected to be approximately \$73.8 million.

A break-up of expenditure is as follows:

Project Area	Amount \$,000
Bridges	5,424
Buildings	14,442
Street Furniture	50
Car parks	550
Drainage Conduits	490
Waste Management	1,800
Town Centres	1,850
Kerb and Gutter	1,170
Irrigation	450
Open Space	12,330
Other Structures	70
Park Furniture	66
Park Lighting	1,235
Park Signs	287
Pathways and Boardwalks	1,187
Road Pavement	9,965
Traffic Management Devices	10,494
Water Courses	1,000

Water Quality Devices	<b>500</b>
Operational Assets	<b>10,451</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPEX</b>	<b>73,812</b>

As in previous years, the 2020/21 Budget is well balanced with a focus on asset maintenance/replacement, complemented with some minor priority initiatives.

Of Council's capital budget, an amount of \$54.9 million will be spent on replacing and/or restoring ageing infrastructure throughout the City.

Annexure I and J summarise Council's capital works program for 2020/21.

### Cash Reserves

A large component of Council's capital works program is reliant on the use of dedicated Reserve funds, held to fund future projects and/or initiatives throughout the city and the prudent management of its liabilities.

In addition, Council's Development Contribution Reserves form an integral part of Council's capital works program.

In net terms, Council's level of Reserves, both those imposed by legislation or established by Council will total \$303.9 million, a net increase of \$6.0 million.

Notwithstanding a planned capital program of \$73.8 million, asset replacement reserves are estimated to increase by \$0.6 million during 2020/21. This equates to a reduction on prior year of \$11.9 million due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A summary of restrictions made and used can be found in Annexure D of Attachment A.

### Liquidity and Performance Indicators

Based on the proposed 2020/21 Budget, Council's major financial indicators continue to meet accepted industry standards and convey a sound financial position.

Council's major financial indicators for the 2020/21 financial year are expected to be as follows:

Indicator	Target	2020/21
<b>Unrestricted Current Ratio</b>	>150%	302%
<b>Debt Service Ratio</b>	<10%	0.0%
<b>Unrestricted Cash</b>	>\$0	\$7.2M

Based on all the cash movements noted above, Council's budget reflects an increase in cash of \$6.3 million, which accounts for both internal and external restricted funds expected to be received and utilised throughout 2020/21.

Council will continue to maintain a sound level of liquidity and reserves to manage any foreseen fluctuations and/or uncertainties that may eventuate. This together with other measures are demonstrated by Council's financial indicators, which with the exception of the operating performance ratio (as highlighted in Council's new Long Term Financial Plan) continue to meet and in some cases are estimated to exceed accepted industry levels.

### **Communication and Engagement**

The draft 2020/21 Operational Plan (incorporating 2020/21 Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges) will be exhibited for a minimum 28 days. Community engagement activities will be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions but full use will be made of digital media, Council's website and the haveyoursay online forum to promote the plan.

Submissions will be reported to Council in June 2020 with recommendations for any necessary changes.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

Council's goal is to continue to maintain and improve services, delivering on infrastructure, and to deliver tangible benefits from the new Council structure. The projects and budget outlined in the draft 2020/21 Operational Plan:

- preserves Council's sound financial position;
- aims to balance community expectations in terms of operational and infrastructure outcomes;
- remains flexible in responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic; and
- focuses on best and safest community and staff outcomes.

The draft 2020/21 Operational Plan incorporating 2020/21 Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges are submitted for Council's consideration and approval for its release for public exhibition and comment.

The draft Operational Plan will be submitted for adoption in June 2020 following the conclusion of the exhibition period.



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## Governance and Administration Matters - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 7.3                      Vacancy in Civic Office

**AUTHOR**                      Office of General Manager

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Councillors would recall my earlier advice that Councillor Zaman can no longer continue as a Councillor for Roselands Ward, thereby creating a vacancy in Civic office. It is proposed that Council write to the Minister for Local Government requesting that a by election not be called and the vacancy in civic office not be filled prior to the next local government election.

#### **ISSUE**

Notwithstanding the likely decision by the Minister to postpone the holding of by-elections for twelve (12) months, this report seeks Council's endorsement to write to the Minister requesting that a by election not be held to replace former Councillor Zaman and that the position remain vacant until the next Council election.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. The information be noted.
2. In accordance with Section 294 of the Local Government Act, Council make application to the Minister for Local Government requesting that a by election not be held as a result of the vacancy and that the office of the Councillor remain vacant until the next local government election.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

The report has no policy implications and meets Council's requirements under the LG Act and Regulation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The report has no financial impact.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

There are no community impacts.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

---

On 25 March 2020 I became aware that Councillor Zaman could no longer continue as a Councillor under the requirements of section 234 (e) of the LGA. Therefore Council has a vacancy in civic office.

