

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Local Government NSW

Attachments

Copy of letter (contained within this report)

Advising Council of the actions taken by Local Government NSW in response to the damaging cuts to Local Government funding announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Oates/Kolkman)

That Community Services item 5.3 – Changes in Community Support Program Funding for Family Day Care, be brought forward and dealt with in conjunction with this item.

WON and became part of the Motion.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Greiss/Hawker)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Amendment (Thompson/Brticevic)

That Council write to the Member for Macarthur asking him to lobby the Prime Minister to reverse the decision on the following budget items:

1. The freezing of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for the next three years (2014/15 to 2016/17)
2. The discontinuation of the National Partnership Agreement on certain concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Senior Card holders that is likely to flow through to councils as increased costs for providing pensioner rate rebates
3. Cuts to Family Day Care funding.

Councillor Mead requested that his name be recorded in opposition to the amendment regarding item 6.1.

Council Resolution Minute Number 123

That the above amendment be adopted.

Councillor Mead requested that his name be recorded in opposition to the resolution regarding item 6.1.

ATTACHMENT 1



Our ref: R01/0028.smcg Out-22560

JUN30'14 08:12:16 EST

23 June 2014

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear Mr Tosi

Australian Government Budget Cuts to Local Government

I write to advise you of the actions taken by LGNSW in response to the damaging cuts to Local Government funding announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget. The specific budget measures I refer to are:

- The freezing of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for the next three years (2014/15 to 2016/17).
- The discontinuation of the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Senior Card Holders that is likely to flow through to councils as increased costs for providing Pensioner Rate Rebates.
- Cuts to Family Day Care funding.

Immediately following the budget announcement, LGNSW put out a media release denouncing these measures. I have subsequently written directly to the Prime Minister and the Treasurer urging them to reconsider these cuts (Copy of letter to Prime Minister attached). A separate letter has been sent to all NSW Federal Members of Parliament asking them to support LGNSW in opposing these cuts.

LGNSW has joined with the NSW Government and peak pensioner bodies in opposing the discontinuation of the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Senior Card Holders, which includes the Pensioner Rate Rebate.

This matter is also being dealt with at the national level by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). ALGA and LGNSW strongly supported the urgency motions put to the recent National General Assembly (NGA). The respective resolutions are reproduced below:

Delegates of the 2014 National General Assembly, in recognition of the vital importance of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to local government for the provision of equitable levels of local government services to all Australian communities, call on the Commonwealth Government to:

- *restore indexation of Financial Assistance Grants in line with CPI and population growth immediately,*
- *reject Recommendation 22 of the National Commission of Audit in which the Commission recommends that tied grants to local government cease, and to the extent that programmes are identified as priorities, local and state government provide them to the communities they serve.*

Further Delegates resolve that:

- *It is imperative that the Commonwealth consult with local government, the states and territories and local communities in the development of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation and the White Paper on Taxation; that the Government's White Papers must genuinely reflect the wishes of the Australian people; and that future Federal-state and local financial relationship arrangements must ensure long term sustainable distribution of taxation revenues between the levels of government that are commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of each level government in our modern Federation.*

The battle to restore FAGs and redress the other cuts affecting Local Government will be long and hard. It will be necessary for Local Government nationally to work together in a coordinated strategic manner. I urge all councils to get behind this vital effort.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rhoades', written in a cursive style.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
President

R01/0021.smcb Out-22548

13 June 2014

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Abbott

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is the peak body for councils in NSW. LGNSW represents all the 152 NSW general-purpose councils, the special-purpose county councils and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

I write to you to protest the serious cuts proposed in the 2014-15 Federal Budget that will adversely affect the ability of Local Government to maintain basic infrastructure and services to the community. Specifically:

- The freezing of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for the next three years (2014/15 to 2016/17).
- The discontinuation of the *National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Senior Card Holders* is likely to flow through to councils.
- Cuts to Family Day Care funding.

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants

Under the budget as it now stands, FAGs will not be increased in line with CPI and population increases for three financial years. FAGs will be frozen at \$2.287 billion per annum nationally until 2017/18. A total of \$925 million will be lost to Local Governments nationally over the period of the forward estimates.

