

NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL



**PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE &
COMMUNITY
FACILITIES
COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2007.**

DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEES TO MAKE DECISIONS

Council delegate to its Standing Committees the authority to determine the following matters:

General (For all Standing Committees)

1. Receiving and noting reports;
2. Referring matters for further investigations and report back to the Committee;
3. Determining requests for assistance from outside organisations.

Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities

1. Determining saleyards operating procedures;
2. Determining airport operating procedures.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL



**ITEMS FOR
COMMITTEE TO
RESOLVE**

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2007.**

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1. COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROPOSED RENEWAL AND CAPITAL PROGRAM
(ARC:ARC) [ENG] M10/12002

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a suggested renewal and capital Priority List for the Community Facilities Section.

Background

The Community Facilities Section manages the following areas:

- Parks, Gardens & Reserves
- Waste Management
- Swimming Pools
- Aerodromes
- Caravan Parks
- Community Land
- Noxious Weeds

The 2006-2009 Management Plan for Narrabri Shire (pg 26) specifies that “*Council is committed to providing facilities that promote a healthy lifestyle, social interaction, and provide essential services for residents, visitors and businesses within the Shire.*”

An asset management plan for the maintenance of existing assets and incorporation of improvements is key to ensuring that Council meets its stated management plan goals for its Community Facilities.

Current Position

A Draft Priority List for Parks, Gardens & Reserves, Swimming Pools, Aerodromes, Caravan Parks and Community Land is contained in Attachment 1.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

The attached Priority Lists have been arranged into a program which will be further developed in the context of the Draft Budget, however it is evident from the attached program that significant investment is required in the next few years to provide and renew Community Facilities infrastructure.

For example, implementation of the program if adopted as drafted would be as follows.

Renewal Programs

Financial Year	Boggabri	Narrabri	Wee Waa	Villages & Rural
07/08	68,400	290,750	50,000	68,400
08/09	17,500	143,500	12,000	17,500
09/10	18,000	82,000	22,000	18,000
10/11	7,000	28,000	18,000	7,000

Capital Programs

Financial Year	Boggabri	Narrabri	Wee Waa	Villages & Rural
07/08	32,500	359,433	0	32,500
08/09	136,000	61,933	28,000	136,000
09/10	100,000	28,933	110,000	100,000
10/11	76,000	106,000	88,000	76,000

Capital + Renewal

Financial Year	Boggabri	Narrabri	Wee Waa	Villages & Rural
07/08	100,900	650,183	50,000	100,900
08/09	153,500	205,433	40,000	153,500
09/10	118,000	110,933	132,000	118,000
10/11	83,000	134,000	106,000	83,000
4 Year Total	455,400	1,100,549	328,000	455,400

In the 2006/2007 Council allocated a total of \$479,182 (excluding Waste and Caravan Parks) in renewal and capital projects. This figure is, on average, about \$100,000 less than outlined above.

Legal Implications

Nil.

Commentary

The Draft Priority Lists (Renewals and Capital) sets out a framework for Council to begin to manage its assets. The list is relatively modest at this stage and will develop over time to become a comprehensive guide for the allocation of funds.

Councillors are encouraged to discuss projects with community groups and make suggestions to the Director of Engineering Services (in writing) as to projects that could be included in the list. This will allow a larger list to be considered as part of the Draft Budget allocations for the 07/08 Financial Year.

Conclusion

Nil

<p><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> That the Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee note the Draft Renewal and Capital Priority List for the Community Facilities Section.</p>

**2. BOGGABRI MOWING & SLASHING PROGRAM
(ARC:ARC) [ENG]****P10/02002****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the proposed mowing areas and mowing frequencies for township of Boggabri and allow discussion on the level of service for mowing before a draft budget is prepared.

Background

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Sporting Fields are important to urban communities. They provide places for families and communities to enjoy and enhance the visual aesthetics of a community. Grass maintenance is an important component to ensure these areas fulfil these requirements.