Having regard to Section 285 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, I have advised the Office of Local Government, LGNSW and the NSW Electoral Commission of the vacancy in civic office.

Given the vacancy and by way of background:

- Section 291 of the LGA requires that a by election be held where a casual vacancy exists.
- That said, Section 294 provides the opportunity for Council to apply to the Minister and request that the office of a Councillor not be filled where the vacancy occurs less than 18 months prior to the next ordinary election.
- Following receipt of an application, the Minister has discretion to either order that the vacancy not be filled or alternatively, order that a by-election be held.

That said, in a recent discussion regarding this matter, OLG had indicated that the Minister for Local Government is currently considering issuing an Order that all elections and by elections be postponed for a period of 12 months.

Despite the above, given the current circumstances and for the purposes of clarity, it is recommended that:

- Council apply to the Minister requesting that a by-election not be held to fill the vacancy for the Roselands Ward.
- Given its proximity to the next ordinary election, the vacancy should not prevent and/or disrupt the ongoing:
  - Statutory operations and/or support/representation being provided to constituents throughout the Roselands Ward; and/or
  - Council's decision-making process, particularly at Council Meetings - Council's quorum will continue to remain at eight (8) Councillors for its Ordinary Meetings.

Notwithstanding Mr Mohammed Zaman's current situation, I would like to thank him for his service and commitment to our community and in particular to his constituents in Roselands Ward, during his term as Councillor.





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## Governance and Administration Matters - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 7.4 Insurance Renewals and Brokerage Services

**AUTHOR** Corporate

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

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Council's contract for Insurance Brokerage Services will end on 30 June 2020.

Given certain extenuating circumstances (outlined further in the report) Council is required to consider how it proposes to appoint a suitable Insurance Broker to assist in placing required insurance policies for the 2020/21 financial year given the current market and status of the Insurance Brokerage review.

#### **ISSUE**

---

To consider the appointment of a broker for the placement of insurance policies for the financial year 2020/2021 given the current market and status of the Insurance Brokerage review.

Details of the issue are noted in the details information section further in the report.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

---

1. The information be noted.
2. Given the extenuating circumstances, as outlined in the report, and in accordance with Section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council agrees to engage Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd for a period of one year, for the provision of Insurance Brokerage Services.
3. The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and enter into a contract and sign all documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, as required.
4. In consultation with Council's Insurance Broker, the General Manager be delegated authority to make the necessary arrangements to adequately insure Council for the 2020/21 financial year, as outlined in the report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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Nil

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

Whilst addressing our legislative requirements, the report supports Council's adopted Enterprise Risk Management Framework and coverage for unforeseen liabilities that may occur.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd provide insurance advice and brokerage services which involves the sourcing and placement of Council's insurance portfolio on an annual basis. It is estimated the value of all Council premiums for the 2020/21 financial year will be approximately \$2.5m-3.0m.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

The report responds to Council's obligations to manage potential risks and exposures for the organisation whilst separately addressing Council's obligation under Section 55 and 382 of the Local Government Act 1993.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

---

### Background Summary

- In March 2019 Council resolved the following:
  - Given the extenuating circumstances and in accordance with Section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council agreed to engage Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd for a period of one year, for the provision of Insurance Brokerage Services.
  - The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and enter into a contract and sign all documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, as required.
  - In consultation with Council's Insurance Broker, the General Manager be delegated authority to make the necessary arrangements to adequately insure Council for the 2019/20 financial year.
- Notwithstanding Council having effectively navigated and/or transitioned its management of its insurance and workers compensation requirements over the past four years, its more recent experiences suggested the need to review and consider what is the appropriate and/or effective strategic framework to managing/mitigating Council's exposure to risks, potential liabilities and importantly indemnify Council, where appropriate.
- In January 2020 Council commenced its review (in conjunction with an industry expert) to undertake an independent strategic analysis in the relation to the way in which Council structures and manages its insurance portfolio.

### Current Issues / Considerations

- Council's is progressing well with its review.
- Notwithstanding our progress, the current pandemic has resulted in some uncertainty in the market, and as such it is not considered feasible and/or appropriate to finalise any suitable options and/or changes to how Council manages its insurance requirements, at this time.
- Separately, Council must still ensure that it appropriately obtains relevant insurance policies for the 2020/21 financial year, whilst continuing to determining its future approach.

### Suggested Approach

Given the above information, it is proposed that:

- The information be noted.

