



Vincent Street
CESSNOCK 2325

7 April 2008

To All Councillors

You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Works & Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 16 April 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 Works & Services Committee Meeting
held on 5 March 2008.

(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES

3/2008	Report of the Weeds Committee Meeting held 27 March 2008	3
4/2008	Report of the KKAC Advisory Committee Meeting held 21 February 2008	5
5/2008	Council's Draft Weeds Management Strategy	8
6/2008	Recreation Planned Maintenance Programs	10
7/2008	Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre – Construction Progress Report Number 3	12
8/2008	Recreation & Community Facilities Carparks Capital Works & Maintenance Program	14
9/2008	2008/2009 LGA Pathways Program	16

(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS CONT'D

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES

10/2008	Recreation Capital Works Program	18
11/2008	2008 Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan	20
12/2008	2008/2009 Pools Capital Works & Planned Maintenance Program	23
13/2008	Draft Plan of Management for Baddeley Park (Cessnock)	25
14/2008	2008/2009 Community Buildings Planned Maintenance & Capital Works Program	26
15/2008	2008/2009 Floodlighting Planned Maintenance Capital Works Program	28
16/2008	Playgrounds Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program	30
17/2008	Urban Construction Program 2008/2009	33
18/2008	Rural Construction Program 2008/2009	40
19/2008	Drainage Construction Program 2008/2008	45
20/2008	Whitebridge Over Wallis Creek on Whitebridge Road, Mulbring – Repair and Replacement Options	47

(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

OFFICER'S REPORTS

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 3/2008

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE WEEDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 27 MARCH
 2008**

Recreation Operations Manager, Ms A Sander, reports:-

BACKGROUND

A meeting of the Weeds Committee was held on 27 March 2008 and it was reported as follows:

Attendees: Council Officers Mr Barry Shepherd & Maria Edmonds, Landholders Mr & Mrs Frank Solomon and Wollombi Landcare Representative Mr Steve Meadows.

Apologies: Councillor Dale Troy & Ms Anne Sander

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Update on Weed Spraying Program

- Council Noxious Weeds Officers reported on activities that have been carried out over the past three (3) months. The treatment of the following weeds such as Lantana, African Boxthorn and Salvinia has continued during the warmer months. The season has been much cooler than previous years with a great deal more rain than expected. Available spraying days were reduced over the season.
- A number of private property works have been carried out on a do and charge basis for property owners. The Noxious Weed Team have treated properties in Nulkaba, Congewai, Wollombi and Laguna for weeds such as Salvinia, Water Hyacinth, Lantana, African Boxthorn and Crofton Weed.
- The annual weed coordination application for submission to the Department of Primary Industries for the 2008/2009 Financial Year has been lodged.

2. Progress Report on Wollombi Brook

- Council Officers located three (3) dams along the catchment with Salvinia infestations. One (1) dam has been treated, one (1) has a Section 18 Notice applied and Noxious Weeds Officers are negotiating with the other landowner.
- Wollombi Landcare are having issues with the catchment Management Authority regarding repairs to the banks of the brook since the June Floods. Discussions on how the brook should be managed on this matter are continuing.
- Green Corps Teams have been inspecting areas in Murray's Run for possible Salvinia infestations, small pockets still present in some of the backwater areas, these will be removed by mechanical means by Green Corp and Landholders.
- Council's application that went to Australia Pesticide and Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) for the use of Metsulfuron Methyl (Brush Off) on Salvinia has been a good solution towards control of this weed. Brush Off is not a registered herbicide for this Noxious Weed.

3. Regional Weeds Management Restructure – Hunter Council's

At the request of GMAC a meeting was called for all Hunter Council Managers who manage noxious weeds staff to develop a future direction for noxious weeds in the Hunter via a regional approach by Council's. A cooperative approach to weed spraying and management is the preferred option for Hunter Council's. This cooperation could possibly see Council's from other local government areas combating major weed infestations in Cessnock for example using a group strategy. The Regional Weed Management Restructure team is expected to meet on a regular basis to develop all strategies for the weed officer throughout the Hunter.

4. Environmental Weed Issues

The Landcare Representative on the Committee reported on a number of issues such as the increase in Fireweed in the local government area. This is a continuing property management issue. An upgrade of Paxton sewerage plant is in the commencement stage. Some environmental weeds will have to be dealt with to clean up the site. Congewai Landcare has been removing Privet in their area.

5. General Business

- A Committee member asked what type of pasture grasses should be oversown during winter and summer. Council Officers advised that a representative at Tocal College will be able to advise on this matter.
- Some members of the Committee asked if minutes of the meeting could be forwarded via email to interested parties. Council Officers advised that this matter would be investigated and brought back to the next Committee Meeting.

6. Meeting closed at 3.10pm

7. 2008 Meeting Dates

- 26 June 2008
- 30 October 2008

RECOMMENDATION that Council endorse the report of the Weeds Committee meeting held on 27 March 2008.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 4/2008

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE KURRI KURRI AQUATIC CENTRE ADVISORY
 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

Recreation Operations Manager, Ms A Sander, reports:-

BACKGROUND

A meeting of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee was held on 21 February 2008 and it was reported as follows:

Attendees: Council Officer - Ms A Sander, KKAC Centre Manager - Miss K Ziemba, Y Valley Aquatic Swim Club - Mr Kerry Smith, Kurri Kurri Amateur Swimming Club - Mr R Farnham, Lower Hunter Aquanauts - Mrs C Leggatt & Towns with Hearts - Mr C James.

Apologies: Mayor, Councillor John Clarence

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Centre Managers Report

The Centre Manager Kate Ziemba welcomed the Committee to a New Year hoping the trend of increasing patronage continues as in previous years.

Good signs for the New Year with 1165 swimmers enrolled in Aquatics Education Programs. Learn to Swim classes have a waiting list to join the programs. The Squad Swimmers have been successful at state level with a number of swimmers achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the State Titles. The Centre's 5th Birthday celebrations in January were a great success with over 400 patrons visiting the Centre on the day. A big thankyou to Centre sponsors at the swimming clubs who offered time and prizes for the event.

The Centre hosted a family fun day for families affected by the June floods with funds raised going to the Abermain/Weston Flood Damage Group for distribution.

The YMCA is constantly looking for ways to fund equipment purchases that would enhance programs and make the Centre more attractive to patrons. Some local businesses have grants available for community projects which will be pursued as the Centre's suitability as a candidate for funding of these grants.

Risk assessments have been carried out for the Centre in relation to some items in need of repair. The risk assessments have been passed onto Council's Building Supervisor for action.

The YMCA Sydney has introduced a reciprocal rights card to allow members to utilize other YMCA operational Centres if visiting those areas for holidays. A limited number of visits are allocated to members.

The Northern Districts Championships will again be held at KKAC over the June long weekend 2008. Y Valley Swimming Club will be the hosts this year.

The Centre has come in line with Council's Policy of "No Pass Outs" which was introduced for the 2007/2008 Outdoor Swimming Pool Season.

The Centre has recently developed a Photography Sign in Form which must be completed if patrons wish to take photos in the Centre for any reason. Safety and privacy of patrons is paramount.

2. Update on Carpark Extension

Council is in the process of finishing the carpark which will increase the capacity of carparking at the facility. Concrete kerb and guttering has been placed with a one coat of seal applied. The placement of hot mix asphalt will be programmed with the contractor as soon as possible to complete these works.

3. Maintenance of the Centre

Programmed painting of the Centre in the current budget year has been completed and a staged maintenance program has been implemented to ensure all maintenance works are being carried out to keep the Centre in a reasonable state of repair.

4. Community Feedback

After discussions held at the last meeting regarding increasing the Aqua Aerobics classes an extra number of classes have been added to the schedule.

The numbers of Learn to Swim positions at the Centre continue to grow. This is a pleasing result for the Centre encouraging young children from babies upward to learn to swim. The dedicated teaching staff are appreciated by parents as they have a good rapport with the children.

Committee members thanked Council and staff for the ongoing maintenance at the Centre. The recent painting works have made a difference to the building making it look fresh and clean. Further maintenance works are to be carried out as part of the current works program for the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

Community appreciation of the Centre for organising a day for the flood relief victims from Abermain and Weston.

5. Correspondence

Nil.

6. General Business

The Centre needs to carry out some major maintenance works as part of the ongoing schedule. A close down period of 2-3 days during the June/July school holidays period is the best suited as the Centre is at its quietest times.

Dates are yet to be confirmed depending on the availability of staff and specialised contractors who will be needed to carry out these works. The closure dates will be advertised well in advance of the dates.

CURRENT STATISTICS

KKAC Visits Report

Category	February 07	February 08	YTD 2006/2007	YTD 2007/2008
Fitness	630	524	4077	3282
Memberships	906	793	7293	6709
Recreational Swimming	3797	2913	31538	28354
Pools Education	3633	3986	22577	22758
Recreation Programs	266	195	1497	1358
Schools	732	1080	3713	3917
Swim Club	242	231	1119	936
Groups	0	0	537	393
<i>Total</i>	<i>10206</i>	<i>9722</i>	<i>72351</i>	<i>67707</i>

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre Post Code Survey February 2008

Area	Postcode	% Usage February 07	% Usage February 08
Maitland/Rutherford	2320	12%	8%
Lochinvar	2321	3%	5%
East Maitland	2323	9%	12%
Cessnock	2325	32%	17%
Weston	2326	14%	15%
Kurri Kurri	2327	26%	35%
Branxton	2335	0%	2%
Raymond Terrace	2324	1%	0%
Other		3%	7%

RECOMMENDATION that Council endorse the report of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on 21 February 2008.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 5/2008

SUBJECT: COUNCIL'S DRAFT WEEDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Recreation Operations Manager, Ms A Sander, reports:-

BACKGROUND

Council's Draft Weeds Management Strategy has been developed after receiving a request from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to assist in the management of weeds throughout the Lower Hunter. The Draft Weeds Management Strategy (WMS) is contained in the Enclosure to this report and also available to go on public exhibition for a period of twenty eight (28) days for comments to be submitted prior to the draft WMS being ratified.

REPORT

The Weeds Management Strategy has been developed by Council's Weed Officer's in conjunction with Council's Weeds Committee to raise awareness of weeds and weed related issues to act as a basis for a coordinated weed management program across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The aims of this strategy include:

- Assisting with the management of declared noxious weeds in the Cessnock LGA.
- Fostering the involvement and commitment of the community in weed management.
- Providing information to develop, implement, promote and review local weed management plans.
- Liaising with government bodies, neighbouring Council's and Community groups to coordinate the control of noxious and environmental weeds as an integral part of sustainable land management.
- Increasing community awareness of weeds through publicity, education and promotion.
- Assisting with funding arrangements and the management of environmental weeds in the Cessnock LGA.

The Strategy is to implement a coordinated approach to the management of weeds and a reduction of their impacts on the natural and built environments of the Cessnock LGA.