Mowing and Slashing of grassed areas in Boggabri are carried out predominately by Council's day labour workforce.

The objective for grass maintenance on each piece of land managed by Council is being classified into one of the following categories:

Area Class 1 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm–includes collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Lawn Cemetery Beds.

Area Class 2 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals and small parks.

Area Class 3 – *Slashing and Trim (intervention level 75mm to 150mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals surrounds, small parks, roadsides, creek banks, rest areas, median strips and verges on town streets and lanes and landscaped areas.

Area Class 4 – *Slash and Trim (intervention level 150mm to 350mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Highways, roadsides, rest areas, verges, medians, landscaped areas, floodways, saleyards surrounds.

Area Class 5 – *Slash and Trim or Slope mown intervention level greater than 350mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Drains, Levy bank walls, and difficult to access areas requiring special equipment.

Current Position

To assist staff in planning budgets and ensuring funds are expended on areas deemed of importance to Council the areas which are mown or slashed have been captured in Council's GIS (see Attachment 2).

An A0 sized map will be present at the Council meeting for viewing. Areas are identified using the ID number.

The locations of areas currently being mowed, the frequency of each mow and the estimated cost of each mow, are provided in Attachment 3.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

In 2006/2007 the budget allocated for Mowing and Slashing within the Boggabri township was \$61 363

The areas and frequency dictate the level of funding required annually. The frequency of mowing is for an average season. In the event of a season being better or worse costs are will be higher or lower than that allocated. This is monitored throughout the year at Quarterly Reviews.

Attachment 3 details the following.

Target Mows to deliver the best quality finish during an average season	\$97 116
Budget Mows to deliver a level of service that reflects recent practices	\$69 870 (72%)
Difference	\$27 246

Legal Implications

Nil

Commentary

Comments on areas identified and frequency of treatment can be submitted to the Director of Engineering, in writing on the day of the Committee Meeting. The mowing frequencies will be represented as part of Councils draft budget for the 2007/2008 financial year.

Conclusion

Nil

RECOMMENDATION: That the Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee note the proposed mowing areas and frequencies for Boggabri for the 2008/2009 financial year.

**3. WEE WAA MOWING & SLASHING PROGRAM
(ARC:ARC) [ENG]****P10/02010****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the proposed mowing areas and mowing frequencies for township of Wee Waa and allow discussion on the level of service for mowing before a draft budget is prepared.

Background

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Sporting Fields are important to urban communities. They provide places for families and communities to enjoy and enhance the visual aesthetics of a community. Grass maintenance is an important component to ensure these areas fulfil these requirements.

Mowing and Slashing of grassed areas in Wee Waa are carried out predominately by Council's day labour workforce.

The objective for grass maintenance on each piece of land managed by Council is being classified into one of the following categories:

Area Class 1 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm–includes collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Lawn Cemetery Beds.

Area Class 2 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals and small parks.

Area Class 3 – *Slashing and Trim (intervention level 75mm to 150mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals surrounds, small parks, roadsides, creek banks, rest areas, median strips and verges on town streets and lanes and landscaped areas.

Area Class 4 – *Slash and Trim (intervention level 150mm to 350mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Highways, roadsides, rest areas, verges, medians, landscaped areas, floodways, saleyards surrounds.

Area Class 5 – *Slash and Trim or Slope mown intervention level greater than 350mm-No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Drains, Levy bank walls, and difficult to access areas requiring special equipment.

Current Position

To assist staff in planning budgets and ensuring funds are expended on areas deemed of importance to Council the areas which are mown or slashed have been captured in Council's GIS (see Attachment 4).

An A0 sized map will be present at the Council meeting for viewing. Areas are identified using the ID number.

The locations of areas currently being mowed, the frequency of each mow and the estimated cost of each mow, are provided in Attachment 5.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

In 2006/2007 the budget allocated for Mowing and Slashing within the Wee Waa township was \$101 636. A further \$33,300 is allocated in the flood mitigation budget to maintain and repair the Wee Waa levy which includes slashing and general maintenance activities.