However, the impact will continue beyond the forward estimates as the base level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by more than 12%. In recent years the value of FAGs has slipped to 0.7% of total Australian Government taxation revenue (excluding GST). With the indexation freeze, this figure is to fall to 0.53% by 2017/18. This is the lowest level since the introduction of FAGs.

As a result of the financial imbalance between urban and regional areas, the freeze will have the greatest impact on rural and regional councils that are more heavily dependent on FAGs as a proportion of their revenue.

In NSW the FAGs indexation freeze will result in losses from forgone increase of approximately \$287.7 million over the forward estimates to 2017-18.

Pensioner Concessions

In addition to these cuts, NSW councils are also expecting to face higher costs for the provision of Pensioner Rate Rebates in future. With the discontinuation of Australian Government support for the wide range of pensioner concessions, the 5% Commonwealth contribution towards Pensioner Rate rebates is to be lost.

LGNSW has joined with the NSW Government and peak pensioner bodies in opposing the discontinuation of the *National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Senior Card Holders*, which includes the Pensioner Rate Rebate. LGNSW also commends the NSW Government in promising to cover the shortfall in funding for the 2014/15 financial year. However, there is no certainty beyond this.

Local Government in NSW is concerned that the council share of the cost will increase from 45% to 50% from 2015/16, at a cost in excess of \$7 million per annum. This will steadily increase with an ageing population.

Family Day Care

The Australian Government Budget funding reforms will dramatically affect NSW Family Day Care (FDC) operators, especially those managed by Local Government and could cause families to miss out on affordable, accessible child care from the middle of 2015.

From Wednesday 1 July 2015, all Family Day Care services wishing to access funding from the Community Support Programme (CSP) will be assessed under similar eligibility criteria to those which apply to other care types long day care and outside school hours care. Family Day Care services will only be eligible for CSP funding if they are the sole provider of Family Day Care in the surrounding area, and if they provide care in regional, remote or disadvantaged areas where there is unmet demand for child care or market failure. This is a very difficult test.

These changes could result in a significant loss of revenue for 42 NSW councils if CSP funding is no longer available, as well as potentially reduce the availability of places for families who rely on the service.

Approved services will also have their Operational Support Funding capped at \$250,000 a year.

The Australian Government has effectively undermined the foundations that support the whole Family Day Care system, which is a low blow to current operators, families and the children who will all be affected. It undermines a model deeply respected for over 30 years in many communities. Councils have worked assiduously to remain involved as a public provider of Family Day Care as it offers an affordable, flexible early childhood education and care option for local families.

The combined effect of the cuts to NSW Local Government will result in councils having to;

- finding savings through severe cuts to infrastructure maintenance and service expenditure;
- increase rates fees and charges to offset the cuts; and
- increase child care fees and/or close Family Day Care services.

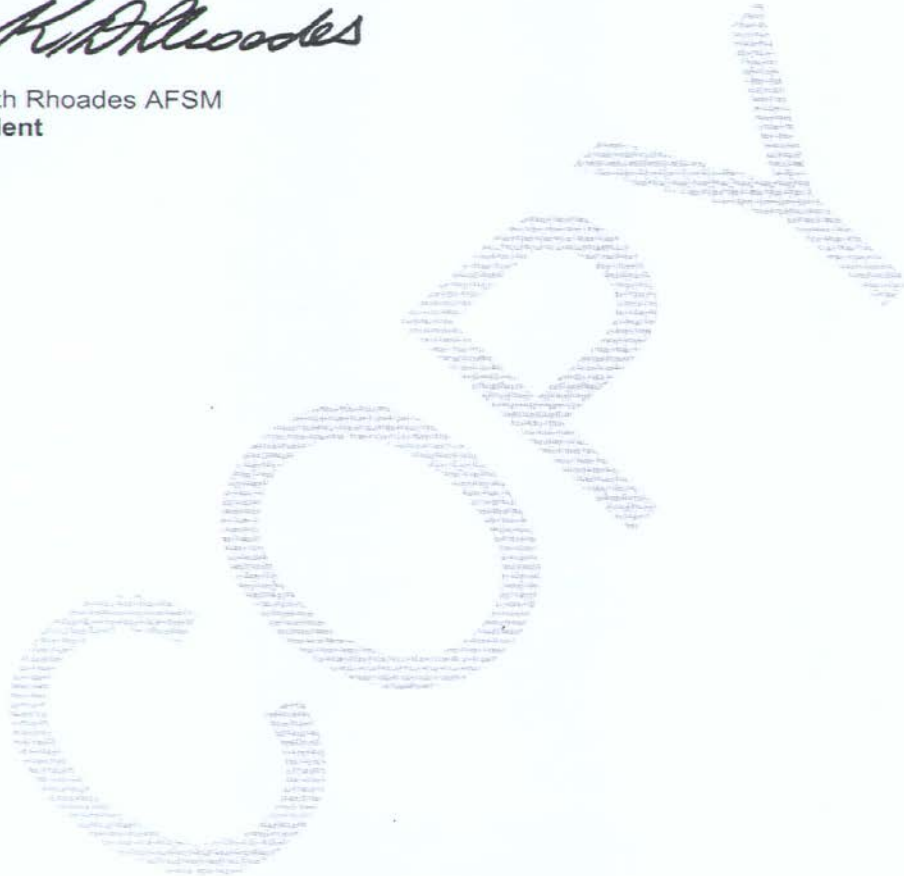
It is conceivable that these draconian measures will also force some rural and regional councils to the wall. The massive existing infrastructure renewal backlogs and the severe stress on Local Government revenue in NSW are well documented. These budget measures will only exacerbate these problems.