The coordination and integration of available weed management programs, strategies and resources at a local level will minimise the affect weeds have on the sustainability and productivity of both natural and built environments. The scope of the strategy will:

- Identify existing and potential weed problems of major significance to agriculture, human welfare, amenity and biodiversity in the Cessnock LGA.
- Compliment national, state and regional weed management strategies.
- Provide guidelines for a coordinated approach to weed management by all stakeholders in the region.
- Identify and access relevant funding approximates.

Cessnock LGA has four (4) major catchment systems which are Wollombi Brook, Black Creek, Wallis & Swamp Creeks and Yengo Creek. These areas have diverse and varied land use capabilities and there is a need to ensure land management systems are sustainable for the future.

A number of goals and objectives have been developed as part of the implementation of the weed management strategy. The action plans in the document must be consistent, effective and sustainable for the management of weeds throughout the Cessnock LGA.

The major objectives of the strategy are:

- Prevent new weed problems.
- Reduction of current weed infestations.
- Raise the awareness of weed issues.

An important component of any strategy is the implementation and monitoring of the action plans. The listed performance indicators in the document will be reviewed annually. As weed management evolves and new mechanisms for weed control are developed, the strategy and action plan will be reviewed and amended as necessary.

CONCLUSION

The draft Weed Management Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for twenty eight (28) days from the date it is notified by Council for public submissions to be received.

The public submissions will be reviewed and a further report presented to Council noting any issues from the submissions.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

1. The information be noted.
2. A further report be submitted to Council after the public exhibition timeframe has elapsed for ratification of the Weed Management Strategy.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 6/2008

SUBJECT: RECREATION PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

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

Council's adopted Recreation Planned Maintenance Program incorporates general maintenance (mowing, supervision, routine maintenance...), coordination, minor works, floodlighting and buildings maintenance. A separate report on floodlighting Works & Services Report No. 15/2008 has been prepared for Council's consideration and the aim of this report is to reiterate the future direction for parks planned maintenance with emphasis on recreation buildings.

BACKGROUND

Maintenance levels of Council's open space have increased since 2004/05 following the shifting of recurrent and/or discretionary funds through programs towards maintenance. This, combined with parks maintenance phase ups in 2004/05 and 2006/07 has facilitated a substantial increase in service levels for broad acre mowing and general parks maintenance. For example broad acre mowing is undertaken on cricket fields (playing surface only) on a weekly basis during summer with outskirts being maintained monthly. During Autumn and Spring Council playing fields are mown on a fortnightly basis and high profile parks such as Apex Park (Cessnock) and Kurri Kurri Rotary Park are maintained weekly. Maintenance schedules are available for viewing on Council's website and are subject to staffing levels and climatic conditions.

REPORT

The aim through the last three (3) years' budgets is to reinforce the planned maintenance levels and funding. It is intended to retain the focus on planned maintenance by retaining and/or increasing the level of funding towards respective programs.

Minor Works are completed each year and include projects such as field improvements program (fertilising, top-dressing, herbicide, slicing, irrigation...), fencing (Slacks Park Wollombi) and installation of bench seats and picnic shelters (Booth Park Kurri Kurri, Millfield Oval and Lions Park Branxton).

Buildings planned maintenance is undertaken annually as part of an adopted prioritised works program. Works traditionally include improvements and/or maintenance to buildings within recreation settings. For example some projects completed, or listed to be completed within the 2007/08 budget include; Kurri Kurri Sportsground stage three (3) amenity refurbishment; Weston Park stage 1 amenity refurbishment, Greta Band Rotunda Stage 1 refurbishment and maintenance to hot water services, water lines, kiosks and allowances for scheduled backflow device testing at all facilities.

Each year the previously adopted prioritised program is reviewed based on a number of factors including the facility condition, consultation with user groups and key stakeholders, addressing limitations in the provision of recreation facilities, utilisation of facilities, links to strategic plans and/or Masterplans and maximising grant and joint venture funding. Additionally and as part of the finalisation of the 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan a review of all major community and recreation infrastructure (floodlighting, community buildings, playgrounds, irrigation systems and recreation buildings) was undertaken. The review of infrastructure found that due to the age of many of Council's recreation buildings, facilities within them are either not meeting users needs and/or are in a less than desirable condition. This has resulted in an increase to the scope of works associated with buildings maintenance and has, in some cases, led to major facility upgrades or facility replacements.

Contained within the recommendation is the prioritised Recreation Buildings Planned Maintenance Program for 2008/09.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopts the prioritised Recreation Buildings Planned Maintenance Program as follows:-

2008/09 RECREATION BUILDINGS PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM		
SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS
All facilities	HWS upgrades	3,000
All facilities	Kiosk security upgrade (Jefferey's Park Kearsley)	4,500
All facilities	Water line replacements	3,000
All facilities	Backflow device replacements	8,500
Carmichael Park	Stage 2 expansion of amenities	49,700
Kitchener Poppethead	Disconnection and rehabilitation of former septic area	3,500
Greta Band Rotunda	Stage 2 – Rotunda improvements, upgrade to memorial	10,000
Jeffries Park (Abermain)	Stage 3 upgrade - power upgrade to park	27,500
Weston Park	Stage 2 amenity refurbishment	10,000
Turner Park (Cessnock)	Securing and repairs to centre of roof	10,000
TOTAL		129,700

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 7/2008

**SUBJECT: CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE -
CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT NUMBER 3**

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

BACKGROUND

On 16 October 2007 North Construction and Building Pty Ltd were engaged to undertake construction of the Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre (PAC) and works commenced on the site on 29 October 2007.

A summary of the budget that was approved by Council for the project is as follows:-

COMPONENT	COST
Construction costs	6,275,754
Contingencies	440,000
Construction administration & project management	345,250
Raise floor levels	475,000
Electricity kiosk	101,000
Car park and Castlemaine Street stormwater	463,350
TOTAL	8,100,354

The PAC has been divided into three (3) sections and they are referred to as Building A, B or C. A description is as follows:-

- Building A is the two (2) storey building closest to Aberdare Road and will comprise of community offices, meeting rooms, Senior Citizens Room and toilets and changerooms;
- Building B is the centre building that had been demolished will be the theatre, stage and lounge area; and
- Building C is the building closest to the Aberdare Tavern that has been demolished with the exception of the façade and will form the entry foyer, box office and kitchen.

REPORT

Major activities sine last month's report include:-

- Concrete pre-cast wall panels erected along with tiered seating plats in building B
- Concrete pre-cast panels to cover the storm water channel
- Structural steel erected to building B
- Commencement of painting and wall and floor tiling to Building A
- Construction of the lift shaft

Forecast activities for the coming month include:-

- Stage floor framing and under stage ceiling framing
- Roofing to Building B
- Rough-in of services to Building B
- Pouring of the slab for the plant to be located on the roof
- Commencement of external cladding framework

The original contract completion date is 31 July 2008. North Construction and Building Pty Ltd have adjusted the program to suit the current site conditions and have continued to concentrate on works in sheltered areas such as building A. With this in mind, works have progressed generally in accordance with the revised construction program and some works in Building B are slightly ahead of the program. The revised contract completion date is 16 September. It should be noted that this date will continue to change as the project progresses. Depending on weather conditions and adjustments to the program the date could actually move closer to the original contract completion date.

Liaison with the Cessnock Senior Citizen's Association and the Samaritans continues with meetings regarding fit-out and timeframes held at regular intervals. Community consultation has been maintained through correspondence and meetings with local schools, dance groups and performing arts committees.

RECOMMENDATION that the information be noted.

To: ***The General Manager***
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 8/2008

SUBJECT: RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES CAR PARKS CAPITAL WORKS AND PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

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

The quality of car parks and entry ways at community facilities and sporting and recreation facilities is generally poor (Millfield/Crawfordville Community Hall, Cessnock Netball Courts, Miller Park Branxton...). This can be attributed to the previous focus on establishing and maintaining key items of recreation and community infrastructure such as buildings, floodlights, playgrounds, surfaces etc. Some upgrades have been undertaken in the past 2-3 years at Cessnock Indoor Sports Centre, Mount View Basin and Branxton Community Hall and Preschool, however, due to the scope of works that now exists a prioritised program has been prepared for Council's consideration.

The prioritised program has been developed based on a number of factors including the car park condition, utilisation, consultation with user groups and key stakeholders, links to strategic plans and/or Masterplans and maximising grant and joint venture funding. Additionally and as part of the finalisation of the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan a review of all major community and recreation infrastructure (floodlighting, community buildings, playgrounds, irrigation systems, car parks and recreation buildings) was undertaken. The review of infrastructure found that due to the previous focus on other items of infrastructure combined with changes of use and/or facility layout (Eg Miller Park Branxton...) the majority of car parks at recreation and community facilities are in a less than desirable condition and do not meet the users needs. This has resulted in an increase to the scope of works associated with the provision of car parking at community facilities and sport and recreation areas.

The construction of a car park at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre is underway and is the only project to be completed in this year's program. The level of funding allocated was \$55,000.

Contained within the recommendation is the prioritised Recreation and Community Infrastructure Carparking Program that has been developed utilising the above mentioned factors.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopts the Recreation and Community Infrastructure Carparking Program as follows:-

2008/09 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE CARPARKING PROGRAM		
SITE	PROJECT	TOTAL
Cessnock Netball Courts	Seal of gravel carpark	85,000
Pokolbin Park	Car Park improvements	24,000
Miller Park (Branxton)	Construction of carpark at netball and tennis courts	20,000
TOTAL		129,000
Greta Central Oval	Construction of carpark	40,000
Millfield Community Hall	Construction of carpark	30,000
Carmichael Park (Bellbird)	Two coat Seal	30,000
Howe Park	Construction of carpark	40,000
Miller Park (Branxton)	Construction of carpark at new amenities and formalisation of roadway	60,000
Laguna Community Hall	Seal of gravel car park	20,000
Branxton Oval	Car park improvements	18,000
Bailey Park (Weston)	Construction of car park	40,000
Turner Park (Cessnock)	Car park upgrade (repair and seal)	50,000
Mulbring Park	Formalisation of roadways and construction of carpark	35,000
Kurri Kurri Snr Citizen's Hall	Carpark improvements	20,000
Turner Park, Aberdare	Seal car park	40,000
East Cessnock Oval	Car park improvements	25,000

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 9/2008

SUBJECT: 2008/2009 LGA PATHWAYS PROGRAM

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

BACKGROUND

Until July 2007 the construction of pathways (footpaths, cycleways and parkland paths) had been completed within the following three (3) programs:-

- Footpath Construction Program;
- Cycleways Construction Program; and
- Recreation Capital Works Program.

In July 2007 the abovementioned programs were merged to form the LGA Pathways Program. The aim of a local government area wide pathways program is to provide a clear and consistent strategic direction for the construction of pathways across the Cessnock LGA through the consolidation of the funds from the three (3) previously adopted programs listed above.