- Given the extenuating circumstances outlined in the report and in accordance with Section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council agrees to engage Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd for a period of one year, for the provision Insurance Brokerage Services.
- The General Manager be authorised to negotiate and enter into a contract and sign all documentation in accordance with Council's resolution, as required.
- In consultation with Council's Insurance Broker, the General Manager be delegated authority to make the necessary arrangements to adequately insure Council for the 2020/21 financial year, as outlined above.

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## Governance and Administration Matters - 28 April 2020

---

### ITEM 7.5                      Cash and Investment Report as at 31 March 2020

**AUTHOR**                      Corporate

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, the Responsible Accounting Officer must provide the council with a written report each month, which sets out the details of all money that council has invested under section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Council's investments are managed in accordance with Council's investment policy. The report below provides a consolidated summary of Council's total cash investments.

#### **ISSUE**

This report details Council's cash and investments as at 31 March 2020

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. The Cash and Investment Report as at 31 March 2020 be received and noted.
2. The Certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer incorporated in this report, be adopted.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachment](#)

- A. CPG Research & Advisory Investment Report March 2020

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

Council's investments are maintained in accordance with legislative requirements and its Cash and Investment Policy.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

Interest earned for this period has been reflected in Council's financial operating result for this financial year. Council's annual budget will be reviewed, having regard to Council's actual returns, as required.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

There is no impact on the community, the environment and the reputation of Canterbury Bankstown.

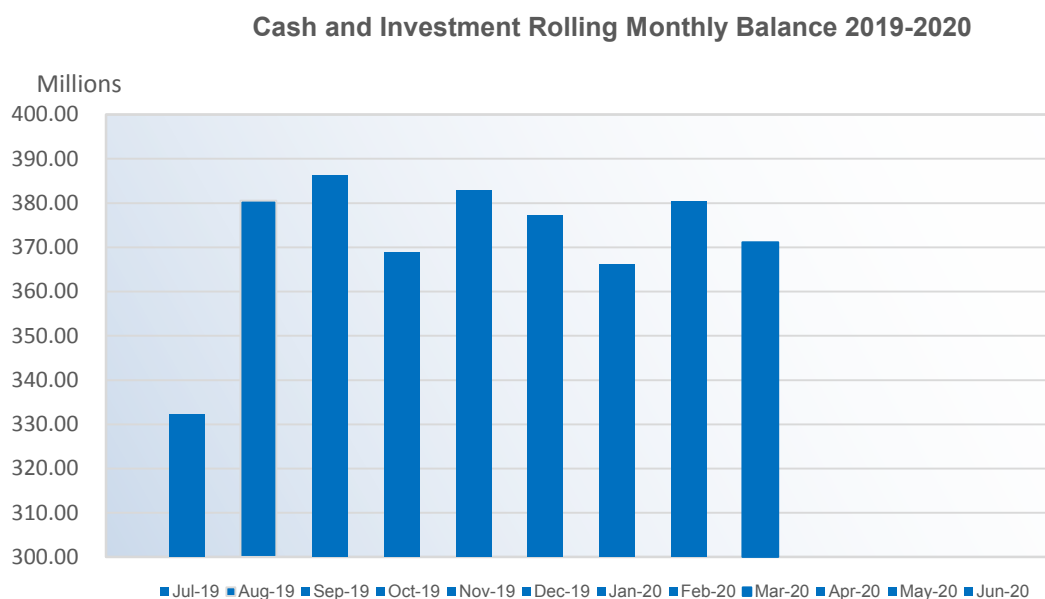
## DETAILED INFORMATION

### Cash and Investment Summary – as at 31 March 2020

In total, Council's Cash and Investments holdings as at 31 March 2020 is as follows:

Cash and Investments	\$
Cash at Bank	2,483,191
Deposits at Call	36,426,824
Term Deposits	265,921,000
Floating Rate Notes	66,330,802
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>371,161,817</b>

Council's level of cash and investments varies from month to month, particularly given the timing of Council's rates and collection cycle, its operations and carrying out its capital works program. The following graph outlines Council's closing cash and investment balances from July 2019 to June 2020.



A summary of Council's investment interest income earned for the period to 31 March 2020 is as follows:

Interest Income	March 2020 \$	Year-to-date March 2020 \$
Budget	740,417	6,663,750
Actual Interest	625,409	6,510,048
Variance	(115,008)	(153,702)
Variance (%)	(15.53%)	(2.31)

Council is also required to ensure that its portfolio has an appropriate level of diversification and maturity profile. This is to ensure that funds are available when required and where possible to minimise any re-investment risk.