The areas and frequency dictate the level of funding required annually. The frequency of mowing is for an average season. In the event of a season being better or worse costs are will be higher or lower than that allocated. This is monitored throughout the year at Quarterly Reviews.

Attachment 5 details the following.

Target Mows to deliver the best quality finish during an average season	\$199, 061
Budget Mows to deliver a level of service that reflects recent practices	\$135,312 (68%)
Difference	\$ 63,749

Legal Implications

Nil

Commentary

Comments on areas identified and frequency of treatment can be submitted to the Director of Engineering, in writing on the day of the Committee Meeting. The mowing frequencies will be represented as part of Councils draft budget for the 2007/2008 financial year.

Conclusion

Nil

RECOMMENDATION: That the Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee note the proposed mowing areas and frequencies for Wee Waa for the 2008/2009 financial year.

4. SWIMMING POOL HEATING (ARC:ARC) [ENG]**C60/52002****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide preliminary and general advice on heating existing council pools to improve the quality and perhaps length of the current swimming season.

Background

Narrabri Shire Council operates a swimming pool at Boggabri, Narrabri and Wee Waa.

None of the pools are presently heated.

The Boggabri Memorial Swimming Pool has access to pool covers however a pool cover winch (to wind covers on and off) was not purchased and this has resulted in an unacceptable manual handling risk. Covers on their own (without a heating source) achieving a temperature increase of between 0.5 to 2 degrees centigrade.

Walcha Shire Council has heated their outdoor 50m pool since the 1970s. The pool currently uses a solar system installed by Zane www.zane.com.au. Verbal discussion with the Pool Manager for this facility indicated the system worked well and reliably. Walcha uses the system to ramp up and maintain pool heat at the start and end of the swimming season.

Current Position

A feasibility study is being prepared for the replacement of the Narrabri Memorial Swimming Pool with a new facility which would include a 25m heated pool to provide year round swimming.

It is not considering replacement of either the Wee Waa or Boggabri Memorial Swimming Pools.

Indicative verbal estimates from the local Zane representative were obtained for heating each pool operated by Council. The estimates were made verbally over the phone without a site inspection of each facility. A site inspection would identify any physical impediments to installation (load bearing weights on roof trusses for instance).

To heat Narrabri Memorial Swimming Pool (50M). In the range: \$15,000 to \$25,000.

To heat the Boggabri and Wee Waa Pools (33M). In the range: \$8,000 to \$15,000 each.

For maximum benefit pool covers would be used to retain heat at night. As Boggabri already has pool covers only a further \$8,500 need be spent to purchase a winch.

Approximately \$20,000 for Wee Waa and \$35,000 for Narrabri would be required to purchase covers and winders for these pools.

Following a public consultation meeting in each of the towns the issue of water temperature was raised as an important issue at Boggabri and a fair bit of time was devoted to this topic.

It would be prudent to further investigate the technology and requirements and if feasible install a system at Boggabri in the 2007/2008 financial year. If the technology proves effective and practical then a strategy to expand the system to Wee Waa and Narrabri would be explored.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

No allocation has been set aside for projects of this nature.

Legal Implications

Nil.

Commentary

The net effect of solar heating could be to increase the water temperature during the existing swimming season in the range of 2-6 degrees.

The solar system can be used during the summer to cool (reduce the water temperature) by using the system during at night, if this was required.

Conclusion

Nil

<p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Director of Engineering Services investigate and obtain quotes for the installation of a solar heating system at the Boggabri Pool and report back to a future Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee meeting.</p>

5. WATER SERVICES MONTHLY WORKS UPDATE (SMV:SMV) [ENG] C70/05001**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of the 2006/2007 budget for the Water Services Section, providing a brief description of the works carried out during the last month and the works that are planned for coming month.

Background

This is a regular monthly report.

