

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2017, COMMENCING AT
6.30PM**

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor R Pynsent (in the Chair) and Councillors Olsen, Doherty, Dunn, Fagg, Stapleford, Suvaal, Fitzgibbon, Gray, Dagg, Burke, Sander and Lyons.

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager
Acting Director Planning and Environment (Strategic Land Use Planning Manager)
Director Corporate and Community Services
Director Works and Infrastructure
Manager Governance and Business Services
Senior Strategic Land Use Planner
Strategic Asset Planning Manager
Media & Communication Officer
Acting Executive Assistant to the General Manager (Relief Executive Assistant)
Acting Corporate Governance Officer (Administration Support Officer – Corporate & Community Services)

APOLOGY: **NIL**

MINUTES: **MOTION** **Moved:** Councillor Stapleford
Seconded: Councillor Dunn
130
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 1 March 2017, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)
CARRIED	

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST NO. DI4/2017

SUBJECT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

NIL

PETITIONS

NIL

ADDRESS BY INVITED SPEAKERS

The following people addressed the meeting of Council:

Speakers	Company	For / Against	Report	Page No.	Duration
Howard Dick	Regional Advisory Committee (Hunter-Central Coast) Cancer Council NSW	Against	PE7/2017 - Planning Proposal 49B Aberdare Road, Aberdare	25	3 mins
Heidy Vasilis	Cessnock Public School P&C Association	Against	PE7/2017 - Planning Proposal 49B Aberdare Road, Aberdare	25	3 mins

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Moved:

Councillor Suvaal

Seconded:

Councillor Fitzgibbon

131

RESOLVED

That two speakers present to Council against the same motion, as they represent two diverse groups.

FOR

Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn
Councillor Fagg
Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Fitzgibbon
Councillor Gray
Councillor Dagg
Councillor Burke
Councillor Sander
Councillor Lyons
Councillor Pynsent

Total (12)

AGAINST

Councillor Doherty

Total (1)

CARRIED

Howard Dick	Regional Advisory Committee (Hunter-Central Coast) Cancer Council NSW	Against	PE7/2017 - Planning Proposal 49B Aberdare Road, Aberdare	25	3 mins
Heidy Vasilis	Cessnock Public School P&C Association	Against	PE7/2017 - Planning Proposal 49B Aberdare Road, Aberdare	25	3 mins

EXTENSION OF TIME

132

Moved:
Seconded:

Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Suvaal

RESOLVED

That an extension of 1 minute be granted to Mr Dick to complete his address

FOR

Councillor Dunn
Councillor Fagg
Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Fitzgibbon
Councillor Gray
Councillor Dagg
Councillor Burke
Councillor Sander
Councillor Lyons
Councillor Pynsent
Total (11)

AGAINST

Councillor Olsen
Councillor Doherty

Total (2)

CARRIED

The Motion was then **PUT** and **CARRIED**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
133
RESOLVED

- 1. That Council not proceed with the Planning Proposal for 49B Aberdare Road Aberdare.
- 2. That Council negotiate with the owner of the site with the aim of identifying suitable land use for the site which is compatible with the public recreation use of lands surrounding the site.
- 3. That a detailed report be provided to Council within 6 months outlining the outcomes of the negotiations.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	Councillor Fitzgibbon
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Pynsent
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Total (11)	Total (2)

CARRIED

Barbara Rodham	Cessnock Regional Art Gallery	For	CC17/2017 - Cessnock Regional Art Gallery - Request for Funding Assistance 2017/18	166	3 mins
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EXTENSION OF TIME

**Moved:
Seconded:**

Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Dunn

134

RESOLVED

That an extension of 1 minute be granted to Ms Rodham to complete her address

FOR

AGAINST

Councillor Doherty
Councillor Dunn
Councillor Fagg
Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Fitzgibbon
Councillor Gray
Councillor Dagg
Councillor Burke
Councillor Sander
Councillor Lyons
Councillor Pynsent
Total (12)

Councillor Olsen

Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC17/2017

SUBJECT: CESSNOCK REGIONAL ART GALLERY - REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE 2017/18

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Dagg **Seconded:** Councillor Fitzgibbon

135

RESOLVED

1. That Council refuses the request from the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery Management Committee for operational funding in accordance with Council's current adopted position of not providing funding for the day to day operations of the gallery, with the exception of provision of the building rent free.
2. That Council include an action in the 2017-18 Operational Plan to "Investigate opportunities for the co-location of cultural facilities within existing cultural and arts related services and facilities".

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY

MOTIONS OF URGENCY NO. MOU4/2017

SUBJECT: MOTIONS OF URGENCY

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now indicate if there are any matters of urgency which they believe should be conducted at this meeting of Council.

