



Vincent Street  
CESSNOCK 2325

28 July 2008

To All Councillors

*You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Infrastructure & Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 6 August 2008, commencing at 6.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.*

**B R MORTOMORE  
GENERAL MANAGER**

**AGENDA:**

PAGE NO.

**(1) APOLOGIES**

**(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Infrastructure & Services Committee  
Meeting held on 16 July 2008.

**(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

63/2008	Road Naming – Proposed New Subdivision At Cessnock And Rothbury	2
64/2008	NSW Governments 'Timber Bridge Partnership' Program – Council Participation & Contribution	3
65/2008	Report Of The Weeds Committee Meeting Held 24 July 2008	5
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**(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 63/2008**

**SUBJECT: ROAD NAMING – PROPOSED NEW SUBDIVISIONS AT CESSNOCK AND ROTHBURY**

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Engineering & Survey Officer, Mr D Latter, reports:-

#### **PURPOSE**

For the concurrence of Council to the proposed names of future new roads within proposed subdivisions off Wine Country Drive, Rothbury, and off Old Maitland Road, Cessnock. Maps are in the Enclosure to this report, showing the location of the proposed roads.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Hardie Holdings Pty Ltd have requested Council's approval to the name of "Blackburn Close" for the future new road in a proposed subdivision off Wine Country Drive, Rothbury. Consent for this Development Application (DA 8/2007/579) comprising of a nine (9) lot subdivision and new road was determined 23/04/2008.

ACM Landmark have requested Council's approval to the names of "Bevan Street", "Day Place", "Picton Street", "Watters Street", "Finch Close", "Rae Street" and "Aston Avenue" for future new roads in a proposed subdivision off Old Maitland Road, Cessnock. Amended consent for this Development Application (DA 8/2006/244) comprising of an eighty six (86) lot subdivision in three (3) stages was determined 22/11/2007.

#### **INFORMATION**

The developers have complied with the principles of the "Guidelines for the Naming of Roads" produced by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales and all of the proposed names listed above have been selected from Council's 'Listing of Names for Use in Naming of Streets' Policy S35.2.

Currently there are no other streets with these proposed new names in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** that:-

1. Council supports the proposed name of "Blackburn Close" for the future new road in a proposed subdivision off Wine Country Drive, Rothbury.
2. Council supports the proposed names of "Bevan Street", "Day Place", "Picton Street", "Watters Street", "Finch Close", "Rae Street" and "Aston Avenue" for future new roads in a proposed subdivision off Old Maitland Road, Cessnock.
3. Council proceeds with the provisions of section 162 of the Roads Act 1993 and the provisions of Section 7 of the Roads (General) Regulation 2000 regarding notifications and advertising.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 6 August 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
28 July 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 64/2008**

**SUBJECT: NSW GOVERNMENT'S 'TIMBER BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP' PROGRAM – COUNCIL PARTICIPATION & CONTRIBUTION**

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The Acting Roads, Bridges, & Drainage Manager, Mr R Koswanage, reports:-

## **BACKGROUND**

Cessnock City Council maintains six (6) major timber bridge structures on 90 km of Regional Road within the LGA. These roads are Main Road 181 Wollombi Road from Cessnock to Wollombi, Great North Road from Wollombi to its connection with MR 509 George Downes Drive, RR 7767 Broke Road, RR 7766 the Kurri Kurri to Greta route (via Mitchell Avenue, Sawyers Gully Road, Old Maitland Road, Majors Lane, Lovedale Road and Camp Road) and MR 543 Elderslie Road.

Regional Roads Bridge Maintenance is funded from the Regional Roads Block Grant. The 6 major timber bridges remaining on Regional Roads, account for the majority of expenditure ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000 per annum.

Replacement of timber bridges on Regional Roads was previously funded under the Regional Roads REPAIR Program for Bridges, administered by the RTA. This program provided 50% of the total cost of replacement/refurbishment up to a total contribution of \$150,000 in any one year. With the total cost of a bridge replacement being in the order of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 (including minimal approaches), this meant that the relevant Council had to provide a minimum of \$350,000.

## **REPORT**

On 21 December 2006 the Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC advised the Mayor by letter that the NSW State Government was funding the replacement of timber bridges under the Timber Bridges Partnership Program in an amount of \$20 million per annum over 3 years.