Current Position

The following figures have been extracted from the financial database "Powerbudget" as at 21 February 2007, at which time 65% of the financial year had passed.

Operating expenditure is \$1,191,465 (65%), see Attachment 6.

Non-operating expenditure is \$736,415 (24%), see Attachment 7.

Saleyards

- Stock numbers sold through the Saleyards for December and January were 7,800 head of cattle and 631 head of sheep.
- The Monthly Summary has been included as Attachment 8.

Water

- Water produced in each system for December and January was as per the following table:

System	Kilolitres pumped for January	Kilolitres pumped for December	Kilolitres pumped for 2006/07 to date
Narrabri	362,792	278,928	1,530,672
Wee Waa	99,344	89,928	448,995
Boggabri	53,984	44,195	219,306
Bellata	5,830	5,696	23,491
Pilliga	3,911	3,664	17,213
Gwabegar	2,161	1,674	8,978

- Water quality results for each system for December and January as compared against the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) is tabled below:

System	No of Samples	Exceptions	Explanation
Bellata	4	Nil	
Boggabri	7	Nil	
Gwabegar	4	Nil	
Narrabri	7	Iron & True Colour	Ongoing water quality issue
Pilliga	4	Nil	
Wee Waa	7	Nil	

High iron counts are regular for Narrabri, and the ADWG does not prescribe an action protocol as there is no health-based guideline value set for iron.

Sewer

- The volume of sewerage treated in each system for December and January was as per the following table:

System	Kilolitres treated for January	Kilolitres treated for December	Kilolitres treated for 2006/07 to date
Narrabri	64,163	70,751	411,636
Wee Waa	12,819	13,522	91,990
Boggabri	3,953	3,966	30,182

- The effluent quality produced throughout December and January met all Licence conditions.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

All fund operational expenses are in-line with the progression of the financial year.

Legal Implications

Nil

Commentary

Main activities carried out since the last update include:

- Water Services staff responded to four customer service requests (CSR's) regarding sewer and to 23 CSR's regarding water during December, and responded to six CSR's regarding sewer and to 43 CSR's regarding water during January.
- Conomos Plumbing are still progressing with water meter installations in Narrabri, with approximately 1900 meters installed so far. Their completion date is forecast to be the end of February 2007.
- The Water Services Operations Manager's position (previously called Water Services Coordinator) has closed, and the applicants are presently being short listed.

Conclusion

Nil

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> That the Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee note the information regarding the Water Services Branch monthly report

6. COMMUNITY FACILITIES MONTHLY UPDATE (MARCH 2007)
(ARC:ARC) [ENG]**M10/12002****Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of the 2006/2007 budget for the Community Facilities Section, provide a brief description of the works carried out during the last month and the works that are planned for the coming month.

Background

This is a regular monthly report.

Current Position

The following figures have been extracted from the financial database "Powerbudget" as at 27 February 2007, at which time 66% of the financial year had passed.

The Community Facilities Operating expenditure is \$1,933,792 (58%), see Attachment 9.

The Community Facilities Non-Operating expenditure is \$300,229 (34%) presented in Attachment 10.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Other Domestic Waste Expense is running ahead of budget due to Council incurring an unbudgeted expense of \$40,687 for the clean up of an asbestos property in Wee Waa.

The Aerodrome expenses are running behind forecast but this will correct as annual inspection costs are yet to be incurred.

Legal Implications

Nil.

Commentary***Special***

Narrabri Shire Council has been selected to host the Regional Exhibition for the 2007 Waste into Art Competition organised by Northern Inland Regional Waste in late July. The event was run in 2006 as a local event. The Exhibition Room at the Crossing Theatre has been booked to accommodate his event.

Staffing

The Parks and Gardens and Noxious Weeds Trainee vacancies for 2007/08 will be advertised in the next six to eight weeks. The current trainees have made a valuable contribution during their 12 month tenure.

Aerodrome

Runway rolling was undertaken during the month.