There can be no doubt that these cuts will hurt NSW communities, particularly those already subject to the most hardship. I urge you to reconsider these measures.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Rhoades'.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
President



6.2 Mr Bryan Doyle MP Member for Campbelltown

Attachments

1. copy of letter From Mr B Doyle MP (contained within this report)
2. copy of Council's letter (contained within this report)

Responding to Council's letter regarding the NSW Government's long term employment strategy for Campbelltown.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Hawker/Rowell)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Resolution Minute Number 124

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



Bryan Doyle MP
Member for Campbelltown



24 June 2014

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear Mr Tosi

I write to you today in response to your letter dated 13 June, 2014 outlining Council's concerns regarding the NSW Government's long term employment strategy for Campbelltown.

As you are aware, since being elected in March 2011 I have extensively lobbied the NSW Government for recognition of Campbelltown as the Regional City of the Macarthur in line with the 2021 Metropolitan Strategy.

The recognition of Campbelltown as a Regional City will provide for greater public and private investment opportunities and create further employment opportunities for our growing population.

As part of this I have vigorously advocated for the relocation of a NSW Government Department to Campbelltown as part of the Government's Decade of Decentralization policy which aims to reduce Government CBD office holdings by 100,000 m² by 2021.

In April, 2014 I took further steps to secure the relocation of a NSW Government Department to Campbelltown through direct contact with then Minister for Finance & Services, the Hon Andrew Constance MP.

I remain committed to providing the people of Campbelltown with the best infrastructure, services and employment opportunities and I trust Campbelltown Council will play its part in working with the State Government as we work to make NSW Number 1 again.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Doyle MP
Member for Campbelltown

ATTACHMENT 2

25 July 2014

Mr Bryan Doyle MP
Member for Campbelltown
Suite 2A
263 Queen Street
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear Mr Doyle

Employment Creation in the City of Campbelltown

As I am sure you would be aware, for many years, Campbelltown City Council has sought to pro-actively support the creation of new jobs in the Campbelltown Local Government Area and the wider Macarthur Region.

Council has continued to make representations to Government over the significant need for employment creation in South Western Sydney, recognising the importance of local economic development and improved transport access to employment areas in achieving improved social and economic sustainability for our local and regional community.

Submissions by Council to the Draft Structure Plan for the Broader Western Sydney Employment Area, the proposed extension of the South West Rail Link and the NSW Transport Master Plan highlighted Council's concerns, as did Council's original representations over the draft Metropolitan Strategy.

Council now readily awaits the public release of the finalised Metropolitan Strategy to identify the position of Government concerning planning and other initiatives that will assist job generation in Campbelltown and the Macarthur.

The impact of securing the maximum economic and employment generating benefits for Campbelltown that will stem from the recent decision over the Badgerys Creek Airport should not be overlooked. These opportunities will only be enhanced by the range of recently announced roads and transport initiatives included in the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, together with a commitment to consider the extension of the South West Rail Link from Narellan to Campbelltown/Macarthur Regional City Centre.