The tables below outline Council's portfolio by maturity limits and investment type:

<b>Maturity Profile</b>		
	<b>Actual % of Portfolio</b>	<b>Policy Limits %</b>
<b>Cash</b>	10	100
<b>Working Capital Funds (0-3 months)</b>	6	100
<b>Short Term (3-12 months)</b>	30	100
<b>Short – Medium (1-2 years)</b>	20	70
<b>Medium (2-5 years)</b>	34	50
<b>Long Term (5-10 years)</b>	0	5
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	100%	

<b>Portfolio Allocation</b>	
	<b>Actual % of Portfolio</b>
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	0.7
<b>Deposits at Call</b>	9.8
<b>Term Deposits</b>	71.6
<b>Floating Rate Notes</b>	17.9
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	100%



## **8 SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

There were no items submitted for this section at the time the Agenda was compiled.



## **9 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following items are submitted for consideration -

9.1	Minutes of the Social Inclusion Reference Groups meetings	93
9.2	Minutes of the Prosperity & Innovation Reference Groups meetings	97
9.3	Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee held on 11 March 2020	99
9.4	Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2020	103



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## Committee Reports - 28 April 2020

---

### **ITEM 9.1**                      **Minutes of the Social Inclusion Reference Groups meetings**

**AUTHOR**                      **Corporate**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

---

Council resolved to establish its Advisory Committees and Reference Groups on 24 October 2017.

The Social Inclusion Advisory Committee has not met as a precaution against Coronavirus. The minutes of the Reference Groups that report to this Advisory Committee are attached.

#### **ISSUE**

---

The recommendations and requested Council actions from the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee related Reference Groups are listed in the Detailed Information section of this report.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

---

That the minutes of the Social Inclusion Reference Groups meetings be endorsed.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachments](#)

---

- A. Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meeting held on 19 November 2019
- B. Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meeting held on 18 February 2020
- C. Minutes of the Community Safety Reference Group meeting held on 12 November 2019
- D. Minutes of the Community Safety Reference Group meeting held on 11 February 2020
- E. Minutes of the Diversity Reference Group meeting held on 13 November 2019
- F. Minutes of the Family & Children Reference Group meeting held on 21 November 2019
- G. Minutes of the Family & Children Reference Group meeting held on 13 February 2020
- H. Minutes of the Interfaith Reference Group meeting held on 10 March 2020

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

The Advisory Committees are based on the key themes that form the basis to delivering Council's Community Strategic Plan. Advisory Committees and Reference Groups have specific Terms of Reference, as well as Guidelines and Rules for their operation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

In accordance with the Council's Guidelines and Rules, the Advisory Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure or to bind Council but may recommend action and initiatives to Council.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

The Advisory Committees with the support of the Reference Groups provide Council with advice for the ongoing management of vital services to our community and information for our integrated planning and reporting framework.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

---

The recommendations and requested Council actions from the Social Inclusion Advisory Committee and related Reference Groups are listed below.

### Attachment

**A. Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meeting held on 19 November 2019**

**Item 6: 2019-2021 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan and Practical Protocols Document**

THAT

1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group's endorsement of the 2019-2021 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan be noted and Council consider adopting the Plan.
2. The Reference Group's endorsement of the updated "Practical protocols for working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities within the City of Canterbury Bankstown" be noted.

**B. Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meeting held on 18 February 2020**

**Item 3: 2020-2022 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan**

THAT the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group's endorsement of Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan extended timeframe to 2020-2022, be noted.

**Item 6: Disability and Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021**

THAT the actions below be considered for the next Disability and Inclusion Action Plan

1. Raising awareness in relation to disability and inclusion within local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
2. Delivering a child focused campaign promoting inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities.

**C. Minutes of the Community Safety Reference Group meeting held on 12 November 2019**

**Item 3: Draft Youth Action Plan 2019-2023**

Following concerns expressed by a Community Safety Reference Group member, the draft Youth Action Plan transformation action "Female Safe Zones" was renamed "Female Welcome Spaces".

**G. Minutes of the Family & Children Reference Group meeting held on 13 February 2020**

**Item 3: Child Friendly City Action Plan**

Reference Group suggestions included the following:

- the responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of children be promoted at Council's libraries and centres during National Families Week (15 - 21 May 2020) and Child Protection Week (6 - 12 September 2020);
- key principles be translated in main community languages and displayed at Council's libraries and centres.

**Item 5: Research into availability and future needs of children's services**

It was suggested Council also consider playgroups for children of stay-at-home parents/carers, as provided by Fairfield Council.



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## Committee Reports - 28 April 2020

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**ITEM 9.2**                      **Minutes of the Prosperity & Innovation Reference Groups meetings**

**AUTHOR**                      **Corporate**

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

---

Council resolved to establish its Advisory Committees and Reference Groups on 24 October 2017.