Councillor Suvaal

That Council discuss Cessnock Local Government Area being included in the route for the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor ruled the matter as urgent and will be dealt with at the conclusion of the Ordinary Agenda.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE8/2017

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL SIGNAGE IN THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
136
RESOLVED

1. That Council note that exemptions for specific types of 'low impact' signage are recommended as a component of the next housekeeping amendment to the *Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011*, also to be reported to Council on 15 March 2017.

2. That Council include a new project in the Strategic Land Use Planning Work Program to update Chapter D.5 of the *Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010* regarding outdoor signage, to be commenced when resources become available.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT NO. PE9/2017

SUBJECT: CESSNOCK LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011 - CITY WIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS - 2017

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford

137

RESOLVED

1. That Council support the preparation of a Planning Proposal for an administrative amendment to the Cessnock LEP 2011.
2. That Council requests a Gateway determination from the Department of Planning and Environment pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, in relation to the Planning Proposal in Attachment 1.
3. That Council request authorisation to exercise the functions of the Minister for Planning under section 59 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to make the Local Environmental Plan.
4. That Council undertake a consultation program with public authorities and the community as determined by the Department of Planning and Environment "Gateway" Determination.
5. If no public submissions are received during the exhibition period, a report be prepared, under delegation of the General Manager, and forwarded to the Minister to make the Plan.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC15/2017

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT REPORT - FEBRUARY 2017

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Gray
138
RESOLVED

That Council receive the report and note the information.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY NO. CC16/2017

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS TRACKING REPORT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Burke
139

RESOLVED

That Council receive the report and note the information.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI15/2017

SUBJECT: STOMP FESTIVAL - 23 APRIL 2017

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
141

RESOLVED

1. That Council supports the Stomp Festival by providing in-kind support as detailed in the report for waste management services and the provision and installation of road closure equipment in accordance with the Festival Traffic Control Plan.
2. That Council suspends the operation of the Alcohol Free Zone in Vincent Street, Cessnock between the hours of 6.00am and 6.00pm on Sunday, 23 April 2017.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI17/2017

**SUBJECT: BLACK CREEK FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN
- PROPERTY FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
143
RESOLVED

1. That Council adopt the Draft Black Creek Property Flood Management Plan.
2. That Council endorse the submission of the Black Creek Property Flood Management Plan to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as required by the Black Creek Voluntary House raising Scheme funding agreement.
3. That Council endorse the submission of grant applications under the NSW Floodplain Management Program 2017 (when announced) for:
 - Black Creek Voluntary Flood Proofing Scheme
 - Black Creek Flood Warning System Investigation and Concept Design

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NO. WI18/2017

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOLUNTARY HOUSE RAISING POLICY

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Suvaal **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
144

RESOLVED

1. That Council place the draft Cessnock City Council Voluntary House Raising Policy on public exhibition for 28 days;
2. That a further report be provided to Council outlining the outcomes of the public exhibition, including any submissions received and changes required to the draft Policy.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN8/2017

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A PROMOTIONAL EXHIBITION STAND FOR THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AT THE 2018 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Fagg **Seconded:** Councillor Stapleford
145

RESOLVED

1. That Council endorse the vision and concept of a promotional exhibition stand for our Local Government Area at the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show.
2. That the General Manager prepare a report for Council's consideration by June 2017, outlining the indicative costs, logistical issues, potential promotional material and benefits from having a stand at the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show.
3. That an interim report be brought back to Council by 5 April 2017 providing the following details:
 - a) Booking costs of securing a stand
 - b) Cancellation policy
 - c) Deposit amount
4. That a Working Committee, comprising three (3) Councillors and one (1) relevant Council Officer be established to consider the proposal.
5. That should Council resolve to have a promotional exhibition stand at the 2018 Royal Easter Show, then funding for the project to be allocated from the tourism initiative budget.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN9/2017

SUBJECT: GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Sander **Seconded:** Councillor Burke
146

RESOLVED

That the General Manager prepare a report for Council's consideration on the Green Waste Collection scheme, including but not limited to the following issues of concern for the community:

- options for the return of green waste bins not required by residents or the ability to opt-out of the service
- what charges are applicable for the dumping of green waste at the Landfill, either currently or proposed for the future
- the options for future upsizing of the Green Waste bins

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Doherty	Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (12)	Total (1)

CARRIED

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN10/2017

SUBJECT: TESTERS HOLLOW - FUNDING COMMITMENT

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Gray **Seconded:** Councillor Fitzgibbon
147