Council indicated its interest to the RTA in participating in this program and had submitted the following bridges in priority order in 2007:

Priority	Bridge Name	RTA Bridge No.	Road Location	Estimated Cost	Program Year
1	Thompsons Bridge over Townsend Ck	#1536	MR181 Great North Rd Laguna	\$832,000	2008/09
2	Millfield No. 2 Congewai Creek	#1633	MR181 Wollombi Road, Millfield	\$630,000	2009/10
3	Slacks Creek	#1638	MR181 Wollombi Road	\$876,000	2010/11
4	Sweetmans Creek	#1636	MR181 Wollombi Road	\$732,000	2011/12
5	Narone Creek	#1640	MR181 Wollombi Road	\$886,000	2012/13
Total Estimated Cost Regional Bridges				\$3,956,000	
Council Contribution				\$1,978,000	
6	Anvil Creek	NA	RR7766 Nelson St, Greta	\$1,220,000	

Thompsons Bridge has been made the highest priority because:

- It is the last remaining timber bridge on Great North Road south of Wollombi in Cessnock LGA;
- It is the furthest Regional Road bridge to maintain;
- It is on a very poor narrow horizontal alignment;
- The current alignment contains sandstone convict built walls which are damaged by errant vehicles striking the guard fence - recent damage is still not repaired. This has caused considerable concern to the Convict Trail Project and a realignment sympathetic to protecting this stone walling should get their support;
- It can be bypassed with a culvert and earthworks which can be undertaken by Council Direct Control without going to Contract;
- Such a bypass will allow the existing bridge to be left to be maintained by the Convict Trail Project as a "pull off" area similar to Fernances Crossing sandstone culverts;

### **FINANCIAL**

On 1 February 2008 the Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC Minister for Roads announced funding in an amount of \$2 million to replace six (6) timber bridges.

It should be noted that the \$2 million offered will fund Council's first five (5) priorities; however no time frame has been provided by the NSW Government to indicate the life of the Program. Advice from the RTA is that the \$2 million is available for 2008/2009 year; however Council has no chance of funding or delivering five (5) bridges in 12 months. This is particularly the case given the commitment to Cunneens Bridge and Whitebridge.

Council should not miss the opportunity of participating in the NSW Government's Timber Bridges Partnership Program. However at this stage Council could only finance 50% of one bridge (Thompsons Bridge). A review of the cost for the construction of Thompsons Bridge estimated to be \$832,000. Councils contribution of \$416,000 to be financed from Single Invitation Contract Surplus Reserve. Estimates were submitted in 2007 and will require review to take into account construction cost rises.

### **RECOMMENDATION** that:-

1. Council agree to participate in the NSW Government's Timber Bridge Partnership Program.
2. Council advise the RTA that due to financial constraints Council can only fund 50% of cost to construct Thompsons Bridge.
3. Subject to RTA approval for 2 above Councils 50% contribution to be financed from the Single Invitation Contract Surplus Reserve.
4. Council thank the Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC Minister for Roads for the grant and request consideration for 50% contribution for the construction of Millfield Bridge in 2009/2010 budget.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 6 August 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
28 July 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 65/2008**

**SUBJECT:     REPORT OF THE WEEDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24 JULY 2008**

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Recreation Operations Manager, Ms A Sander, reports:-

## **BACKGROUND**

A meeting of the Weeds Committee was held on 24 July 2008 and it was reported as follows:

Attendees: Council Officers Ms Anne Sander, Mr Barry Shepherd & Mrs Maria Edmonds, and Regional Landcare Representative Mr Steve Meadows.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### 1.     Update on Weed Spraying Program

- Council Noxious Weeds Officers reported on weed infestations of significance in the LGA. The significant noxious weeds targeted throughout the LGA spraying program are: Blackberry, Crofton Weed, Noogoora Burr, Mother of Millions, Alligator Weed, Salvinia. Remnant vegetation was sprayed along roadsides, clearances of guideposts, guardrails, signposts and culvert edges.
- Council Weeds Officers attended the Tocal Field Days in May, a good response from visitors to the stand that was operated by the Lower Hunter Noxious Weeds officers. A number of enquiries have been followed up and properties inspected within Cessnock LGA.
- The weeds section on Council's website has been updated with various new fact sheets and more information on Environmental weeds placed on the site. The site is now more visually appealing and more user friendly.