The Prosperity & Innovation Advisory Committee has not met as a precaution against Coronavirus. The minutes of the Reference Groups that report to this Advisory Committee are attached.

### **ISSUE**

---

Endorsement of the Prosperity & Innovation Advisory Committee related Reference Groups minutes.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

---

That the minutes of the Prosperity & Innovation Reference Groups meetings be endorsed.

### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachments](#)

---

- A.     Minutes of the Lakemba Ramadan Event Reference Group meeting held on 17 February 2020
- B.     Minutes of the Lakemba Ramadan Event Reference Group meeting held on 12 March 2020

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

The Advisory Committees are based on the key themes that form the basis to delivering Council's Community Strategic Plan. Advisory Committees and Reference Groups have specific Terms of Reference, as well as Guidelines and Rules for their operation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

In accordance with the Council's Guidelines and Rules, the Advisory Committee does not have the power to incur expenditure or to bind Council but may recommend action and initiatives to Council.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

The Advisory Committees with the support of the Reference Groups provide Council with advice for the ongoing management of vital services to our community and information for our integrated planning and reporting framework.

---

## Committee Reports - 28 April 2020

---

### **ITEM 9.3**                      **Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee held on 11 March 2020**

**AUTHOR**                      **Corporate**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Local Government Guidelines for Internal Audit, issued under section 23A of the Local Government Act (1993), Canterbury Bankstown Council has an established Audit Risk and Improvement Committee. The purpose of this report is to consider the ongoing arrangements for this Committee.

#### **ISSUE**

To consider the arrangements of the CBC Audit Risk and Improvement Committee including:

- An extension of its term;
- The election of the chairperson; and
- The recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 11 March 2020.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**    That -

1. The recommendations contained in the minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 11 March 2020 be adopted.
2. The proposal to extend the term of the current Audit Risk and Improvement Committee to March 2022 be adopted.
3. The election of the chairperson for the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee for its remaining term be noted.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachment](#)

- A. Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 11 March 2020

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

Extension of the Committees term to be reflected in Councils Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Charter.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The financial impact of conducting the Committee will be in the order of \$6-7K per annum. Funding will be made available in Council's annual budget.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

Council will maintain an independent Audit Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with the local government guidelines.

## **DETAILED INFORMATION**

---

### **Background**

In accordance with the Charter of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and council resolutions, three independent members were appointed to represent Canterbury Bankstown Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for a term of three years, ending September 2020 - to coincide with the current term of Council.

For the purposes of ensuring good governance, consistency and continuity, the Committee had considered and supported a proposal to extend the current Committee's tenure till March 2021, allowing adequate time for the new Council to both select and appoint its new Committee – see attached minutes.

### **Council Consideration**

Given the current circumstances and the likely extension of Council's term till September 2021, subsequent discussions have been held with Committee Members and each have supported a revised extension date (to that in the minutes) till March 2022 - subject to of course Council's consideration and approval.

All other terms and conditions, including the remuneration of the Committee will remain unchanged. The extension of the current term will not contravene any regulatory aspects associated with the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.

### **Appointment of Chairperson**

As resolved by Council at the ordinary meeting held on 27 March 2018, Mr Steve Kent was appointed the Chair of the Committee for a term of two years. This term concluded March 2020 and accordingly the matter was referred to the Committee for consideration and voting.

Subsequently, Mr Steve Kent was re-elected by the independent members as Chairperson of the Committee and will remain as Chair for the remainder of the Committees term.

### **Minutes of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee**

Recommendations of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 11 March 2020 are contained in the minutes attached to this report.



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## Committee Reports - 28 April 2020

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**ITEM 9.4**                      **Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2020**

**AUTHOR**                      **Operations**

### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

---

Attached are the minutes of the Canterbury Bankstown Council Traffic Committee meeting held on 14 April 2020.

The Committee have been constituted to advise and make recommendations in relation to traffic activities. It has, however, no delegated authority and cannot bind Council.

The recommendations of the Committee are in line with the objectives of the Committee and with established practices and procedures.

### **ISSUE**

---

Recommendations of the Canterbury Bankstown Council Traffic Committee meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

---

That the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Canterbury Bankstown Council Traffic Committee meeting held on 14 April 2020, be adopted.

### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachment](#)

---

A.     Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting 14 April 2020

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

This matter has no policy implications to Council.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

Potential costs arising out of recommendations of the Traffic Committees are detailed in future Works Programs for Roadworks/Traffic Facilities.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

The recommendations will improve road safety for the community whilst minimising the adverse impacts on residential amenity. Community consultations have been carried out where required.