Parks & Gardens

In mid-February vandals damaged 11 sprinkler heads at Cooma oval in one week. At \$150 per unit the cost of vandalism to the irrigation system is \$1650. The attacks are occurring at night.

The replacements street poles for Maitland St, Narrabri have been received and currently with a local business where they are to be powder coated (colour matched) so they look identical in appearance to other street furnishings.

Approximately 60 trees have been identified for either trimming or removal in Narrabri. All but a few are scheduled for removal. Fitzroy and Dennison Streets are most affected by mistletoe. Residents whose nature strip contains the affected tree are being contacted (in person or via letter drop) to advise of forthcoming works. A map showing the approximate locations of affected trees in Narrabri is located in Attachment 11.

Very few trees require maintenance in Boggabri whilst Wee Waa will have an average sized program.

Feedback on the draft plan of management for cemeteries has been received from businesses outside the Shire. There have been several requests for extension for contributions as some contributors (The Monument Masons of NSW) do not have a January meeting of their association, limiting their ability to reply until March.

Consultation on the Narrabri Lake dredging activity has occurred with both the Catchment Management Authority and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service consulted to ensure their cultural heritage and environmental requirements are accommodated.

In June/July Greencorp are scheduled to undertake maintenance activities around Lake Narrabri. The proposed activities will be weed eradication around the main body of the Lake, install borders around beaches (to minimise the rate of beach erosion into lake, which is a continuing problem) and install a post and rail fences on the eastern side of the lake to prevent vehicle access (and erosion of the levee bank).

Capital Works Project Dates

2006/07 Capital Project	Project Commencement	Target Completion Date
Aerodrome Fencing	Wednesday, 1 November 2006	Wednesday, 28 February 2007
BBQ Dangar Park	Monday, 2 October 2006	Completed 9 February 2007
BBQ Vickery Park	Monday, 2 October 2006	Completed January 2007
Collins Park Fence	Monday, 2 April 2007	Thursday, 31 May 2007
Collumbarium Wall Narrabri	Thursday, 1 March 2007	Friday, 15 June 2007
Concrete Pad Narrabri Pool	Friday, 1 September 2006	Completed October 2006
Narrabri Lake Lighting	Friday, 2 March 2007	Friday, 27 April 2007
Perimeter Fence No.1 Oval	Monday, 2 April 2007	Thursday, 31 May 2007
Runway Rolling Aerodrome	Friday, 1 December 2006	Completed 11 February 2007
Section 5 Narrabri Lawn Cemetery	Friday, 25 August 2006	Thursday, 29 March 2007
Shade Structure Collins Park	Monday, 8 January 2007	Friday, 30 March 2007
Skate Park Narrabri	Monday, 5 February 2007	Friday, 27 April 2007
Toilet Block Realignment - Boggabri	Monday, 2 October 2006	Friday, 29 June 2007
Toilets Cameron Park	Monday, 2 January 2006	Completed October 2006
Walking Path Lighting Upgrade (carryover)	Monday, 1 January 2007	Friday, 27 April 2007
War Memorial Fence Boggabri	Thursday, 1 March 2007	Thursday, 31 May 2007

The BBQ at Wee Waa is now installed and was vandalised (graffiti) approximately 1 week after installation. The graffiti has been removed and the police are investigating.

The Collins Park fence project is not to be undertaken as Council decided this in December. The funds will be reallocated as part of the 3rd quarter review.

Caravan Parks

Nil.

Waste Management

Waste Oil Collection Sheds are now operational at all waste depots and transfer stations. Funding for this project was provided by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage.

Swimming Pools

A series of public meetings were held to discuss opening hours for all three swimming pools managed by Council following a succession of public requests for change to the traditional operating hours in February.

Noxious Weeds

St John's Wort has been detected for the first time in the eastern section of the Shire. Noxious weeds staff are working with local property owners to eliminate this noxious weed from the shire as soon as possible.