### 2.     Progress Report on Wollombi Brook

- Council Weeds Officers have confirmed a sighting of Salvinia on the wetland at Will-o-Wyn at Murrays Run which is a concern as it is at the top of the catchment of the south arm of the brook. The owner of the property has been given instructions as to the removal methods, this will be closely monitored and actioned if necessary.
- An issue Weeds Officers have is keeping updated with the sale of properties in the Wollombi area and correct ownership for notices as some people do not request that a Section 64 notice be issued that would identify any weed notices that may be on the property.

### 3.     Regional Weeds Management Restructure – Hunter Council's

The regional approach taken by Hunter Councils for a strategic focus on controlling Noxious Weeds throughout the Hunter and Central Coast has progressed well with two (2) teams being set up. A regional weed management Professional Team and Technical Committee is represented by Weeds Officers from all Hunter Councils.

The management team places emphasis on obtaining grants, developing weed strategies for the region and ensuring the process meets the objectives set. The Management Committee calls on representatives of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for input into available grant funding and funding issues generally and the necessary processes required to access this funding.

4. Environmental Weed Issues

Cessnock Council Weeds Officers have been targeting Wild Olive on Palmers Lane as well as Camphor Laurel and Privet where infestations are increasing in numbers.

5. Committee Issues

- Hunter Water: Submission for the extension of the sewage treatment plant at Paxton. Landcare groups concerned about the high nutrient levels that would be expelled into the Wollombi Brook Catchment, this would increase growth of noxious aquatic weeds and place stress on the native vegetation in the Brook. A submission is being sent by the Landcare groups to Hunter Water regarding these areas of concern.
- Councils Weeds Officers are currently working on an environmental weed poster that identifies the significant species of vines and climbers in the Cessnock LGA and action that can be taken to control these weeds.
- Cessnock Landcare will be holding a display in Cessnock Library shortly – dates to be fixed. The display will have educational and promotional material for the control of noxious and environmental weeds in the LGA.

6. General Business

- Nil

7. Meeting closed at 3.25pm

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council endorse the report of the Weeds Committee meeting held on 24 July 2008.

To: **The General Manager**  
Infrastructure & Services  
Committee – 6 August 2008

**L OLDFIELD**  
**DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**  
28 July 2008

# **DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES REPORT NO. 66/2008**

**SUBJECT: CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE FINANCIAL REPORT**

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Recreation and Community Services Manager, Ms N Benson, reports:-

## **REASON FOR REPORT**

At its meeting on 16 July 2008 Council considered DI&S Report No. 59/2008 Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre Progress Report 6. This report has been prepared following a request about the financial progress of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) construction.

## **BACKGROUND**

Construction of the PAC commenced on the corner of Vincent Street and Aberdare Road, Cessnock on 29 October 2007. The total budget for the construction of the centre and associated car parking is \$8.1M. The original contract completion date was 31 July 2008 and this date has been extended throughout the duration of the works due to a number of factors including latent site conditions and unfavourable weather conditions. The revised contract completion date is 29 September 2008 and based on this information the project is approximately 90% complete.

## **REPORT**

Whilst the table below highlights the expenditure to date in a percentage for each expenditure item; and shows that the entire project budget is 65% spent, it should be noted that some large expenditure items can not be expended until the last quarter of the project. Specific examples include provisional sums and/or contingencies for items such as theatre equipment, car park and stormwater works and landscaping.

<b>Expenditure item</b>	<b>Original estimate</b>	<b>Expenditure to date</b>	<b>Percentage spent to date</b>
Construction costs	5,130,424	4,208,338	82%
Provisional sums	1,108,007	266,743	24%
Contingencies	1,391,923	749,031	54%
Car park and Castlemaine Street stormwater	470,000	4,389	1%
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET</b>	<b>8,100,354</b>	<b>5,228,501</b>	<b>65%</b>

It is expected that the entire budget for the project will be fully expended upon completion of the construction contract between Council and North Construction and Building Pty Ltd.

**RECOMMENDATION** that the information be noted.

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