The objectives of the LGA Pathways Program are as follows:-

- a) Create safe pedestrian and cycle links between major recreation and community settings. Eg Peace Park and Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre;
- b) Link towns. Eg Abermain to Weston, Kurri Kurri to Heddon Greta, Kearsley to Aberdare;
- c) Provide safe easy access into CBDs; and
- d) Continue to provide safe routes to schools. Eg Millfield, Nulkaba etc

Examples of pathways constructed across the three (3) programs in the past 2-3 years include;

- Peace Park/Chinaman's Hollow (Weston);
- Bailey Park (Abermain) from the Denman Hotel to Date Avenue (Weston);
- Allworth Street Kurri Kurri from Lang Street to Mulbring Street;
- Improvements around schools including East Cessnock Primary, Abermain Public, Branxton Public, Greta Public and Weston Public.

In terms of blending three (3) programs into one (1) it is recognised that it may take 2-3 years for the Pathways Program to take full effect. The aim of the program is for Council to eventually be in a position to construct pathways of significant lengths that will create immediate connectivity between key community settings.

REPORT

Each project in the proposed LGA Pathways Program has been assessed against the following criteria:-

- Connection to strategic plans and/or Masterplans;
- Missing links in existing pathway networks;
- Connection to key community facilities;
- Usage and subsequent wear patterns;
- Customer requests; and
- Community and Councillor feedback.

Pathways are used by cyclists and pedestrians for fitness routines as well as leisurely pursuits. Examples of regional pathways that experience high amounts of regular use include; Fernleigh Track (Newcastle) from Adamstown to Whitebridge, Lake Macquarie from Eleebana to Booragul, Newcastle Foreshore to Nobby's Headland; and Bather's Way from Nobby's Headland to Glenrock Lagoon.

In terms of health and fitness, approximately 36% of Cessnock residents surveyed by Hunter Valley Research Foundation as part of wellbeing program had a BMI score that put them in the obese/very overweight category and this was significantly higher than the rest of the Hunter. Given the links between obesity and many chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, the above finding indicates that a higher proportion of Cessnock residents are at risk of chronic disease if their weight remains excessively high. Health experts recommend healthy eating and a regular physical activity such as walking or gentle cycling to reduce the rates of cardiovascular disease and obesity. Anecdotally, the high amount of use of the pathways in Peace Park/Chinaman's Hollow as well as the Healthy Heartbeat walking trails in Cessnock (Bridges Hill to Aberdare) is mainly by people exercising for fitness purposes.

Contained within the recommendation is the proposed prioritised LGA Pathways Program that has been developed based on the criteria mentioned above.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopts the prioritised Recreation LGA Pathways Program as follows:-

2008/09 LGA PATHWAYS PROGRAM		
SITE	PROJECT	TOTAL
Cessnock	Mount View Road from Scott St to existing pathway (Oaks Golf Club boundary)	53,500
Cessnock	Link from Sports Avenue to Stephen St (Hall Park)	23,000
Millfield	Stage 1 Public school to General Store including design	133,000
TOTAL		209,500
Millfield	Stage 2 Public school to General Store	128,000
Millfield	Stage 3 General store to Bennett Street	113,500
Millfield	Stage 4 General store to Bennett Street	113,500
Weston	Fourth Street to Swanson Street	30,000
Greta	Stage 1 Greta median Strip to Greta Central Oval	50,000
Abermain	Pathway through Abermain Centenary Park	18,000
Cessnock	Improved link from Keene Street to Darwin Street	22,000
Abermain	Jeffries Park to Edgeworth David Park	75,000
Weston	Weston Street to Station Street – link to Bluey Frame Park	44,000
Nulkaba	Calvary to Nulkaba School	TBD
Branxton	Branxton to Greta	TBD

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 10/2008

SUBJECT: RECREATION CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

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

Council takes a refined approach when planning for outdoor recreation and open space areas across the LGA. All capital works and planned maintenance programs are linked to existing strategic plans and current philosophies including:- Aquatics Strategy, draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Plan Strategic Plan, Social and Community Plan, site specific Masterplans (Eg Miller Park - Branxton, Pokolbin Park, Carmichael Park - Bellbird) assessments of facilities and playground audits. Council also endeavours to maximise external funding via grants and joint ventures where possible.

Each year the previously adopted prioritised capital works program is reviewed based on a number of factors including links to strategic plans and/or Masterplans, maximising grant and joint venture funding, addressing limitations in the provision of recreation facilities and opportunities, utilisation of facilities and consultation with user groups and key stakeholders.

The following works completed or planned to be completed in the 2007/08 financial year were determined using the above mentioned methodologies:-

2007/08 RECREATION CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM				
SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS	EXTERNAL FUNDS	TOTAL
Baddeley Park (Evans Street)	Installation 140m 1.8m chain wire fencing, additional seating & improvements to access on Hockey field	12,000		12,000
Apex Park (Cessnock)	Stage 2 – Park upgrade. Installation of pathways, automatic irrigation and advanced stock tree	12,500		12,500
Turner Park	Replacement of boundary fence around athletics track	16,000		16,000
Greta Tennis Courts	Installation of concrete concourse and associated earthworks	22,600		22,600
Margaret Johns Park	Construction of two (2) practice cricket nets	10,000	DSR 10,000 5,000 Kurri Kurri Workers Club Cricket Club	25,000
Jeffries Park (Abermain)	Weld mesh fencing and installation of three park lights	25,000		25,000
Lions Park (Branxton)	Park upgrade in line with Branxton Masterplan. 105m koppers log fencing, removal and replacement of picnic shelters	16,000		16,000
Mulbring Oval	Completion of weld mesh fencing around cricket oval, earthworks and installation of stepped retaining wall	16,000		16,000
Greta Central Oval	Stage 2 Internal and boundary fencing	25,000		25,000
TOTAL		155,100	15,000	170,100

Since October 2007 the previously adopted prioritised capital works program has been reviewed and considered a number of items such as links to strategic plans and/or Masterplans; opportunities for grants and joint venture funding; limitations in the provision of recreation facilities; utilisation of facilities; and consultation with user groups and key stakeholders.

The proposed Recreation Capital Works Program maintains the approach of staging developments over a number of years. Examples include Miller Park (Branxton), Pokolbin Park, Greta Central Oval and Cessnock netball courts. Some projects have also been spread over a number of programs as a means to implement them over a relatively short timeframe. For instance floodlighting at Howe Park (Abermain) sits within the Floodlighting Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program.

Contained within the recommendation are the proposed works to be undertaken in the 2008/09 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopts the prioritised Recreation Capital Works Program as follows:-

2008/09 RECREATION CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM				
SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS	EXTERNAL FUNDS	TOTAL
Manning Park (Cessnock)	Fire fighters training facility	23,000		23,000
Greta Central Oval	Stage 3 – fencing	15,000		15,000
Mulbring Oval	Demolition of existing cricket nets and replacement with 2 new nets	17,500	17,500 (cricket NSW)	35,000
Greta Tennis Courts	Installation of synthetic surface on tennis court	12,000	10,000 (Greta Tennis Club)	22,000
Baddeley Park (Cessnock)	Fencing and pathways at Hockey Centre	6,000		6,000
Howe Park (Abermain)	Installation of automatic irrigation	32,000		32,000
Miller Park (Branxton)	Installation of automatic irrigation on main soccer field	23,000		23,000
Pokolbin Park	Stage 2 Park Upgrade as per adopted Masterplan:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • picnic shelter refurbishments • 120m of koppers log fencing 	15,000		15,000
Jeffrey's Park (Kearsley)	Installation of 110m weldmesh fencing along Congewai St	10,000		10,000
Cessnock Netball courts	Stage 1 Garden renovations	15,000		15,000
	TOTAL	168,500	27,500	196,000

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 11/2008

SUBJECT: 2008 DRAFT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

BACKGROUND

The document which guides the provision of recreation and open space areas within the Cessnock Local Government Area (1996 Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan) is extremely outdated. Subsequently the Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan has been updated, ensuring that Council's goals in planning for open space and recreation areas are relevant and valid.

Some of the key issues that are addressed within the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan which were not emphasised in the 1996 plan include: integration of cycleways/footpaths; high levels of obesity and heart disease within the LGA; guidelines and minimum standards/sizes for parks and sporting facilities; and continued rationalisation of open space (quality versus quantity).

The draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan is intended to assist Council plan and manage the future development and maintenance needs of recreation facilities and open space areas throughout the Cessnock Local Government Area. A copy of the draft plan is contained within the Enclosure to this report.

REPORT

The Department of Planning recently announced a series of workshops to be held in conjunction with Local Government regarding a planned update to the Department's 1992 Recreation and Open Space Guidelines. The Department have advised that the new guidelines will:

- Apply across NSW,
- Consider both specific and varying issues of metropolitan, coastal and regional councils,
- Seek to build a consensus within local government for a standard approach to measuring demand and supply of open space and recreation facilities,
- Formulate options for targets for local government provision of open space and recreation facilities,
- Provide a best practise guide to assist councils in planning their investments in open space and recreation.

Council staff will be involved in the workshops and subsequent review of the guidelines and recommendations/new guidelines could be integrated into Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan once finalised by the Department.

A summary of how the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan was developed is detailed below.

Strategic direction for the draft plan is provided through a number of planning concepts and guidelines including Council's Strategic Plan (Our People, Our Place, Our Future); open space guidelines provided by the Department of Planning (1992); public land management which is drawn from the Local Government Act (1993); park and sportsground guidelines which reflect the level of facilities, service standards and size of the catchment that attracts users to parks; and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum along with the settings approach which focuses on providing a diversity of recreation experiences.

Recreation supply throughout the Cessnock Local Government Area was analysed and examined. Recommendations have been provided where gaps in the provision of recreation settings were found. A number of methodologies were utilised to examine current recreation demand including resident and user group surveys, an investigation into recreation and leisure trends at a national, State and Local Level, analysis of past capital works, review of parks maintenance and playgrounds, and review of aquatic facilities and indoor sports facilities.

An analysis of Supply and Demand through the use of spatial maps identified a number of areas of over/under supply in open space throughout the LGA. The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and the significance that the proposed area rezonings will have on the provision of recreation and open space areas have been included in the analysis of supply and demand. Open space recommendations for the Cessnock LGA are also provided in the draft plan. Twenty two (22) parcels of Council owned land identified as 'surplus' land are highlighted along with parcels of land to be acquired for future expansions of recreation and sporting facilities.

A thorough social and health profile of residents within the Cessnock LGA is contained within the draft plan and the significance of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (2006) in relation to the ageing population is also discussed.

An action plan was developed, which is a culmination of the data collected from the previously mentioned investigations. The action plan is categorised into six key subject areas, those being, parks and gardens, active sporting/recreational open space and facilities, natural areas, ancillary open space, management and access.