RESOLVED

That the General Manager writes to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon. Darren Chester MP, the Federal Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson MP, and Federal Member for Hunter the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP asking for a progress report on the expenditure of the \$15 million pledged by the Federal Liberal Government for the raising of Testers Hollow to above the 1 in 100 flood level.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN11/2017

SUBJECT: FAILURE OF MOUNT VIEW ROAD, CESSNOCK

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Olsen **Seconded:** Councillor Dunn

That the General Manager provide a report back to Council on the finding into why Mount View Road Cessnock has failed so badly after completion of the upgrade. The report should state, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Total cost to Council for original planned works
- 2) Cost to Council to complete the work
- 3) Amount spent on road repairs since completion of the upgrade
- 4) Reason for the road failure
- 5) Estimated cost to fix the road
- 6) Timeline for the road works to be completed
- 7) What jobs will be and have been pushed back because of this road failure

FOR

Councillor Olsen
Councillor Dunn
Councillor Fagg
Councillor Gray

Total (4)

AGAINST

Councillor Doherty
Councillor Stapleford
Councillor Suvaal
Councillor Fitzgibbon
Councillor Dagg
Councillor Burke
Councillor Sander
Councillor Lyons
Councillor Pynsent

Total (9)

The Motion was **PUT** and **LOST**

BUSINESS WITH NOTICE NO. BN12/2017

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AMEND NSW ROADS ACT - PARKING RULES

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Olsen **Seconded:** Councillor Dunn

That Council contact Mr Clayton Barr, State Member for Cessnock, seeking support to have the NSW Roads Act amended to allow parking on footpaths where room allows without hindering pedestrian traffic, and requesting his support to make representations to the NSW Government on Council's behalf.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	Councillor Doherty
	Councillor Dunn
	Councillor Fagg
	Councillor Stapleford
	Councillor Suvaal
	Councillor Fitzgibbon
	Councillor Gray
	Councillor Dagg
	Councillor Burke
	Councillor Sander
	Councillor Lyons
	Councillor Pynsent
Total (1)	Total (12)

The Motion was **PUT** and **LOST**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ35/2017

SUBJECT: GREEN WASTE FEES

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ36/2017

SUBJECT: ABANDONED VEHICLES

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ37/2017

SUBJECT: CINEMA CARPARK

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ38/2017

SUBJECT: TENDERING OF ROADWORKS

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ39/2017

SUBJECT: PAINTING OF GATEWAY SIGN AT LAGUNA

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ40/2017

SUBJECT: PRIORITY OF SEWERAGE TO TOWNSHIPS IN LGA

The answer was noted.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING NO. AQ41/2017

SUBJECT: CONTAINER COLLECTION SCHEME

The answer was noted.

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Rod Doherty

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

When is the Aboriginal Advisory Committee going to be established and meet for the first time?

Councillor Allan Stapleford

CESSNOCK PENSIONER'S HALL

Cessnock Pensioners Hall was broken into this morning and syringes have been found on site. Can it be fenced off or have some security provided or can the General Manager have a look and advise what can be done?

Councillor Melanie Dagg

MAITLAND STREET BRANXTON - UPDATE ON STATUS

Can the General Manager please provide an update on the current status of the handover from the RMS to Cessnock Council of Maitland Street, Branxton, formerly known as the New England Highway?

Councillor Anne Sander

PRIVATE CERTIFIERS

What recourse does Council have on decisions made by Private Certifiers?

Councillor Anne Sander

CESSNOCK SIGN ON HUNTER EXPRESSWAY BRANXTON

Could Council investigate the cost of providing a Cessnock Local Government entry sign on the Hunter Expressway at the Branxton entry of the Local Government Area?

Councillor Mark Lyons

IVAN STREET, WEST CESSNOCK - ILLEGAL U TURNS

Can Council look at illegal U turns in Ivan St West Cessnock, particularly at the intersection of Wollombi Road, and suggest ways of combatting that?

Councillor Mark Lyons

TIMBER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT SCHEME

Where are we up to with the Timber Bridge Replacement Scheme and what does the future hold?

Councillor John Fagg

ROADS SURVEY SYSTEM

When will we have the presentation of the roads survey system that we had discussed some time ago?

Councillor Paul Dunn

CESSNOCK PENSIONER'S HALL - STATUS UPDATE

Can we have an update of the status of the Pensioner Hall in Cessnock with a view to selling?

Councillor Ian Olsen

TENDERING OF ROADWORKS - STAFFING

Councillor Olsen asked a supplementary question in regards to Answers to Question for Next Meeting; Report AQ38/2017 Tendering of Roadworks, with Councillor Olsen asking "Have any Council staff lost their jobs and if not, what are they doing, considering we have \$8 million or 37 percent of previous budgets less for them to spend on roadworks?"