Noxious Weeds staff are also developing a green cestrum control program with properties owners in the Maules Creek area. Funding for the program will possibly be provided by the Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Conclusion

Nil

RECOMMENDATION: That the Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee receive the Community Facilities Section December 2006 monthly report for information.

NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL



**ITEMS FOR
COMMITTEE TO
RECOMMEND TO
COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2007.**

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7. NARRABRI MOWING & SLASHING PROGRAM – ADDITIONAL AREAS
(AC:AC) [ENG]**P10/02002**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to consider the inclusion of additional mowing areas (and respective mowing frequencies) for various areas in Narrabri.

Background

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Sporting Fields are important to urban communities. They provide places for families and communities to enjoy and enhance the visual aesthetics of a community. Grass maintenance is an important component to ensure these areas fulfil these requirements.

Grass surfaces in Narrabri have been classified into one of the following 5 classes:

Area Class 1 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm–includes collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Lawn Cemetery Beds.

Area Class 2 – *Mow and Trim (intervention level approx 40mm–No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals and small parks.

Area Class 3 – *Slashing and Trim (intervention level 75mm to 150mm–No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Playing ovals surrounds, small parks, roadsides, creek banks, rest areas, median strips and verges on town streets and lanes and landscaped areas.

Area Class 4 – *Slash and Trim (intervention level 150mm to 350mm–No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Highways, roadsides, rest areas, verges, medians, landscaped areas, floodways, saleyards surrounds.

Area Class 5 – *Slash and Trim or Slope mown intervention level greater than 350mm–No collection of grass clippings).*

Eg, Drains, Levy bank walls, and difficult to access areas requiring special equipment.

In 2006 Council tendered the mowing and slashing of Narrabri Township and Aerodrome. The successful contractors were Greeningup Pty Ltd and Wheel Australia Pty Ltd.

Payment is made on the basis of a fixed rate per mow or slash provided the grass is at the specified intervention level.

Current Position

A number of new areas have been identified (see Attachment 12). These include parcels of land which Council will soon become responsible for their management (Riverbend Estate public land areas, and vacant blocks acquired by Council), long stretches of land on the roadside in West Narrabri which are used for grazing rather than housing but are important to mow for maintaining urban presentation, and small missed areas which have traditionally been maintained by Council.

An A0 sized map will be present at the Council meeting to describe the precise location of the proposed additional areas.

The locations of areas currently being mowed, the frequency of each mow and the estimated cost of each mow, are provided in Attachment 13.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

The areas and frequency dictate the level of funding required annually. The frequency of mowing is for an average season. Expenditure is reported at quarterly financial reviews, where decisions can be made about the impacts of a non average season.

Quotations have been obtained from Greening Up Pty Ltd for the additional areas. The value of the proposed additional areas should each area be treated to the optimum regime is \$72,810. The proposed level of treatment suggested to be budgeted for is \$57,150 or 78% of the ideal regime.

Legal Implications

Adding or excluding areas to be mowed can be negotiated with the current contractor.

Commentary

These areas have been maintained during the current season on an hourly rate.

The set rate fee in this contract is working well for Council and the contractor as Council has a record of and better control of, what is mown and when, and the contractor is benefiting from reduced cost in submitting claims.

Conclusion

Nil

<p><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> That Council include the additional mowing areas in Narrabri in the current mowing contract and the General Manager and Mayor to be authorised to amend the current mowing contract accordingly.</p>

8. SALE OF 400 MEGA LITRES OF REGULATED RIVER WATER (ARC:ARC)
[ENG] G10/52002

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the outcome of an expression of interest for the sale of up to 400ML of water from Water Access Licence 10112.

Background

Council holds a perpetual Water Access licence 10112 with State Water (this is the pumping facility behind No.1 Oval in Narrabri which supplies town parks and ovals with water). The source is the Namoi River.

Council's allocation is 474.0 share units which entitles Council to:

- A maximum annual consumption limit of 592.5 Mega Litres
- A maximum consumption limit over a 3 year period of 1422.0 Mega Litres
- A maximum account balance of 948.0 Mega Litres.