Following the recommendations in the action plan a combined five (5) year Recreation Capital Works Program for Pathways, Floodlights, Buildings, Playgrounds and Field Improvements has been established and included within the draft document. It is intended that the program can be utilised by the community and local sporting groups to see future recreation works planned within their town or sporting facility as well as approximate timeframes for when works will be completed. It should be noted that prioritised planned maintenance and capital works programs for specific infrastructure (Floodlights, Playgrounds, Buildings, Pathways etc) will be presented to Council separately for their consideration.

CONCLUSION

In order for the draft plan to be reflective of the needs and demands of the residents within the Cessnock LGA, further consultation will need to be undertaken with the general community. With this in mind it is anticipated that a number of community workshops will be held during May 2008, throughout the LGA to address any stakeholder concerns that may arise and incorporate feedback into the draft plan as it is received.

The completion of the draft 2008 Recreation & Open Space Strategic Plan allows for the planning for recreation and open space areas to be proactive and will greatly assist a number of key stakeholders in planning for and providing information about the City's open space areas including sporting and community groups, local residents within the community, developers as well as Council Officers.

RECOMMENDATION that:-

1. The draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of eight (8) weeks from Wednesday 23 April 2008 until Wednesday 11 June 2008.
2. At the conclusion of the exhibition period a further report be prepared for Council's consideration.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 12/2008

SUBJECT: 2008/2009 POOLS CAPITAL WORKS AND PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

In late 2002 and early 2003 a review of the future direction for the development, management and operation of Council's aquatic facilities was undertaken. The review culminated in the development of an aquatics policy which was adopted by Council in 2007. A Council briefing was held in February 2008 regarding the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan which outlined the aquatics policy and future direction of aquatics facilities throughout the Cessnock LGA.

The need to have a clear direction for the provision of swimming facilities to cater for the needs of the LGA is recognised within the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan. Council's present adopted direction for the provision of aquatic facilities for the LGA is as follows:

1. Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre should continue to be monitored and a feasibility study on the establishment of dry facilities and an outdoor 50m pool be undertaken (the feasibility of establishing dry facilities is complete).
2. Branxton Public Swimming Pool continues to be operated and upgraded to meet local public needs with improvements to the concourse, heating and amenities.
3. Cessnock Public Swimming Pool. Investigations into a suitable centrally located position in the township be undertaken.

Proposed major works at Cessnock Public Swimming Pool including the expansion of the 50m pool and replacement of the leisure/program pool with a modern, purpose built facility were considered by Council's Major Projects Committee in December 2006. At the time Council resolved to postpone the proposed redevelopment and to commence investigations into the relocation of the Cessnock Public Swimming Pool to a suitable centrally located position within the township of Cessnock. The investigations regarding the relocation have been ongoing since then and Council was recently approached by the Cessnock PCYC about the possibility of constructing an aquatic facility on the PCYC grounds located on Wollombi Road, Cessnock. It is expected that a detailed report will be prepared for Council's consideration following further investigations into the suitability of the location.

The following table indicates projects completed, or to be completed in the 2007/2008 budget:

2007/08 POOLS PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM		
SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS
Cessnock Pool	Replacement of glass on office windows and installation of security mesh	10,500
	Purchase of pool cleaner	4,800
	External painting of entry way building	15,000
Branxton Pool	Demolition of grandstand, replacement seating and shade	18,000

SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS
Cessnock and Branxton Pool	Annual pump maintenance	12,000
	Pre season start up	12,000
Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre	External painting – posts and entry way	25,000
	Minor repairs to roof, interior walls, skylights and metal covers.	11,000
	General maintenance – vents, chains on lights and speakers etc	16,000
	Automatic Pool blanket winder	7,500
TOTAL		131,800

Each year the previously adopted program is reviewed based on a number of factors including; the facility condition, usage, the adopted Aquatics Strategy, Work Cover and Occupational Health and Safety guidelines.

Contained within the recommendations is the proposed 2008/09 Pools Planned Maintenance and capital Works Program.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the proposed 2008/09 Pools Capital Works & Planned Maintenance Program as follows:

2008/09 POOLS PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM		
SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS
Cessnock Pool	Floodlight repairs	6,000
	Fencing of plant room	6,800
	Filter bed pipeline replacement	6,000
Branxton Pool	Additional lighting at deep end of pool	4,000
	Purchase of pool cleaner	4,500
	Final Stage concourse replacement	20,000
Cessnock and Branxton Pool	Annual pump maintenance	12,000
	Pre-season start up	16,000
	Planning documents (structural engineer assessment and ramp design)	11,000
Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre	Replacement of pool pump	11,100
	Stage 2 painting	15,000
	Stage 2 maintenance	13,350
	Purchase of defibrillation unit	3,800
	Renewal of stands in heat exchangers, rusted through	5,000
TOTAL		134,550

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 13/2008

SUBJECT: DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR BADDELEY PARK (CESSNOCK)

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

In line with Council's Management Plan a review of all major recreational settings has been undertaken over the past three (3) years. This review has culminated in the preparation, exhibition and subsequent adoption of a number of site specific Plans of Management (PoM) including; Miller Park (Branxton), Margaret Johns Park (Kurri Kurri) and Varty Park (Weston).

To continue the updating of Council's Plans of Management, a Plan of Management for Baddeley Park, Cessnock was presented to Council at its meeting on 11 October 2006. At this meeting Council considered Acting Director Strategic and Community Services Report No. 147/2006 regarding the draft Plan of Management for Baddeley Park (Cessnock). In line with the Local Government Act (1993), approval was given to advertise the document for a period of forty two (42) days.

Prior to placing the draft document on public exhibition a number of concerns arose with both the Cessnock District Hockey Association, who had a licence agreement over the hockey facilities at Baddeley Park; and Cessnock Dog Club who had a sub lease agreement with the Hockey Association, for the grassed area within the hockey facilities. The main concerns were in regards to the clarification of boundaries at the site. In order for both groups to operate more effectively it was recommended that the existing licence agreements over the site be rescinded with new separate agreements established, and that fencing works be factored into the 2007/08 Recreation Capital Works Program to clarify boundaries.

Two (2) separate licence agreements for the Cessnock District Hockey Association and Cessnock Dog Club have been established and are being implemented and fencing works are complete. With these matters addressed the draft Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from Wednesday 5 December 2007 until Wednesday 16 January 2008. There were no submissions received during this time.

Council approval is now required to adopt the Plan of Management.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the draft Plan of Management for Baddeley Park (Cessnock).

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 14/2008

SUBJECT: 2008/2009 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PLANNED MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

In the past Council has adopted and implemented a prioritised Community Facilities Capital Works and Planned Maintenance Program which incorporates the ongoing development and routine maintenance of Council's community halls and buildings. The program comprises of two (2) components; annual projects and specific prioritised projects. The annual projects entail:

- a) Cyclical Maintenance e.g. floor surfacing, door and awning replacements
- b) Minor works such as access improvements
- c) Capital Works such as facility upgrades and/or expansions

Each year the previously adopted prioritised program is reviewed based on a number of factors including maximising grant and joint venture funding, addressing limitations in the provision of community facilities and opportunities, utilisation, and correlation with previously adopted facility plans and the Social and Community Plan.

The following table indicates projects completed, or to be completed in the 2007/2008 budget:

SITE	PROJECT	FUNDS
All facilities	Grounds maintenance	5,000
All facilities	Floor maintenance	17,200
All facilities	Signage and planning	5,000
All facilities	Exit/emergency lights	15,000
All facilities	RCD replacements	8,000
All facilities	Exit door and awning replacements	3,000
Abermain School of Arts	Installation of ramp and additional toilet, installation of small kitchenette	45,000
Kurri Kurri Ambulance Practice Hall	Stage 2 , internal painting, lining repairs, lighting and heater repairs	30,000
Branxton Community Hall	Roof painting and roof bolt installation	20,000
Crawfordville Community Hall – (Millfield)	Demolition of toilets and expansion of hall to incorporate new toilets, storage and access improvements as well as kitchen upgrade.	86,000 (includes 36,000 revote from 2006/07)
Bellbird Community Hall	Roof replacement and roof bolt installation, landscaping and fencing works, stage and storage	38,000
Ellalong Community Hall	Internal and external painting and minor earthworks, mat well	23,000
Abermain Plaza Hall	Internal painting, security screens	12,000
Kearsley Community Hall	Internal painting and lining repairs	9,000
Wollombi Community Hall	Replacement of water tank and completion of concrete driveway	8,500
Weston Civic Centre	Relocation of electrical sub board	10,000
Greta Multipurpose Centre	25m x 3m reinforced concrete emergency vehicular access	4,500
Marthaville Cultural Centre	Stage 2 external painting and minor repairs	20,000
TOTAL		359,200

The following points should be noted about the proposed prioritised Capital Works & Planned Maintenance program:

- In October 2007 a report was presented to Council regarding the shortfall of funding for the redevelopment of Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre. At this time Council resolved to source the remaining funds from internally restricted assets within the current financial year with repayments to be factored into the 2008/2009 Recreation and Community Services budget for Council's consideration.

Contained within the recommendations are the proposed works to be completed in the 2008/09 Community Buildings Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the prioritised Community Facilities Capital Works & Planned Maintenance Program as follows:

SITE	PROJECT	PROGRAM FUNDS
Internal	Internal loan repayment for Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre	150,000
All Facilities	Grounds maintenance	5,000
All Facilities	Floor maintenance (Laguna and Bellbird Community Halls)	20,000
All Facilities	Signage and planning	5,000
All Facilities	Exit/emergency lights	15,000
All Facilities	RCD replacements	8,000
PAC	Fit-out for Senior Citizens Room and auditorium	37,000
Abermain Plaza Hall	Replacement of roof sheeting and repairs of stairs at side of hall	10,300
Kurri Kurri Community Centre	Repair upgrade to stairs to access water point on roof	25,000
Weston Civic Centre	Removal of bar heaters in Senior's Hall, installation of air conditioner and box gutter replacement	11,600
Branxton Community Hall	Fencing along grassed area at front of hall and landscaping, access improvements (carpark, pathways and drainage)	25,000
Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club (Stephen Street Park)	Repair of windows and installation of grill	2,650
Abermain School of Arts	Window painting	15,450
	TOTAL	330,000

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 15/2008

SUBJECT: 2008/2009 FLOODLIGHTING PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

In the past Council has adopted and implemented a prioritised Floodlighting Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program which incorporates the ongoing development and maintenance of Council's sporting facilities in relation to floodlights. The program comprises of annual projects which entail:

- a) Capital Works e.g. the installation of new floodlighting systems or replacements/upgrades to existing systems prior to the winter sporting season in February/March each year
- b) Maintenance e.g. light globe repairs and replacement

Each year the previously adopted prioritised program is reviewed based on a number of factors including utilisation, maximising grant and joint venture funding, addressing limitations in the provision of floodlighting and correlation with previously adopted programs, existing Plans of Management and associated Masterplans as well as the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan.