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Dunn

Millfield Subdivision Meeting

Meeting held in Millfield regarding the new development with the proponent's planner on Saturday 11 March 2017, and it went very well. Starting to have a better response from the residents of Millfield in relation to the development. There is a lot more to do. Councillors Stapleford, Lyons and Dunn had another meeting with the residents on Tuesday 14 March 2017. They have a lot of questions, a lot are anecdotal, but they do raise a lot of good points which the Councillors will be following up. The residents seem to be a lot clearer now in the direction of the Council in relation to the development.

Councillor Dagg

Association of Mining Related Councils

On 2 March 2017, Councillors Dagg and Suvaal attended a meeting of the Association of Mining Related Councils. Essentially it was a recap of their previous meeting. Adam Searle attended as a guest speaker and, although he didn't make any promises, he stated he will do what he can to ensure that the Association has access to the State Opposition and minor parties to discuss issues such as Resources for Regions, etc. Councillor Dagg has become a member of the Association's Strategic Planning Working Group, which will be meeting in Broken Hill on 11 and 12 May 2017.

Councillor Fagg

LGNSW Tourism Conference

I thank the Council for the opportunity in attending the LGNSW Tourism Conference in Taree on 13 March 2017.

The theme of the Conference "Tourism : Everybody's Business" is certainly an apt title.

Cr Keith Rhoades, President of LGNSW opened the Conference noting that regional tourism injects some \$14.4 billion into the State's economy each year. That amounts to about 84,600 jobs in regional and rural NSW, which is a significant figure by any estimation.

Regional and rural tourism is on the rise. Visitor nights are up by some 17 percent on 2011.

Local Government is both a key enabler and driver of local tourism, and it's certainly timely to commend the NSW Government for its funding commitment.

The Minister for Tourism and Major Events the Hon Adam Marshall MP, discussed the \$300 million *Regional and Rural Tourism Infrastructure Package* announced last week.

Funding over \$110 million is already being invested in regional tourism, including for example the \$32 million wharf extension for cruise ships in Port Eden, and \$6.7million to upgrade the terminal and runway at Ballina Byron Gateway Airport. Hello Cessnock.

From this \$300 million, there is \$100 million in the initial funding round, which is dedicated to the *Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund*.

That funding is designed to support tourism infrastructure projects, which protect or enhance our State’s incredibly rich environmental assets – the food and wine regions like the Hunter, the National Parks and the heritage buildings which continue to delight visitors.

Councils and Aboriginal Land Councils have until next month to lodge Expressions of interest for this funding.

There is the \$13 million - \$4 million in 16/17 - available through two funding streams – the *Regional Tourism Product Development Program* and the *Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program*.

The *Regional Tourism Product Development Program* is available for new accommodation projects that will help drive overnight visitation to an area.

It’s also available for itinerary and tour development, for the development of new attractions or experiential tourism facilities, and for new visitor signposting. Hello Disney!

During a site visit to Taree CBD the discussion centred around relaxing red tape. Shops were positively encouraged to act in a co-operative way, guided by the local chamber of commerce, to utilise their business frontage footways to display their wares, be it goods or cafes. All at no cost or Council charges. Indeed, Council staff visited the shops to discuss footway utilisation to be met with amazement at such a positive attitude. The value or loss of Council income was so insignificant to the net gain in empty shop take-ups and therefore rates income.

Thinking outside the box has its benefits.

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE NO. CO5/2017

SUBJECT: WESTON FIRE STATION - RESPONSES TO MAYORAL MINUTE

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Stapleford **Seconded:** Councillor Suvaal
148
RESOLVED

That Council note the correspondence received.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

MATTER OF URGENCY

Moved:

Councillor Suvaal

Seconded:

Councillor Gray

149

RESOLVED

1. That the General Manager writes to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation requesting that the Hunter Valley Vineyards be included in the Queen's Baton Relay route for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games
2. That the General Manager promote the process for nominations from interested individuals from within the Cessnock LGA to be Baton bearer's for the relay.

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Olsen	
Councillor Doherty	
Councillor Dunn	
Councillor Fagg	
Councillor Stapleford	
Councillor Suvaal	
Councillor Fitzgibbon	
Councillor Gray	
Councillor Dagg	
Councillor Burke	
Councillor Sander	
Councillor Lyons	
Councillor Pynsent	
Total (13)	Total (0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 8.06.pm

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED at the meeting held on 5 April 2017

.....CHAIRPERSON

.....GENERAL MANAGER