As at March 31st 2006 the account balance was 900.0 Mega Litres.

The price for a Mega Litres of water is variable ranging from \$120 per Mega Litre to \$340 per Mega Litre. The price varies from year to year and seasonally.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest in up to 400ML of water closed at 5pm on the second Friday in February 2007 (9 February 2007).

Current Position

No Expressions of Interest were received.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Council allocated \$40,000 from the sale towards the installation of soft fall for children's playgrounds. These funds have been expended.

Legal Implications

Nil.

Commentary

There will be no more releases from Keepit Dam until such time as the dam levels increase. The water presently within the Namoi is the total amount of water that is available for all uses (including irrigation).

The saleability of water is low as there is no guarantee for the irrigator that there will be water to pump should they purchase additional ML from Narrabri Shire Council's water licence. The price that would be obtainable (should any expression be received from a further expression of interest) has a good chance of being less than \$150 ML (which is at the low end of the price range).

The continuing drought has required increased irrigation of Council's Parks & Gardens. The annual consumption of water is likely to be in the range of 150 – 200ML ML rather than 100 – 125 ML (a standard year).

With the ongoing drought and the significant use of water by Parks & Gardens it is highly unlikely that the maximum water account balance will be exceeded. This was a primary reason for initiating the sale.

Conclusion

Nil

RECOMMENDATION 1: That Council note that no expressions of interest for the sale of 400ML of water from Access Licence 10112 were received when advertising closed on 9 February 2007.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the Director Engineering Services monitor the status of the water account and if the opportunity to sell water (up to 400ML) at a price greater than \$200/ML appears a real possibility then the General Manager be authorised to conduct an expression of interest and execute a sale.

**9. EXPANSION OF WASTE SERVICES TO 1C AREAS ADJACENT TO NARRABRI
TOWNSHIP (ARC:ARC) [ENG] H10/34006**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider extending its Waste Collection Service to residents that live just outside the Narrabri Urban Area.

Background

Domestic Waste Services are currently provided to the townships of Narrabri, Boggabri, and Wee Waa by Namoi Waste Corp Pty Ltd. The service is a weekly 240L mobile garbage bin service.

A voluntary recycling waste collection service is provided by Challenge Narrabri to: Narrabri, Boggabri, Wee Waa, and select rural residential estates.

At the Ordinary Meeting on 21 March 2006 Council resolved (*Vide Minute No. 100/2006*);

“on the motion of Cr Gleeson and seconded by Cr Laird that a report be provided on the expansion of a domestic garbage service to properties within 1c zonings.”

Properties with frontages on Gun Club Road, Jacks Creek Road, Old Gunnedah Road, Kaputar Road (to the Eulah Creek Road intersection), Airport Road, and rural residential estates accessed from these roads were identified as areas to which the kerbside waste collection service could be expanded too.

The area under consideration includes 197 properties which are classed as Rural Occupied and 31 properties classed as Rural Unoccupied.

At the Ordinary Meeting on 19 September 2006 Council resolved (*Vide Minute No. 538/2006*)

“on the motion of Cr Meppem and seconded by Cr Rae that Council obtain written quotations from Namoi Wastecorp Pty Ltd to extend the garbage services contract to identified areas outside of the Narrabri Urban Area on a full cost recovery option and a subsidised cost recovery option and these be presented at a future Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee meeting.”

The waste management charge for a domestic waste management service in 2006/07 is \$220 per annum (GST exclusive). The bin lift component is approximately \$52 per annum. As at 27/2/2007 there are 3707 domestic kerbside services in Narrabri Shire (Baan Baa, Boggabri, Narrabri, Wee Waa).

The waste management charge for 2006/07 for Rural Occupied properties is \$55 per annum.

The waste management charge for Rural Unoccupied properties is \$10 per annum.