The following table indicates projects completed, or to be completed in the 2007/2008 budget:

SITE	PROJECT	CCC FUNDS	EXTERNAL	TOTAL
All Locations	Repairs and maintenance – globe replacements, focusing, starter replacements	15,000		15,000
Greta Central Oval	Installation of two floodlight poles on western side of main field for training and competition purposes	40,000	Department of Sport & Recreation 15,000	55,000
Miller Park	Installation of four floodlights	40,000	Department of Sport & Recreation 40,000	80,000
	TOTAL	95,000	55,000	150,000

The following points should be noted about the current program:

- Miller Park floodlighting system was recently installed and is fully operational.
- The installation of floodlights and associated power upgrade at Greta Central Oval was programmed to be completed in February 2008. These works have been delayed due to additional infrastructure (power pole and transformer) required by the consent authority, Energy Australia (EA). EA is currently completing a design for the new infrastructure and have not yet given a timeframe or an indication of costs for this. Council is continuing to liaise with the key stakeholders at the site regarding the progress of works and interim lighting measures.

In terms of the proposed Floodlighting Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program, the draft Plan of Management and associated Masterplan for Howe Park, Abermain, is currently on public exhibition. The installation of (two) floodlighting poles is illustrated within both the above draft documents and has been included within the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the prioritised Floodlighting Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program.

FLOODLIGHTING PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM				
SITE	PROJECT	CCC FUNDS	EXTERNAL	TOTAL
All Locations	Repairs and maintenance – globe replacements, focusing, starter replacements	15,000		15,000
Howe Park (Abermain)	Two (2) 18m poles three (3) lights per pole	30,000	10,000 Department of Sport & Recreation	40,000
Abermain Soccer Oval	Two (2) 18m poles six (6) lights per pole	40,000	20,000 Department of Sport & Recreation	60,000
	Total	85,000	30,000	115,000
Kurri Kurri Central Oval	Installation of two (2) floodlight poles and lights for training purposes	35,000		
Chinamans Hollow (cricket field)	Installation of two floodlighting poles and lights for training purposes	35,000		
Baddeley Park	Installation of six floodlighting poles and lights	150,000		
Greta Central Oval	Installation of two floodlighting poles and lights for training purposes on cricket oval	40,000		
Pelaw Main Oval	Installation of two floodlight poles and lights for training purposes	40,000		
Booth Park (Kurri Kurri)	Installation of two floodlighting poles and lights for training purposes	40,000		
Rotary Park (Kurri Kurri)	Installation of a light pole and floodlight	12,000		
Log of Knowledge Park (Kurri Kurri)	Lighting of pathway through park	30,000		

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 16/2008

SUBJECT: PLAYGROUNDS PLANNED MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Community Facilities Planners, Ms K Jordan, reports:-

BACKGROUND

Council is responsible for the maintenance of all playgrounds it provides across the LGA and in 1997 over 45 playgrounds in the LGA either had some, if not all, of their play equipment removed due to safety concerns and the implementation of Australian Standards for playgrounds and softfall areas. Following rationalisation of playgrounds via the development of sub-regional playgrounds and consolidation of children's play equipment Council currently maintains 41 children's playgrounds throughout the LGA.

REPORT

Since 2003, and every 2nd year since then an independent safety assessment has been conducted on Council's playgrounds. The assessment considers the Australian Standards for children's playgrounds and softfall. The most recent safety assessment was undertaken in October 2007 and identified the following:

- 140 items of play equipment were considered unsafe due to equipment design or potential safety issue;
- 41 playgrounds were identified as requiring at least one replacement item; and
- The majority of softfall areas did not meet the Australian Standards

As a result of the assessments, works were undertaken to ensure all playgrounds and softfall within the LGA were safe and it is expected that the next safety assessment will be conducted on all playgrounds in the LGA in 2009.

The establishment of sub-regional playgrounds via the consolidation and upgrade to a number of existing children's playgrounds throughout the LGA has proven to be highly successful with regard to patronage as well as maintenance. Examples include Bridges Hill Park (Cessnock), Log of Knowledge Playground (Kurri Kurri), Birrale Park (Kurri Kurri) and Norman Brown Park (Greta). The proposed prioritised program for Councils consideration has been reviewed taking into account two main priorities:

1. The establishment and improvement of existing centralised playgrounds which have an impact on a medium to large catchment. In essence, this is a flow on from the success of the Peace Park regional playground and highlights the need to provide higher quality facilities that cater for a sub-regional catchment; and
2. Maintenance and the Australian Standards. The maintenance of existing playgrounds throughout the LGA is a priority due to the recent changes to softfall and equipment standards as well as the wear and tear of equipment over a substantial period. The aim is to upgrade the contemporary playgrounds installed by Council approximately 15-20 years ago that have reached their lifespan as a means to ensure compliance with the Australian Standards for playgrounds.

Taking the abovementioned points into consideration, it is proposed that Council complete three (3) projects in the 2008/2009 financial year in line with previous funding levels. These projects entail:

- a) Various locations. The 2007 safety audit identified that all of Council's playgrounds (41) required at least one (1) replacement item, which is a significant maintenance issue that needs to be addressed. Additional to this, throughout the year a number of playgrounds either require minor repairs, softfall (pine fines) top ups or additions in order to comply with Australian Standards.
- b) Hall Park (Cessnock). In December 2006 the play equipment within Hall Park was heavily vandalised and badly damaged. The equipment was removed and insurance funds received for the damage has provided an opportunity for Council to undertake a playground upgrade that is complementary to the other works recently completed at the site (installation of picnic shelter, installation of koppers log fencing, etc). Playground specific works proposed to be completed include the installation of new play equipment as well as rubber wetpour safety surfacing that is compliant with Australian Standards.
- c) Due to the substantial use of the Bellbird Community Hall playground by the Bellbird Playgroup it is proposed that rubber wetpour safety surfacing be installed at the site. The installation of safety surfacing will improve the function of the playground ensuring compliance with Australian Standards and protecting the timber floor of the hall which has been affected by sand carried in from the playground. It should be noted that in the 2007/08 Playgrounds Capital Works Program s94 funds was identified as a funding source for this project. Funding levels were not high enough to complete the project within the budget year and as such it has been included in the 2008/09 program.

Contained within the recommendations is the proposed prioritised Playgrounds Planned Maintenance and Capital Works Program. Based on previous years funding the identified projects could be completed over the following 4-5 years.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the following prioritised Playgrounds Planned Maintenance & Capital Works Program:-

PLAYGROUNDS PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM				
SITE	PROJECT	CCC FUNDS	EXTERNAL	TOTAL
All locations	Playground repairs and upgrades	30,000		30,000
Hall Street Park (Cessnock)	Stage 2 – Installation of play equipment and sofffall	24,000	13,000 Insurance funds	37,000
Bellbird Community Hall	Installation of rubber wetpour Safety Surfacing	16,000		16,000
Miller Park (Branxton)	Playground refurbishment and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	75,000		75,000
Veterans Memorial	Play equipment upgrade and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	50,000		50,000
Carmichael Park	Play equipment upgrade and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	68,000		68,000
Slacks Park	Play equipment upgrade and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	65,000		65,000
Millfield/Crawfordville Playground	Play equipment upgrade and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	50,000		50,000
Jeffrey's Park (Kearsley)	Play equipment upgrade and installation of rubber wetpour safety surface	50,000		50,000

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 17/2008

SUBJECT: URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2008/2009

The Roads, Bridges, & Drainage Manager, Mr J Booth, reports:-

PURPOSE

To determine the priorities for construction works on the urban road network for 2008/2009.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING LEVELS

As set out in the Roads, Bridges & Drainage Manager's Council Briefing on Wednesday 13 February 2008 the total levels of funding for the 2008/2009 Urban and Rural Programs is assumed to be similar to this year with a 2.0% increase allowed for annualised salary/wage increases and CPI increases affecting materials, plant, haulage and contracts. It should be noted that the construction industry CPI was 4.3% over the last 12 months, therefore allocations are falling behind cost rises. Council cannot raise additional revenue due to "rate pegging."

The new Federal Government has continued the funding under the Auslink Roads to Recovery Programme. 2008/2009 is the fourth year of the current "Auslink Roads to Recovery Programme" with anticipated funding of \$683,500 proposed to be allocated in an amount of \$383,500 to the Urban Construction Program and \$300,000 to the Rural Construction Program.

The "Infrastructure Improvement Program" is funded by a 6.05% rate increase approved by the Minister for Local Government commencing in 2006/2007. In 2008/2009 it is proposed to allocate the funding allocated to roads, bridges and drainage to provide Council's contribution to the AusLink Roads of Regional Significance Programme projects on Paynes Crossing Road, including Cunneens Bridge.

The remainder as for 2007/2008 will be allocated to augment Council's current urban and rural resealing programs for works on Local Roads.

As discussed at the Roads, Bridges & Drainage Manager's Council Briefing the proposed mix of allocation of funding across urban and rural resealing and Regional Roads rehabilitation is to address current infrastructure needs to ensure the greatest long term benefits to Council's road network are achieved, given the total amount of funding available from all sources.

On September 5, 2001 Council adopted the allocation of additional funding to urban and rural resealing and funding of an additional separate program for gravel resheeting of unsealed roads. In 2003/2004 the Gravel Resheeting Program and associated Selected Sealing Program was implemented (refer Mayoral Minute 6/2003). This program was continued in subsequent years and is recommended for continuance in 2008/2009.

The projects to be programmed for funding under the Urban and Rural Resealing Programs and the Gravel Resheeting and Selected Sealing Program are the subjects of separate Reports to Council.

As discussed at the Council briefing the recommended distribution of funds across the construction, resealing/resheeting programs and gravel resheeting and sealing is as follows:-

<u>2008/2009 Road Programs</u>	
Urban Construction Program	\$ 1,115,700
Rural Construction Program	\$ 807,400
Urban “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$ 383,500
Rural “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$ 300,000
Infrastructure Improvement Program	\$ 400,000
Urban Resealing Program	\$ 502,900
Urban Resealing Program (Rate Increase)	\$ 399,400
Rural Resealing Program	\$ 310,300
Rural Resealing Program (Rate Increase)	\$ 224,600
Gravel Resheeting & Sealing Program	\$ 514,400
Council Contribution to State Roads	<u>\$ 280,000</u>
Total	\$5,238,200

An allocation under Council's Budget of \$280,000 has been provided as Council's contributions to State Road Rehabilitation projects (MR588 Cessnock Road Abermain) and the RTA's REPAIR Programme for rehabilitation on Regional Roads in 2008/2009 with an additional allocation of \$200,000 from the RTA's Regional Roads REPAIR Program. Allocations to this program have been reduced each year since 2006/2007. The shortfall of available funding to Regional Roads had to be made up by a specific allocation of \$433,500 from Council's Infrastructure Improvement Program to Regional Roads (Majors Lane rehabilitation) in 2007/2008.