## **10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS & QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

The following items are submitted for consideration -

10.1 Notice of Motions	107
10.2 Ban the Trade in Illegal Wildlife	109
10.3 Recognising Eddie Avenue, Panania	111
10.4 5G	113
10.5 Supporting the Aviation Industry	115
10.6 Fracking the NT	117
10.7 Flood Planning Controls	119
10.8 Planning Change Transparency	121



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## Notice of Motions & Questions With Notice - 28 April 2020

---

**ITEM 10.1**                      **Notice of Motions**

**AUTHOR**                      **Office of the General Manager**

### **ISSUE**

---

The attached schedule provides information to questions raised at Council's previous meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

---

That the information be noted.

### **ATTACHMENTS**                      [Click here for attachments](#)

---

- A.    Notice of Motions Status Table
- B.    Correspondence sent in relation to Notice of Motions
- C.    Correspondence received in relation to Notice of Motions



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## Notice of Motions & Questions With Notice - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 10.2                      Ban the Trade in Illegal Wildlife

I, Councillor Linda Downey hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council:

1. Supports the ongoing efforts to eliminate wildlife trafficking;
2. Raises awareness with the public, through its established communication channels, of the dangers associated with wildlife trafficking, particularly for human consumption; and
3. Writes to the NSW and Australian Governments expressing this support and seeking their advice on what measures NSW and Australia are taking to prevent the trafficking of wildlife domestically and internationally.”

### BACKGROUND

---

The current COVID-19 global pandemic has shone a light on wildlife trafficking and once again raised the very real risks associated with the practice.

The illegal trade of wildlife brings with it any number of significant global issues: from being a key threatening process for vulnerable and threatened species to the unintended transmission of diseases. It is a practice that must be stopped.

It is not something restricted to overseas animal markets either. It is worthwhile remembering that it was only in January this year that a house in Belmore was raided by Police who seized more than 180 native and exotic animals, all destined for the illegal wildlife trafficking market.

I am seeking Council support the ongoing efforts to eliminate this evil practice and in doing so, that it promotes to our community the perils of trafficking wildlife. Lastly, I also seek Council writes to the NSW and Federal Governments, requesting what measures they are employing to bring about an end to this abhorrent industry.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENT**

---

There are no cost implications arising from the proposed motions, as written. Council can support the efforts to eliminate wildlife trafficking through enacting motions 2 and 3.

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## Notice of Motions & Questions With Notice - 28 April 2020

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### ITEM 10.3                      Recognising Eddie Avenue, Panania

I, Councillor Steve Tuntevski hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council install appropriate signs on Eddie Avenue, Panania, recognising the origin of the street name and documenting Lance Corporal Edward Maxwell’s story.”

### BACKGROUND

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Every street name has its own story and indeed many of these are documented around the Revesby Ward. But there is a notable exception: Eddie Avenue, Panania.

Eddie Avenue is named in honour of Edward Maxwell, the fourth and youngest son of Edward Henry and Rose Maxwell. The Maxwells, I understand, were one of the early families to settle in the East Hills area.

Like many young men of their time, Edward, and his older brother, Frank, answered the call and enlisted on 24 April 1915, the day before the ANZAC’s landing at Anzac Cove. With two of their three surviving adult sons on their way to the Great War, I can only imagine, as a parent, the enormity of what Edward Henry and Rose must have felt.

Edward Maxwell embarked from Sydney on board HMAA A63 Karoola on 16 June 1915. Sadly, Lance Corporal Edward Maxwell, was killed in action a bit over two years later, on 4 October 1917 on the battle fields of Ypres, Belgium. He was 23 when he died and is listed among 54 others, collectively known as the Lost Fifty-Five – the 55 Bankstown souls that never returned.

Many lives were lost and there are many personal stories to tell about the Great War. One to tell is from a well-known local historian, Andrew Molloy from his book titled the history of Panania Picnic Point and East Hills (2005) where a group of five young men from East Hills were nearly immortalised. In 1931 when the naming of Panania station, was nearly chosen to be “Emswood”. Emswood was to commemorate the four surnames starting with “M” and another, named Wood, who left from the East Hills estate and never returned. They were Maxwell, McCrimmon, Mawby, Mitchell and Wood.

As mentioned previously in my motion one of those men was Edward Maxwell and Eddie Ave is named in his honour.

Last weekend we observed ANZAC Day and commemorated all that this special day represents. I am seeking Council recognise one of our Lost Fifty-Five, Lance Corporal Edward Maxwell through the installation of appropriate signage at Eddie Avenue, Panania.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENT**

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The cost of the production and installation of this signage can be accommodated from Council's operating budget.