Current Position

Namoi Waste Corp Pty Ltd has supplied a quotation of \$2.50 +GST for each service at these locations (a 240 litre mobile garbage bin) provided a minimum of 190 services is achieved (ie \$130 per annum)

Options for charging are for:

1. Two rates apply for a domestic waste service (**Full Cost Recovery Option**). One zone for collection within the original waste collection contract (Narrabri township) and the second zone for rural residential properties abounding Narrabri township. Both zones would have an identical base charge for the storage and disposal of waste at the Narrabri Waste Depot. To this base charge a collection charge would be added which reflects the different waste collection cost.

The full cost recovery option ensures that the property owner is not subsidised by other ratepayers for their lifestyle choice. Based on maintaining the waste charge at 2006/07 levels the waste management charge for these properties would be \$298pa (GST exclusive).

2. One fee for all kerbside collections. This would result in those within the town limits slightly subsidising those outside the town scavenging area.

In this instance \$55.80 from each residence would be allocated towards the collection costs (an increase of \$3.80 from \$52).

$$(3707*52+190*130)/(3707+190)= \$55.80$$

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Namoi Waste Corp Pty Ltd has indicated that the economics of servicing rural residential areas are not the same as servicing urban areas. This is due to the greater distance and time required to service more sparsely inhabited localities.

Legal Implications

If a decision is taken to provide additional areas to Namoi Waste Corp Pty Ltd the current waste contract can be varied to accommodate this. A resolution of Council would facilitate this change.

Commentary

A suggested subsidised option would be to apply a 25% discount to the lift and transport component of the waste service for rural residential residents, with the balance being distributed to urban residential services. Based on maintaining the waste charge at 2006/07 levels the waste management charge for these properties would be

- Narrabri Rural Residential \$266 (GST exclusive)

In this instance \$56.99 from each residential service would need to be allocated towards the collection costs (an increase of \$4.99 from \$52).

$$(\$52*3707 + (190*(130*.75))/(3707+190) = \$54.21$$

The 2007/08 waste management charge will not be set until the results of the recycling tender are known.

Conclusion

Nil

RECOMMENDATION: That Council write to the Rural Residential properties surrounding Narrabri (1c as identified in this report) and provide 14 days to comment on the introduction of compulsory kerbside collection service for \$298 per annum commencing 1 July 2007. The outcome of the public submissions to be presented to a future Public Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee meeting for consideration.

10. DRAFT PUBLIC SPACE TREE POLICY – POST EXHIBITION
(ARC:ARC) [ENG]

S20/18001**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to adopt a Public Space Tree Policy.

Background

Trees are an important part of the landscape of Narrabri Shire. As a living organism trees are variable in shape, size, robustness, fruiting behaviour, and longevity. It is therefore important to ensure that trees selected for public areas within the Shire are appropriate for the environment in which they are planted, well tended and removed when the organism deteriorates or the environment in which they are planted changes.

There are varying perceptions within the community as to how trees in public spaces are to be managed.

To assist Council staff to manage the various issues associated with trees in public places a Draft Public Space Tree Policy was prepared and is included in Attachment 14. The Draft Policy:

- Defines what a tree is,
- What features are to be considered when selecting a tree,
- The silvicultural activities to be undertaken during a tree's life (watering, fertilising, spraying, pruning),
- Explains under what conditions trees are removed,
- Outlines the reasons for which trees will not be removed.

The Draft Public Space Tree Policy has been exhibited with comment closing on 9 February 2007.

Current Position

No submissions were received on the draft policy.

Policy Implications

Council has not yet adopted a policy for trees. Adoption of the policy would dictate the operational decisions of Council staff.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Legal Implications

Council has a duty of care for the management of trees in Public Spaces.

Commentary

A tree policy is a requirement of Council's insurer.

Conclusion

Nil

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> That Council adopt the "Draft Public Space Tree Policy" as advertised.

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NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL



ATTACHMENTS

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2007.**

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ATTACHMENTS

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