Council has been advised of its inclusion in the Regional Timber Bridge Program, whereby the State Government contributes 50% of the cost of replacing timber bridges on Regional Roads. Should Council be unable to contribute it's 50% Council will have to withdraw from this Program. A discretionary bid has been submitted to Council for \$300,000 as Council's contribution to the bypass of Thompsons Bridge, on Great North Road, Laguna (the highest priority). This discretionary bid is subject of a separate Report to Council.

LIST OF PROJECTS FOR URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Lists of projects to be considered for inclusion in the 2008/2009 Urban Construction Program are enclosed. The lists have been compiled from community and Councillor requests and from citywide inspections by Council Officers. As for last year the projects have been listed in priority order across the whole Cessnock City Council area for a five (5) year Urban Construction Program, so that Councillors and other interested parties can see where individual projects sit in the program. Projects which are scheduled to be constructed beyond the five-year program have been listed alphabetically.

Within the Urban Construction Program the subprograms are defined by the “treatment description” including:

- Urban Construction/Reconstruction;
- Urban Rehabilitation;
- Pedestrian Safety & Amenity at Schools; and
- Construction & Sealing of Urban Gravel Streets & Lanes.

The construction and sealing of gravel surfaced roads and laneways is normally concentrated in a local area in each year (if possible), to gain the efficiencies of aggregating these small projects. In 2008/2009 it is proposed to complete Rothbury Street and Boreas Street, Nulkaba commenced in 2007/2008 with construction of the floodway.

In addition, Council resolved at its meeting held on September 3, 1997 that the then Director Works prepare a program of improvement works at all schools for consideration of inclusion in the 1998/99 budget and future budgets (Mayoral Minute No. 17/1997). In accordance with Council's resolution, a program of works to improve pedestrian safety and amenity at schools within Council's area is also enclosed.

The enclosed schedule provides a draft five year Urban Construction Program, plus lists of identified projects, which are for funding in future programs beyond five years. The costs given are based on concept estimates and may change when detailed survey, geotechnical investigation and design are available. All projects are first identified using Council's Intervention Rule Base Schedule and then assessed using the assessment process below. Projects listed for consideration for funding are reassessed annually to take into consideration any changes in the criteria and their point scores. This reassessment includes discussions and inspections with Council's Construction and Maintenance staff.

It should be noted that the scheduling of projects is dependent on the total expenditure to complete higher priority projects funded in 2007/2008.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Projects considered for inclusion in the 2008/2009 Urban Construction Program were assessed using the principles of benefit/cost analysis. The benefits that each project would provide to the community were assessed on a point scale system for the following criteria:-

- Number of properties which benefit per \$10,000 of expenditure.
- Road hierarchy (traffic volume).
- Continuity of infrastructure and improvement in amenity.
- Reduction in ongoing maintenance costs.
- Reduction in drainage problems.
- Reduction in accident potential.

This method is the same as that used in the determination of a priority list of projects for Urban Construction Programs for the past twelve (12) years. The methodology has been improved with input from the IMG and PMS Road Inventory and Condition Data particularly in assessing reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. Reconstruction/rehabilitation projects have to be programmed to ensure that intervention occurs at the appropriate time e.g. Alexandra, Street, Deakin Street and Hopetoun Streets, Kurri Kurri, Northcote Street, Aberdare, Swanson Street, Weston and Mathieson Street, Bellbird, where maintenance costs are increasing but the road has not failed completely.

In assessing the projects listed under the Pedestrian Safety & Amenity at Schools, a similar but slightly different system of project assessment criteria was used. The benefits that each school project would provide to the community were assessed on a point scale system for the following criteria:-

- Activity indicator (Parent and/or bus set down/pick up, pedestrian access and/or teacher parking).
- Improvement in amenity.
- Road hierarchy (traffic volume).
- School type (Infants and/or Primary).
- Improvement in safety (reduction in accident potential).
- Number of pupils.

Cost was not considered, as there was considerable variation in not only the scope of works between competing projects, but also the type of works (e.g. road construction -v- footpath paving construction -v- traffic facility construction).

While benefit/cost analysis is one objective measure of a project's merit, other considerations such as development pressures and vehicular and pedestrian safety may need to be taken into account in determining a final priority.

The works at Kitchener Public School, Mulbring are the highest priority under the list of projects to address pedestrian safety and amenity at schools in Cessnock City Council area. Additional funding has been provided in 2008/2009 to complete the work involving shoulder pavement construction and sealing to provide parking and footpath construction with a school crossing in Richmond Street. Initial discussions have been held with Council's late Road Safety Officer and further consultation with the principal and P&C representatives to develop the project.

PROPOSED 2008/2009 URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Based on the aforementioned assessment process and anticipated levels of funding in the 2008/2009 budget, the following prioritized list of works is proposed:

Location	Section	Description of Work	Total Cost
Northcote Street Aberdare	Pokolbin Street to Kearsley Street	Road reconstruction. Tree removal. Implement Plan of Management (Stage 2 Final Seal)	\$15,000
Mathieson Street, Bellbird Heights	Lochinvar St east towards Catherine St	Road reconstruction, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements (includes S94)	\$200,700
Kitchener Public School, Kitchener	Richmond Street frontage Stage 2	Construct sealed parking provisions, footpath – “Pedestrian Amenity & Safety at Schools”	\$80,000
Hopetoun Street, Kurri Kurri	Alexandra Street towards Gillies Street (Stage 2).	Road reconstruction and kerb & gutter, drainage improvements.	\$80,000
Rothbury & Boreas Streets, Nulkaba	O’Connors Road to #11 Boreas Street	Seal Urban Gravel Street plus floodway (Stage 2 Final Seal))	\$20,000
Deakin Street, Kurri Kurri	Boundary St to Alexandra St (Stage 1 to Gillies St).	Road reconstruction, culvert, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements	\$220,000
Swanson Street Weston	Station St to Government Rd (Stage 1 to Weston St	Road reconstruction, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements	\$300,000
Cessnock Street, Cessnock	Vincent Street to cul de sac	Road pavement rehabilitation	\$200,000
URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM SUBTOTAL			\$1,115,700
Alexandra Street, Kurri Kurri	Northcote Street towards Maitland Street	Road pavement rehabilitation. “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$350,000
Quarrybylong St & Neath St	Neath St Intersection	Road reconstruction, with culvert & intersection construction. “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$33,500
URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TOTAL			\$1,499,200

The projects nominated for 2008/2009 have been varied from those as per the program adopted by Council at its Meeting on 18 April 2007 to allow for the funding of Alexandra Street, Kurri Kurri under the “AusLink Roads to Recovery Programme”. The rehabilitation of Cessnock Street is urgent given its rapid deterioration under the heavy traffic servicing the industrial area and the overly wet year.

In addition a number of projects commenced under the 2007/2008 Urban Construction Program require additional allocation to complete the planned work.

- Reconstruction of Northcote Street, Aberdare between Pokolbin Street and Kearsley Street completes a further stage in implementing the “Plan of Management” adopted by Council. Funding is required to complete the final bitumen seal;
- Reconstruction of Hopetoun Street, Kurri Kurri requires additional funding due to reallocation of 2007/2008 funding to complete higher priority projects. Completion of the roadworks and kerb and gutter to complement the drainage installed in 2006, will finalize reconstruction of Hopetoun Street from Allworth Street to Gillies Street.
- An additional allocation is required to complete the Kitchener Public School works now that the full scope has been determined; and
- An additional allocation is required to complete the final seal on the Rothbury and Boreas Street, Nulkaba project.

Mathieson Street, Bellbird has been in the program for a number of years. Projects are listed over the next few years to address pavement and drainage issues caused by the topography in Mathieson Street. The section from Lochinvar Street towards the crest in Keelendi Road (south), Bellbird Heights is to be commenced funded from the 2007/2008 Program, with the section from the crest back to Catherine Street nominated in 2008/2009.

The proposed kerb and gutter and shoulder construction in Deakin Street, Kurri Kurri from Boundary Street to Gillies Street is stage 1 of a project for which survey and design to Alexandra Street was funded in 2007/2008 to Alexandra Street and continues Council’s efforts to upgrade urban streets within Kurri Kurri. This street carries considerable traffic accessing the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre and the pavement is showing signs of considerable distress.

Completion of drainage design including a culvert to convey Kurri Kurri Main Drain will allow Council to apply for construction funding assistance from the Department of Natural Resources under implementation of the Kurri Kurri Main Drain Floodplain Management Plan. If such funds are unavailable additional funds will be provided from Council’s Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Program to replace the existing low level pedestrian footbridge and causeway, with a box culvert structure to convey vehicles and pedestrians over Kurri Kurri Main Drain.

Neath Street and Quarrybylong Street make up a collector route which connects South Cessnock to East Cessnock, Council’s Depot and Waste Management Centre in Old Maitland Road. David Street was reconstructed some years ago and it is proposed to utilise an allocation from the AusLink Roads to Recovery Programme to augment funding provided in 2007/2008 to continue work in Neath Street funded.

Due to the deteriorating condition of Alexandra Street, Kurri Kurri work to reconstruct and upgrade Quarrybylong Street has been deferred. Alexandra Street is a similar important collector road and requires urgent pavement rehabilitation from MR 588 Northcote Street to Maitland Street.

It should be noted that the progress of the listed projects is depended upon the programmed completion and final cost of projects funded under the current 2007/2008 Urban Construction Program.

RECOMMENDATION that the following program of works be approved for the Urban Construction Program for 2008/2009 subject to the availability of funding in an amount of \$1,499,200.

Location	Section	Description of Work	Total Cost
Northcote Street Aberdare	Pokolbin Street to Kearsley Street	Road reconstruction. Tree removal. Implement Plan of Management (Stage 2 Final Seal)	\$15,000
Mathieson Street, Bellbird Heights	Lochinvar St east towards Catherine St	Road reconstruction, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements (includes S94)	\$200,700
Kitchener Public School, Kitchener	Richmond Street frontage Stage 2	Construct sealed parking provisions, footpath – “Pedestrian Amenity & Safety at Schools”	\$80,000
Hopetoun Street, Kurri Kurri	Alexandra Street towards Gillies Street (Stage 2).	Road reconstruction and kerb & gutter, drainage improvements.	\$80,000
Rothbury & Boreas Streets, Nulkaba	O’Connors Road to #11 Boreas Street	Seal Urban Gravel Street plus floodway (Stage 2 Final Seal))	\$20,000
Deakin Street, Kurri Kurri	Boundary St to Alexandra St (Stage 1 to Gillies St).	Road reconstruction, culvert, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements	\$220,000
Swanson Street Weston	Station St to Government Rd (Stage 1 to Weston St	Road reconstruction, kerb & gutter, drainage improvements	\$300,000
Cessnock Street, Cessnock	Vincent Street to cul de sac	Road pavement rehabilitation	\$200,000
URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM SUBTOTAL			\$1,115,700
Alexandra Street, Kurri Kurri	Northcote Street towards Maitland Street	Road pavement rehabilitation. “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$350,000
Quarrybylong St & Neath St	Neath St Intersection	Road reconstruction, with culvert & intersection construction. “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$33,500
URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TOTAL			\$1,499,200

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 18/2008

SUBJECT: RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2008/2009

The Roads, Bridges, & Drainage Manager, Mr J Booth, reports:-

PURPOSE

To determine the priorities for construction works on the rural road network for 2008/2009.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING LEVELS

As set out in the Roads, Bridges & Drainage Manager's Council Briefing on Wednesday 13 February 2008 the total levels of funding for the 2008/2009 Urban and Rural Programs are assumed to be similar to this year with a 2.0% increase allowed for annualised salary/wage increases and CPI increases affecting materials, plant, haulage and contracts. . It should be noted that the construction industry CPI was 4.3% over the last 12 months, therefore allocations are falling behind cost rises. Council cannot raise additional revenue due to "rate pegging."