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### ITEM 10.4

### 5G

I, Councillor Bilal El-Hayek hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council writes to the Federal Communications Minister, seeking:

1. Information on the existing and proposed deployment of 5G facilities within the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA; and
2. That the health impacts of 5G be fully explored and/or made available to the public prior to the deployment of any more 5G facilities.”

### BACKGROUND

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The fifth generation of telecommunication data, or 5G, has arrived and with it, significant concerns from our residents about its impact on human health and the health and wellbeing of other life.

There has been a lot of information shared on social media platforms about 5G, much of this being false or misleading, but with the level of anxiety and concern within the community, the Federal Government needs to be open and transparent with where these facilities are or planned for, and what the health impacts are.

I am asking Council to write to the Telecommunications Minister, requesting the location of existing and proposed 5G facilities and that the Government fully explore the health impacts of 5G and/or make this information available before any further deployments of the technology are completed.

### GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENT

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There are no cost implications arising from this proposed motion, as written.



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### ITEM 10.5                      Supporting the Aviation Industry

I, Councillor Clare Raffan hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council:

1. Acknowledges the critical importance a healthy, competitive domestic airline industry;
2. That the domestic airline industry be serviced by Australian-based companies;
3. That domestic aviation is the responsibility of the Federal Government; and
4. Writes to its Federal Members of Parliament expressing its concern at the prospect of the domestic airline industry becoming a monopoly.”

### BACKGROUND

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Last week we saw perhaps the most significant corporate victim of COVID-19 when Virgin Australia elected to enter into voluntary administration. This was a deeply concerning development, not only for the stress, anxiety and uncertainty on the thousands of employees, but for the potential impact this will have on our society and economy.

This is clearly a Federal issue and it will be up to the Federal Government to address this. But it is important that we all speak up, particularly for Canterbury Bankstown as an aviation City, to raise two important points: we need a healthy and competitive domestic airline industry, and that industry needs to be serviced by Australian-based companies.

If any airline attains a monopoly over the domestic airline market, we know from the collapse of Ansett in 2002, that there will be a significant increase in the cost of air travel. I am aware of some analysts predicting the rise in cost of air travel in a monopoly environment could exceed 20%.

For Australia, with our vast expanses and remote communities, affordable air travel is vital to our ongoing prosperity. If there are to be rises in the cost of domestic air travel, it will be our vulnerable populations that suffer along with the regions. And it is the regions upon which Australia relies.

But it is not simply enough to have a competitive domestic airline market; it is critical that the companies servicing those routes are Australian-based.

There has been discussion of international airlines, Etihad or Singapore Airlines for example, servicing our domestic routes. Should this eventuate, we will see the irreversible flow of profits, money from Australians, offshore. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Furthermore, it is fanciful to entertain the idea that these international airlines will service anything but the most profitable, high-volume routes of the east coast. This would likely leave our regional and remote communities to languish and die. We cannot let this happen.

In the coming weeks, it will be critical for the Federal Government to protect Australia's future through whatever mechanism they deem appropriate, and ensure that on the other side of this, Australia continues to be serviced by a competitive, Australian-based domestic airline industry.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENT**

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There are no cost implications arising from the proposed motions, as written.

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### ITEM 10.6                      Fracking the NT

I, Councillor Linda Eisler hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council:

1. Write to Origin Energy:
  - Noting Council’s Power Purchase Agreement with Origin Energy, through SSROC, 20% of which is currently sourced from the Moree Solar Farm;
  - Noting Council’s acknowledgement, in August 2019, of the existence of a climate emergency and our plans to achieve zero net emissions by 2050;
  - Expressing our support for the traditional owners and communities in the Northern Territory who have expressed their strong opposition to fracking due its threats to the climate and to their lands, waters and rights; and
  - Requesting that Origin Energy cease all plans to conduct fracking in the Northern Territory and elsewhere due to its impact on the climate, communities, environment and water, and commit to further investment in environmentally and socially sustainable renewable energy projects.
2. Forward a copy of the letter referred to above to all NSW Regional Organisation of Councils and Joint Organisations.
3. Writes to all state and territory Energy and Environment ministers urging them to implement, strengthen or retain permanent bans on the use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract gas within their jurisdictions.
4. Continues to increase the use of sustainable energy for its operations.”

### BACKGROUND

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In August 2019 Council acknowledged the existence of a climate emergency and called on the federal and NSW state governments to act with urgency to address that emergency. The catastrophic bushfires of the Black Summer reinforced the necessity to take immediate action.

The use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract gas presents significant environmental risks. The use of chemicals in the process presents a potential contamination hazard to water resource. Significantly, fracking results in increase greenhouse gas emissions through the use of the fuel itself as well as through the escape of gases, such as methane, during the extraction process. Banning the use of fracking right across the country presents the most effective strategy to eliminate these environmental hazards.