Council has also consistently acknowledged the significance of achieving regional city centre status for the Campbelltown/Macarthur business centre and has even nominated a large area within the precinct as a potential urban activation precinct.

Campbelltown/Macarthur is a naturally growing regional city that is endowed with major government and private investment in key economic infrastructure such as the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Public Hospital, Macarthur Square Regional Shopping Centre, Campbelltown TAFE, Macarthur and Campbelltown Railway Stations, and the Campbelltown Regional Arts Centre. Investment in these economic drivers continues with the current extensions to the Campbelltown Public Hospital and a recent development application for extensions to Macarthur Square.

Local parliamentary representatives would be aware of the extent of new urban development and population growth proposed for the South West Sydney corridor. Whilst Council is not fearful of this growth, it does need the support of the NSW Government to actively partner with it to secure a more pro-active and structured approach to new job creation to sustain new urban development.

Council believes that fundamental to this approach would be an expression of all Local Members unqualified support for the Council's position that the NSW Government should immediately consider the relocation of a Government Department to the City Of Campbelltown.

Your earliest response to Council's request would be greatly appreciated, and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to telephone me on (02) 4645 4659.

Yours sincerely

Paul Tosi
General Manager

6.3 Wollondilly Shire Council

Attachments

Copy of letter (contained within this report)

Advising Council that following the resignation of Mr Les McMahon, Mr Luke Johnson has been appointed as General Manager of Wollondilly Shire Council.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Rowell/Borg)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Amendment (Greiss/Borg)

1. That Council write to Wollondilly Council's new General Manager, Luke Johnson congratulating him on his appointment.
2. That Council write to Les McMahon, the outgoing General Manager of Wollondilly Council, congratulating him on his achievements and wishing him well in his retirement.

Council Resolution Minute Number 125

That the above amendment be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



Frank McKay Building 62-64 Menangle Street Picton NSW 2571 DX: 26052 Picton
All Correspondence to PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
Telephone: 02 4677 1100 Fax: 02 4677 2339
Email: council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Web: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 93 723 245 808

RURAL LIVING

JUL01'14 08:13:09 RCVD

Our Reference: 531.BB.DH

27 June 2014

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager, Campbeltown Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear Mr Tosi

APPOINTMENT OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER

I am pleased to formally advise that Wollondilly Shire Council resolved on Monday 16 June 2014 to appoint Mr Luke Johnson as its new General Manager. This appointment follows the resignation of Mr Les McMahon who retires on Friday 18 July 2014.

Luke has extensive experience at a senior level in local government and has also held the position of Chief Executive Officer on Norfolk Island. Prior to commencing with Wollondilly in 2009, he was the General Manager of Goulburn-Mulwaree Council.

Luke has been Deputy General Manager with Council since 2009 and I look forward to working with him in his new role as General Manager.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benn Banasik'.

**BENN BANASIK
MAYOR**

6.4 Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation

Attachments

Copy of letter (contained within this report)

Thanking Council for its generous sponsorship of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation Annual Ball - 2014.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Hawker/Thompson)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Resolution Minute Number 126

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1

our children our future

JUL 17 '14 09:17:53 RCM

KIDS OF MACARTHUR HEALTH FOUNDATION ANNUAL BALL – 2014

Dear Mr Tosi

On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to sincerely thank you for your generous sponsorship of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation Annual Ball – 2014.

The night was an outstanding success with wonderful food and entertainment. Throughout the evening there were numerous fundraising activities including a major raffle, balloon sale and silent auction.

Crucial funds were raised in support of Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation. This money will be used to purchase paediatric medical equipment for our local hospital and community health centres and run children's community health projects throughout the year.

Additional funds were raised by guests on the night to enable the Foundation to purchase a life-saving Omnicot. This vital piece of equipment will be used on high-risk, new-born babies at birth. The multi-purpose equipment will allow all treatments to be carried out on baby immediately after birth – including resuscitation, x-ray, administering IV as well as all operating theatre procedures. This piece of equipment alone cost \$42,000.

Thank you for your generous support. It is greatly appreciated by Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation, our local community and the children of Macarthur.