As stated in the Urban Construction Program 2008/2009 Report, the proposed allocation by Council to the Rural Construction Program 2008/2009 is \$ 807,400 including Section 94 contributions of \$113,000.

30 June 2005 brought to a close the first four years of the Federal Government's "Roads to Recovery Programme" which allocated \$2,679,884 to Cessnock City Council at annual instalments of \$669,971. The Federal Government announced continuation of this funding under the AusLink Roads to Recovery Programme. 2008/2009 is the fourth year of the current "AusLink Roads to Recovery Programme" with anticipated funding of \$683,500 proposed to be allocated in an amount of \$383,500 to the Urban Construction Program and \$300,000 to the Rural Construction Program.

The highest priority rural project for funding under the AusLink Roads to Recovery Programme is the continuation of reconstruction and sealing of Wilderness Road, Rothbury from Wine Country Drive to Lovedale Road. To increase progress on Wilderness Road it is proposed to allocate funding from Council's Gravel Resheeting and Sealing Program to progress work from the Lovedale Road intersection westward, while work continues east funded from Roads to Recovery.

The "Infrastructure Improvement Program" is funded by a 6.05% rate increase approved by the Minister for Local Government commencing in 2006/2007. In 2008/2009 it is proposed to allocate the funding allocated to roads, bridges and drainage to provide Council's contribution to the AusLink Roads of Regional Significance Programme projects on Paynes Crossing Road, including Cunneens Bridge. The remainder as for 2007/2008 will be allocated to augment Council's current urban and rural resealing programs for works on Local Roads.

An allocation under Council's Budget of \$280,000 has been provided as Council's contributions to State Road Rehabilitation projects (MR588 Cessnock Road Abermain) and the RTA's REPAIR Programme for rehabilitation on Regional Roads in 2008/2009 with an additional allocation of \$200,000 from the RTA's Regional Roads REPAIR Program.

Allocations to this program have been reduced each year since 2006/2007. The shortfall of available funding to Regional Roads had to be made up by a specific allocation of \$433,500 from Council's Infrastructure Improvement Program to Regional Roads (Majors Lane rehabilitation) in 2007/2008.

Council will be carrying out restoration of Regional Roads funded under the Declared Natural Disaster (June 2007 storm event) Program. Similarly Council has approved the allocation of funds from the Rural Construction Program 2008/2009 to augment Declared Natural Disaster funding to Whitebridge to allow replacement with a single lane concrete structure (A/Director S&CS Report No 30/2008 dated 2 April 2008 refers).

Council has been advised of its inclusion in the Regional Timber Bridge Program, whereby the State Government contributes 50% of the cost of replacing timber bridges on Regional Roads. Should Council be unable to contribute it's 50% Council will have to withdraw from this Program. A discretionary bid has been submitted to Council for \$300,000 as Council's contribution to the bypass of Thompsons Bridge, on Great North Road, Laguna (the highest priority). This discretionary bid is subject of a separate Report to Council.

The enclosed schedule provides a draft five year Rural Construction Program, plus lists of identified projects, which are for funding in future programs beyond five years. The costs given are based on concept estimates and may change when detailed survey, geotechnical investigation and design are available. All projects are first identified using Council's Intervention Rule Base Schedule and then assessed using the assessment process below. Projects listed for consideration for funding are reassessed annually to take into consideration any changes in the criteria and their point scores. This reassessment includes discussions and inspections with Council's Works and Services staff.

It should be noted that the scheduling of projects is dependent on the total expenditure to complete higher priority projects funded in 2007/2008.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The projects listed in the enclosed priority schedules were assessed using the principles of benefit/cost analysis. The benefits that each project would provide to the community were assessed on a point scale system for the following criteria:-

- Traffic volume.
- Project supports tourism and economic development.
- Reduction in ongoing maintenance costs.
- Rectifies formation width deficiency.
- Rectifies road geometry deficiency, both vertical and horizontal alignment.
- Reduction in vehicle operating costs.

This method is the same as that used in the determination of a priority list of projects for Rural Construction Programs for the past twelve (12) years. The methodology has been improved with input from the IMG (2001) and PMS (2004) Road Inventory and Condition Data particularly in assessing reconstruction and rehabilitation projects.

In addition major bridge replacements such as that proposed for Whitebridge, Mulbring impact on the Rural Construction Program to fund approaches. Council also has a commitment to fund a contribution to the three (3) projects on Paynes Crossing Road, including Cunneens Bridge, Wollombi funded by the AusLink Roads of Regional Significance Programme.

PROPOSED 2008/2009 RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

	Section	Description of Work	Estimated Cost
Whitebridge Road, Mulbring	Whitebridge replacement and approaches.	Construction of Whitebridge and approaches (to augment \$788,000 from Declared Natural Disaster funding)	\$302,000
McDonalds Road, Pokolbin	Tamburlaine Winery towards Broke Road	Pavement rehabilitation with widening (Stage 1) <i>(includes \$80,000 Vineyards Sect 94 funds)</i>	\$372,400
Wilderness Road, Rothbury	MR220 Wine Country Drive to Gillies Bridge	Road reconstruction, realignment, widening and sealing. (Stage 2) to augment AusLink funding.	\$100,000
Old North Road, Rothbury	Stage 1 Sweetwater Rd to MR220 Wine Country Drive	Reconstruction & sealing (survey & design) including Black Creek Bridge <i>(Residential Section 94)</i>	\$33,000
Sub Total Rural Construction including Section 94			\$807,400
Wilderness Road, Rothbury	MR220 Wine Country Drive to Gillies Bridge	Road reconstruction, realignment, widening and sealing. (Stage 2) <i>“AusLink Roads to Recovery”</i>	\$300,000
Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi	2.2 km to 2.8 km north west of Wollombi	Road widening, reconstruction & sealing (Infrastructure Improvement to augment AusLink funds)	\$400,000
RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TOTAL			\$1,507,400

The projects nominated for 2008/2009 have been varied from those as per the program adopted by Council at its Meeting on 18 April 2007 to allow for the funding of Whitebridge. The rehabilitation of Buchanan Road has been deferred to provide funding for Whitebridge on the basis that extensive heavy patching and resealing of Buchanan Road was programmed under Council's Rural Resealing Program 2007/2008. Also additional funding has been allocated to restoration of Buchanan Road by the RTA from the June 2007 Declared Natural Disaster funds.

A separate report was provided to Council regarding the options for Whitebridge (A/Director S&CS Report No 30/2008 refers). An allocation of \$302,000 is proposed to augment the \$788,000 provided under Declared Natural Disasters funding to allow replacement of the severely damaged timber structure with a single lane prestressed concrete bridge.

McDonalds Road is the principal south north access to the Vineyards District. This project continues the widening and rehabilitation of the pavement from the previously completed section adjacent to Tamburlaine Winery north towards Broke Road. This section has narrow cracked deformed pavement, gravel shoulders and inadequate longitudinal drainage

Paynes Crossing Road is of strategic importance to the Wollombi Valley and is part of an important link from the F3 Freeway at Peats Ridge via Wollombi to the upper Hunter Valley. The road is a branch of the Great North Road and forms part of the heritage listed Convict Trail.

Five (5) projects proposed jointly by Singleton and Cessnock Councils have been funded by the Federal Government under AusLink's "Roads of Regional Significance Programme" on Paynes Crossing Road. A total of \$1,160,000 has been allocated by the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) to Cessnock Council for the three (3) projects in Cessnock LGA;

The funding provided for Paynes Crossing Road under the Rural Construction and Infrastructure Improvement Programs will augment previously allocated under the Bridge Replacement Program 2007/2008 to progress the replacement of Cunneens Bridge and approaches. The additional funding in 2008/2009 will be utilised to ensure that the three projects are completed by 30 June 2010.

Council received a separate allocation in an amount of \$993,000 to reconstruct and seal Debeyers Road to connect the ends of the existing sealed sections between McDonalds Road and Broke Road. There is no Council contribution required for this project unless there is a shortfall in completing the works. However Council has to complete the project by 30 June 2010.

Funding has been provided from the "Auslink Roads to Recovery Programme" to fund stage 2 of the reconstruction of Wilderness Road from MR 220 Wine Country Drive to Lovedale Road. The first stage of reconstruction and sealing of Wilderness Road commenced in April 2007 and involved the replacement of the timber bridge known as Wilderness Road No. 1 with a reinforced concrete pipe structure and construction of approaches. Similar to the approach taken with Deaseys Road, it is intended to fund this project from the "Auslink Roads to Recovery Programme" until the full 5.4 kilometres of Wilderness Road is completed.

However given the progress to date with the allocation available it is proposed to allocate funding from Council's Gravelling and Sealing Program to commence work from the Lovedale Road end. Details will be provided in the Report to Council on the Gravelling and Sealing Program.

To provide Council with plans in advance of road and bridgeworks, it is proposed to allocate \$33,000 towards survey and design of Old North Road, Rothbury. This road is a link between the northern section of the Vineyards District and Singleton Shire. The road is entirely sealed in Singleton LGA and is attracting increasing traffic and development. The existing culvert over Black Creek is frequently inundated causing closure of the road. Stage 1 will involve survey and design from Sweetwater Road back to MR 220 Wine Country Drive.

Future programs may be influenced by developer contributions to road and bridge works on Old North Road (Huntlee), Sandy Creek Road (Fosters Bridge and approaches - Paxton Eco-Tourism Development) and McDonalds Road (Cypress Lakes and Vintage Country Club) within the timeframe of the five-year program.