On a local level Council is investing in a wide range of initiatives designed to increase the use of sustainable energy and to achieve zero net emissions by 2050. Some of these initiatives include purchasing sustainable energy, installing solar systems on Council properties and encouraging schools, residents and businesses to install solar panels on their buildings, transitioning to the use of electric fleet vehicles and installing heat pumps at pools and leisure centres.

Rejecting the use of damaging processes, such as fracking, and simultaneously increasing the use of renewable energy are both vital if we hope to limit the worst impacts of climate change.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENT**

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There are no cost implications arising from the proposed motion, as written.

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## Notice of Motions & Questions With Notice - 28 April 2020

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### **ITEM 10.7                      Flood Planning Controls**

I, Councillor Glen Waud hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That:

1. Council receive a briefing outlining the mechanisms available to ensure flooding and associated impacts are appropriately considered and planned for across the city; and
2. What approach has been taken to secure the safety of future residents at the Riverlands site in light of the flood event experienced in February this year.”

### **BACKGROUND**

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The flooding experienced by our communities along the Georges River in February was a timely reminder, particularly having experienced such a severe and prolonged drought and bushfire season immediately prior, of the dangers posed by riverine and estuarine flooding.

I would like to receive a briefing on the planning mechanisms that Council and the Government have in place to minimise the impact of flooding on our communities. I am particularly concerned with and interested to see how these impacts are to be managed in a future where the Riverlands site has been developed.

### **GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENT**

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In relation to planning mechanisms, the NSW Government’s Flood Prone Land Policy aims to ensure flooding and associated impacts are appropriately considered and planned for.

Consistent with the Policy, Council has completed flood studies for the majority of its catchments and is currently preparing the final flood study for our City, being the Cooks River through the former Canterbury Council area.

Council has also taken the next step, by completing Floodplain Risk Management Plans, for the Georges River, Duck River and Salt Pan Creek catchments. The Floodplain Risk Management Plans provide a holistic response to the risks posed by flooding and inform the planning controls in Council’s LEP/ DCP to manage flood risk.

Council also coordinates the Canterbury Bankstown Floodplain Management Committee to assist Council in implementing the Flood Prone Land Policy and to oversee the development and implementation of Council's policies and strategies to manage flood risk.

In relation to the Riverlands site, in 2012, Council commissioned a flood study to inform the assessment of the rezoning application for the site. The flood study investigated the riverine and stormwater flooding conditions and modelled the potential flood extent. The recommendations were used to determine the location of the proposed residential zone above the 1 in 100 year flood extent, which is consistent with the NSW Government's recommendation for residential land uses. Council also incorporated site specific clauses in Bankstown LEP 2015 and Bankstown DCP 2015 to ensure development applications consider the flood risk on the site, as well as off-site flood impacts, evacuation routes and water sensitive urban design principles to improve stormwater quality and reduce peak flows.

The flooding experienced in February was well within the 1:100 limits and consequently would have had no impact on the land rezoned for development at the Riverlands site. This will be detailed in the briefing on flood issues when that is undertaken.



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### ITEM 10.8                      Planning Change Transparency

I, Councillor Linda Eisler hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Canterbury Bankstown Council acknowledges the impacts on the community, on business and on employment brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. We also recognise that the NSW State Government has needed to respond with extraordinary legislation to assist the community to stay safe and aid with their economic safety.

Canterbury Bankstown Council acknowledges that the amendments to planning legislation have given the Minister powers that include overriding all Council conditions of consent.

The NSW State Government has indicated it is proposing to implement further changes to planning legislation in order to fast track development and zonings.

We request that NSW State Government consult in an open and timely manner with Council before putting amendments to the Parliament.”

### BACKGROUND

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The State Government has amended section 10.17 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EPA Act) to give the government unprecedented powers to override planning decisions during the COVID 19 pandemic for at least the next 6 to 12 months.

Under the legislation, the NSW Planning Minister can authorise development to be carried out on land without the need for any approval under the Act or consent from any person.

Orders made by the NSW Planning Minister will have effect regardless of any environmental planning instrument or development consent.

This means that decisions made by local councils, independent planning panels or even regional planning panels can be overruled by the Planning Minister for any reason or no reason at all. These approvals cannot be reversed when the pandemic is over.

The NSW Treasurer and Minister for Planning issued a media release on 3 April 2020 foreshadowing further changes to the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in order to fast-track State Significant Development.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2020/Jobs-boost-through-fast-tracked-planning-system>

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENT**

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There are no cost implications arising from this proposed motion, as written.

## **11        CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

There were no items submitted for this section at the time the Agenda was compiled.