Kind regards

Denise McGrath

Denise McGrath
Chief Executive Officer
Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation

Kids
OF MACARTHUR
HEALTH FOUNDATION

6.5 Roads and Maritime Services

Attachments

1. Copy of letter from Roads and Maritime Services (contained within this report)
2. Copy of Council's letter (contained within this report)

Responding to Council's letter requesting information about the progression of the proposed Spring Farm Link Road connection from Camden Bypass to Menangle Road.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 29 July 2014 (Lake/Dobson)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Resolution Minute Number 127

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

ML14/04438

JUL11'14 08:20:09 RCVD

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear *Paul* Mr Tosi

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for Roads and Freight requesting information about the progression of the proposed Spring Farm Link Road connection from Camden Bypass to Menangle Road. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services have been working with UrbanGrowth NSW and their consultants investigating options for connecting the Menangle Park Urban Release Area to the broader State Road network. It is proposed that Roads and Maritime be the acquisition authority for the section of Spring Farm Parkway from Menangle Road to the Menangle Park development access road, including the two motorway ramps (outlined in red in Appendix 1, attached), on the understanding that the land would be dedicated at no cost.

Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime have no issues with the realignment of Spring Farm Parkway or Menangle Road. It is intended that these works will ultimately be constructed as works-in-kind by the developers of the Menangle Release Area at no cost to Transport for NSW or Roads and Maritime.

The timing of the land release and construction of roads is being managed by the Department of Planning and Environment. Andrew Jackson at the Department may be able to provide further advice.

In summary, the State (through Roads and Maritime) is responsible for the section of the Spring Farm Parkway immediately adjacent to the Hume Highway including the ramp connections to the Hume Highway.

I hope this has been of assistance. For more information please contact Mr Gordon Farrelly, Manager Network Optimisation Planning at Roads and Maritime on (02) 8849 2147.