RECOMMENDATION that subject to the approval of funding in the 2008/2009 Budget, the priority list of projects for the Rural Construction Program be:

PROPOSED 2008/2009 RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

	Section	Description of Work	Estimated Cost
Whitebridge Road, Mulbring	Whitebridge replacement and approaches.	Construction of Whitebridge and approaches (to augment \$788,000 from Declared Natural Disaster funding)	\$302,000
McDonalds Road, Pokolbin	Tamburlaine Winery towards Broke Road	Pavement rehabilitation with widening (Stage 1) (includes \$80,000 Vineyards Sect 94 funds)	\$372,400
Wilderness Road, Rothbury	MR220 Wine Country Drive to Gillies Bridge	Road reconstruction, realignment, widening and sealing. (Stage 2) to augment AusLink funding.	\$100,000
Old North Road, Rothbury	Stage 1 Sweetwater Rd to MR220 Wine Country Drive	Reconstruction & sealing (survey & design) including Black Creek Bridge (Residential Section 94)	\$33,000
Sub Total Rural Construction including Section 94			\$807,400
Wilderness Road, Rothbury	MR220 Wine Country Drive to Gillies Bridge	Road reconstruction, realignment, widening and sealing. (Stage 2) “AusLink Roads to Recovery”	\$300,000
Paynes Crossing Road, Wollombi	2.2 km to 2.8 km north west of Wollombi	Road widening, reconstruction & sealing (Infrastructure Improvement to augment AusLink funds)	\$400,000
RURAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TOTAL			\$1,507,400

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 19/2008

SUBJECT: DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2008/2009

The Roads, Bridges, & Drainage Manager, Mr J Booth, reports:-

PURPOSE

To adopt the Drainage Construction Program establishing the priority for drainage construction works in 2008/2009 in accordance with the funding available from loan funds and the adopted Stormwater Management Service Charge.

BACKGROUND

As set out in the Roads, Bridges & Drainage Manager's Briefing of Councillors on Wednesday 13 February 2008, Council has a number of continuing programs to eliminate drainage problems throughout the City, namely:-

- Urban Drainage Construction
- Minor Drainage Construction
- Trunk Drainage Construction

Council normally funds the Drainage Construction Program through a series of annual loans currently in an amount of \$500,000 per annum raised by Council for this specific purpose.

At its meeting of 9 May 2007 (Director Strategic & Community Services Report 52/2007 refers) Council adopted the resolution to introduce a Stormwater Management Service Charge in accordance with the conditions set out under the Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Act 2005 (reference Department of Local Government's Circular No. 05/69). The stormwater management service charge provides "a new funding mechanism and supporting arrangements to improve the management of urban stormwater in NSW and build on the achievements of the former NSW Stormwater Trust". For Cessnock Council the charge generates annual income estimated at \$420,000 to fund drainage infrastructure.

In support of this report a program of works prioritised over three years was proposed to address the three components of Urban, Minor and Trunk Drainage Construction and to fund Council's commitments to part fund flood studies, floodplain management studies and floodplain management plans in concert with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and other State and Federal agencies.

FUNDING

Adoption and implementation of the Stormwater Management Service Charge (*stormwater levy*), in addition to Council's existing annual loan of \$500,000 is anticipated to deliver a total of \$920,000 for funding of the Drainage Construction Program.

RECOMMENDATION that the following proposed works priority and strategy for the 2008/2009 Drainage Construction Program in a total amount of \$920,000 be adopted.

PROJECT	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011
Urban Drainage			
Mulbring Main Drain (Stage 2 Constr)	\$200,000	\$200,000	
East Branxton Urban Precinct			
• Dalwood Rd & Gordon St	\$160,000		
• Cnr Dalwood Rd & Wyndham St kerb & gutter extension	\$ 30,000		
Millfield Main Drain (Survey & Design)			
Millfield Main Drain (Stage 1 & 2)		\$200,000	\$350,000
Paxton Main Drain (Survey & Design)			\$ 20,000
Easement / Land Acquisition	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
Floodplain Management Program			
Flood & Floodplain Management Studies and Plans	<u>\$80,000</u>	<u>\$70,000</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>
TOTAL DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION (Loan Funds)	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Minor Drainage			
Church Street, Ellalong (Stage 1 & 2)	\$ 20,000	\$150,000	
Railway St/Branxton St, Branxton	\$100,000		
Ann St (Jurd to Myra), Cessnock	\$150,000		
Macquarie St, Cessnock (Repair)	\$ 80,000		
Walmesley Street, Millfield	<u>\$70,000</u>		
Ruby St, Bellbird (Hetton to Sparke St)		\$70,000	
Allworth St, Kurri Kurri (longitudinal)		\$200,000	
Margaret St (above Lang St) Cessnock			\$60,000
Cruikshank St & King St, Bellbird			\$200,000
Keelendi Rd & Mathieson St, Bellbird Hts			\$40,000
Ann St (Foster to Jurd)			\$100,000
Edgeworth St, Cessnock (Survey & Design)			<u>\$20,000</u>
TOTAL STORMWATER LEVY	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000
TOTAL	\$920,000	\$920,000	\$920,000

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008

DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES REPORT NO. 20/2008

**SUBJECT: WHITEBRIDGE OVER WALLIS CREEK ON WHITEBRIDGE ROAD,
MULBRING – REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OPTIONS**

The Roads, Bridges, & Drainage Manager, Mr. John Booth, reports:-

PURPOSE

To provide addition information on the prestressed concrete single lane with footway option for replacement of Whitebridge over Wallis Creek, Whitebridge Road, Mulbring.

BACKGROUND

A report (A/Director Strategic & Community Services Report No 30/2008 refers) was submitted to Council on 2 April 2008 proposing options for the repair or replacement of Whitebridge over Wallis Creek, Whitebridge Road, Mulbring based on the now known estimated cost of repairs and available funding. The two replacement prestressed bridge options were:

Option 2 Prestressed Concrete Replacement Bridge (2 Travel Lane plus barrier protected Footway)

This 11.0 m wide option would best provide for future traffic growth and potential improved service life; however the estimated cost to design and construct of \$1,700,000 is prohibitive given that Council would have to contribute \$912,000. This estimate does not provide for any contingencies, thus there is potential for the cost to increase if say access or piling conditions are more difficult. This may be offset by the larger structure providing economies of scale to a prospective contractor;

Option 3 Prestressed Concrete Replacement Bridge (1 Travel Lane plus Marked Footway)

The estimated cost to design and construct this 6.0 m wide option is \$900,000. Allowing 10% for contingencies (\$90,000) such as approved contract variations and an additional \$100,000 for road approaches the estimated cost is approximately \$1,090,000. This option has the advantage of the deck level being set to provide a level of service consistent with the approach roads in flooding events.

Although it is still a single lane bridge, the bridge load capacity will be in accordance with current bridge design standards (i.e. no load limit for legally registered vehicles). Should development generate additional traffic volume such that the single lane bridge is an obstacle, an additional single lane bridge could be constructed along side at developer's cost. Given current traffic volumes and growth statistics this would not occur for many years.

The difference in cost between the two lane and barrier protected footway option (\$1,700,000) and one lane and marked footway option (\$1,090,000 including \$90,000 for contingencies) is \$610,000.

Council adopted the following resolution that:

1. *Whitebridge be replaced by a Prestressed Concrete Bridge (1 Travel Lane plus Marked Footway) (Option 3) at an estimated cost of \$1,090,000;*
2. *Provision of an allocation of \$302,000 be made in Council's Rural Construction Program 2008/2009 to fund Council's contribution;*
3. *Approval be given for tenders to be called for design and construction of the prestressed concrete bridge.*
4. *Council Officers be asked to re-examine the budget to see if there is any possibility of affording the two lane concrete bridge.*

DISCUSSION

In answer to point 4 of the resolution, the Engineering justification for a two lane structure was investigated by Council's Design and Contracts Manager and Roads, Bridges and Drainage Manager. The following information is pertinent:

Pre-closure from flood damage, Whitebridge Road had an average daily traffic (ADT) volume of less than 1000 vehicles (ADT 555 vpd in June 2003). The 2.5 tonne load limit is not anticipated to have affected the ADT volume much (- assuming a high rate of 10% heavy vehicles would only add another 50 vehicles to the count).

A 60m long single lane bridge with intermittent opposing traffic flow could easily cater for 4000 vpd without excessive delays. There is ample sight distance available on both approaches and adequate queuing lengths.

From our knowledge of future traffic generation and origin/destination modelling of both the HEZ development (particularly the proposed link from MR 195 Leggetts Drive to MR 588 John Renshaw Drive bypassing Pelaw Main which is a condition of consent for HEZ), and the Proposed Highway Link F3 to Branxton, there appears no reason for traffic accessing either HEZ or F3 Link to use Whitebridge. In fact once the Pelaw Main bypass is constructed; it is likely that there may even be a slight reduction in traffic using Whitebridge Road and Richmond Vale Road.

If rezoning or redevelopment of sites to the west of Leggetts Drive (such as the old Richmond Vale Colliery) generate additional traffic requiring additional traffic lanes, a parallel bridge can be constructed at that time as a condition of development consent.

Therefore given the information available there is no justification for building a two-lane bridge now, based upon capacity constraints for the foreseeable future. If traffic increases over and above natural growth so that the capacity is exceeded, there are two (2) other entrances to use other than Whitebridge.

The Design and Contracts Manager has reviewed the Bridge Design Code - AS 5100.1-2004 and considers that a 60m long, one-lane bridge for sites with an AADT of less than 1000 vehicles should provide a carriageway at least 1.2m wider than the approach traffic lane width (i.e.. 600mm clearance each side to barriers). A minimum deck width of 4.6m would seem appropriate at Whitebridge. The Code does not require a two-lane bridge at this site. A two-lane bridge would be required if the bridge length was 9m or less (for AADT 500 – 2000 vpd).

Therefore there is no Engineering justification for building a two-lane bridge now to replace Whitebridge based upon capacity constraints in the medium term.

Discussions were held with Council's Financial and Administrative Services Manager and Management Accountant regarding the request to re-examine the budget to see if there is any possibility of Council affording to fund the two lane concrete bridge option.

Advice was received that the additional \$600,000 to \$700,000 required to fund the two lane option instead of the single lane option is not available from within the existing budget unless:

1. Council drastically reviewed its overall programs within the budget. For example the whole of the Rural Construction Program funded by Council is \$1,207,400 of which \$302,000 is already proposed for Whitebridge and \$400,000 is committed to Paynes Crossing Road. Most Programs are similarly committed; or
2. Council accessed its "Internally Restricted Assets". These funds are already committed e.g. Employee Leave Entitlements, Computer Reserve, Bridge Reserve (committed to fund Cunneens Bridge replacement); or
3. Council takes out a specific loan to provide an additional \$600,000 to fund the two lane option.

It is the view of Council Officers that expenditure of an additional minimum of \$600,000 to fund a two lane option for replacement of Whitebridge cannot be justified from either an Engineering or Financial perspective.

RECOMMENDATION that Whitebridge be replaced by a single lane plus footway prestressed concrete bridge.

To: **The General Manager**
Works & Services Committee –
16 April 2008

L OLDFIELD
DIRECTOR WORKS & SERVICES
7 April 2008