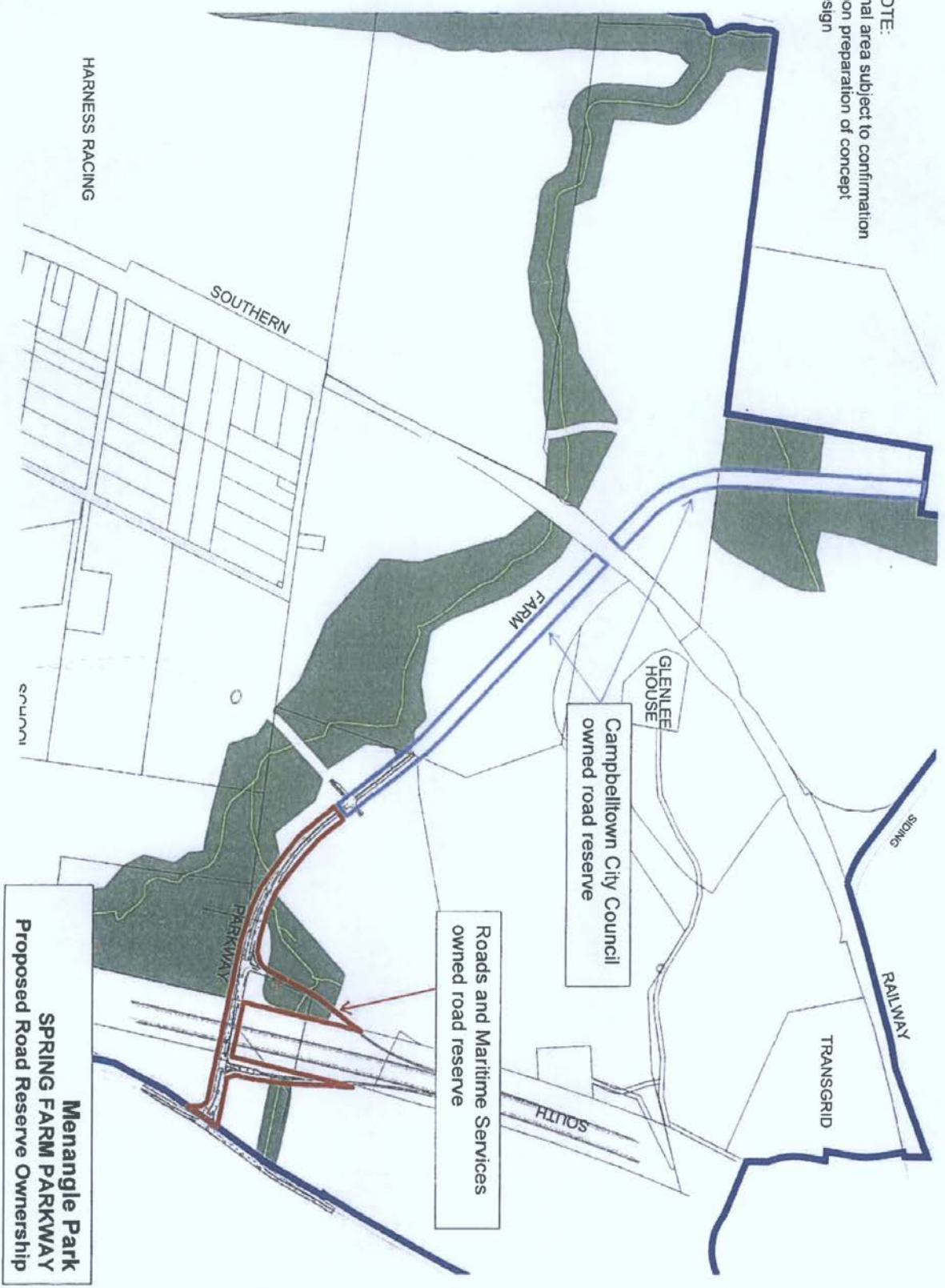
Yours sincerely

Ken Kanofski
Ken Kanofski
Director, Journey Management

Encl.

Roads & Maritime Services

NOTE:
Final area subject to confirmation
upon preparation of concept
design



ATTACHMENT 2



7 April 2014

The Hon Duncan Gay MLC
NSW Minister for Roads and Ports
Level 35
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Gay

Spring Farm Link Road Connection

Council at its meeting of 11 March 2014 resolved to write to you requesting an update on the progression of the proposed Spring Farm Link Road connection from Camden Bypass to Menangle Road.

The significant growth in traffic and public transport volumes arising from urban development within the South West Growth Centre are generating increasing pressure on the capacity and free flow of traffic on Narellan Road, which is now conflicting with traffic moving between the F5 Freeway and Campbelltown/Macarthur CBD and notably the Campbelltown Campus of UWS.

Council welcomes and appreciates the efforts of the NSW Government taking forward additional improvements to Narellan Road and intersection improvements with the F5 Freeway and UWS.

However, Council is firmly of the view that the construction of the Spring Farm Link Road will be needed to deal with traffic and public transport needs generated by new urban release areas located within the South West Growth Centre, other parts of the Camden Local Government Area and at Menangle Park.

Accordingly, your assistance in providing advice on the proposed timing of planning for and the construction of the Spring Farm Link Road is fundamental in reassuring Council and the Campbelltown community that key regional roads needs are being pro-actively addressed by the NSW Government.

More specifically, you may not be aware that the Mayor, Council's Chairman of its Planning and Environment Committee, the General Manager and Director of Planning met with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon Brad Hazzard with the Members for Wollondilly and Campbelltown, to discuss a range of issues relating to urban growth in the Macarthur Region and dealing with the impacts of that growth on Campbelltown as the emerging regional city centre.

Importantly Council's representative raised, amongst a range of items, a specific issue of concern relating to the proposed Menangle Park Urban Release Area that involves the finalisation of planning arrangements for road access arrangements. i.e connection of the release area to the Spring Farm Link Road and thence to the F5 Freeway. Council believes that this matter may also be of interest to you as Minister for Roads and Ports.

Council has for a number of years, been seeking to progress the rezoning of certain land at Menangle Park for a new residential urban release area proposed to accommodate approximately 3,500 new dwellings and a significant employment lands precinct. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with Urban Growth and NSW Planning and Infrastructure.

Unfortunately, there remains an issue over the preparedness of Transport NSW (Roads and Maritime Services) to agree to be listed in the local environmental plan amendment (facilitating the urban land release) as the acquisition authority for that part of the Spring Farm Link Road Corridor that provides access to and from the Menangle Park Release Area via the F5 Freeway.

Any assistance that you as the Minister for Roads and Ports could give to Council to enable this matter to be resolved quickly, would be greatly appreciated.

Council looks forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government on important regional planning and transport issues in the Macarthur area, and would welcome any announcement able to demonstrate that the Spring Farm Link Road connection is acknowledged and being dealt with as a matter of high priority.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to telephone me on (02) 4645 4659.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Tosi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Tosi
General Manager