



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Councillors

Your attendance is hereby requested at the Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Southern Downs Regional Council, 64 Fitzroy Street, Warwick on **Monday, 12 May 2014** at **1.30PM**.

Notice is hereby given of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

David Tuxford

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8 May 2014

ORDER OF BUSINESS:


| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1. | ATTENDANCE | 1 |
| 2. | APOLOGIES..... | 1 |
| 3. | DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | 1 |
| 4. | BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS | 2 |
| 4.1 | BCS - Draft Corporate Plan 2014-2019..... | 2 |
| 4.2 | Warwick Aerodrome | 10 |
| 5. | ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS..... | 14 |
| 5.1 | Request for Financial Contribution for Submission of a Proposal for a Pilot Project to fund Regional Development of Road Infrastructure Renewals and Upgrades..... | 14 |

1. **ATTENDANCE**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

4. BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4.1 BCS - Draft Corporate Plan 2014-2019

Document Information

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL | Report To: Special Council Meeting | |
| | Reporting Officer: | Meeting Date: 12 May 2014 |
| | Manager Community Services | File Ref: 13.43 |

Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the content for the 2014/2019 Corporate Plan for Southern Downs Regional Council effective from 1 July 2014.

Report

The purpose of this report is to present the final draft of the Southern Downs Regional Council Corporate Plan 2014-2019 and have it adopted.

This matter was deferred at the March 2014 General Council Meeting for discussion at the Special Council Meeting on 12 May 2014. Comments on the Draft were to be forwarded to the Director Business and Community Services, but as at 8 May 2014 no comments have been received.

The following report is resubmitted for adoption of the content format.

Under Section 165 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council is required to prepare and adopt a 5 Year Corporate Plan.

Council has undertaken a comprehensive Corporate Planning process, in order to clarify the future direction of Council, being mindful of the community expectations and needs in the longer-term, and establish clear strategic links between the regions many needs, available resources, Council provided services and sustainable development. The Corporate plan will provide a framework of strategic priorities that will drive the 2014/15 Operational Plan and budget.

The draft 2014/2019 Corporate Plan is based on the eight key vision themes within the Southern Downs Community Plan 2030.

- The Southern Downs Sense of Community
- The Healthy and Active Southern Downs
- The Southern Downs Learning Community
- The Economically Strong, Sustainable and Diverse Southern Downs
- Destination Southern Downs
- The Environmentally Sustainable Southern Downs
- The Well-connected Southern Downs
- The Well-governed Southern Downs

Consultation - Internal

During the development of the 2014/2019 Corporate Plan, Councillors, the Senior Leadership Team and other key staff were consulted and asked to contribute to the plan. Part of this process

involved reviewing of the 2009/2014 Corporate Plan. Council engaged consultants to conduct workshops with Councillors and the Senior Leadership Team who proceeded to review and develop a new 5 Year Corporate Plan for 2014/2019.

The Corporate Plan Working Group co-ordinated the process and ensured consistency of approach across the organisation. The consolidated draft Corporate Plan was circulated to the Senior Leadership Team for further comment before the final Corporate Plan was collated for Council's Adoption.

Consultation - External

Extensive consultation with the Southern Downs Community was undertaken during the creation of the Southern Downs Community Plan 2030. As this document is the basis of the 2014/2019 Corporate Plan Public consultation is considered to be extensive. Approximately 1000 people contributed their ideas through community postcards, workshops, submissions and conversations with staff attending public events and places to develop the community plan. Given this extensive consultation regarding the community's views and aspirations over the long-term period to 2030, and also including the recent consultation undertaken with 'Bang the Table' no further consultation is considered to be required with these stakeholders.

Budget Implications

It is expected that the total costs will be approximately \$13,000. Expenditure to date is \$7,145.90 which includes the consultant fees. This expenditure is exclusive of design, photographic work, production and printing costs.

Policy Consideration

Corporate/Operational Plan
Refer to the Report contents.

Community Engagement

Nil.

Legislation/Local Law

Local Government Regulation 2012, Sections 165 and 166 state:

165 Preparation of 5-year corporate plan

- (1) A local government must prepare a 5-year corporate plan for each period of 5 financial years.
- (2) A local government must adopt its 5-year corporate plan in sufficient time to allow a budget and annual operational plan, consistent with the corporate plan, to be adopted for the first financial year that is covered by the plan.
- (3) A local government may, by resolution, amend its 5-year corporate plan at any time.
- (4) A local government must discharge its responsibilities in a way that is consistent with its 5-year corporate plan.

166 5-year corporate plan contents

A local government's 5-year corporate plan must—

- (a) outline the strategic direction of the local government; and
- (b) state the performance indicators for measuring the local government's progress in achieving its vision for the future of the local government area; and
- (c) include the following information for each commercial business unit—
 - (i) an outline of the objectives of the commercial business unit;
 - (ii) an outline of the nature and extent of the significant business activity the commercial business unit will conduct.

Options

The 2014/2019 Corporate Plan is presented in content format only at this time. Graphic design and presentation will be undertaken before July 2014. The 2014-2019 Corporate Plan will be made available to the public by printed hardcopy and also placed on Council's website for community access at no charge.

The 2014/2019 Corporate Plan complies with the legislative requirements and involved extensive consultation. The Corporate Plan sets out Council's strategic view into the future and will be used to assist in the development of the 14/15 Council Operational Plan and Budget.

Attachments

1. Draft Corporate Plan 2014-2019 [View](#)

1. The Southern Downs Sense of Community

1.1 Review levels of service delivery to our region

1.2 Continually monitor and evaluate all Council operations and commission independent surveys of client/customer satisfaction levels

1.3 Council continues to remain informed about matters that affect the community.

1.4 Review the Southern Downs Community Plan and Community Engagement Strategy in consultation with other key stakeholders including other levels of Governments

1.5 Participate in the development of a Community Safety Plan with State Government Agencies

1.6 Continue to record and protect all significant heritage and cultural sites and structures

1.7 Partner with agencies to develop, enhance, promote and implement services for young people, people with a disability and our ageing residents.

1.8 Review Council's long term involvement in Council housing

1.9 Provide assistance to community groups to make them more self-sustainable and build the social capacity of the SDR by facilitating community initiatives

1.10 Develop and implement Council's public consultation policies

1.11 Review all cemetery services including determining the viability of above ground vault construction

1.12 Establish community service obligations in relation to water, sewerage, roads etc. to precede the levels of service to clarify expectations.

1.13 Develop and promote our unique artistic and cultural diversity

1.14 Utilise and maintain CCTV cameras as one strategy to address identified public safety issues

Implement and Review the following agreed Plans and Strategies:

- **The Southern Downs 2030 Community Plan**
- Youth Action Plan
- **Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy**
- Public Art Policy

2. The Healthy and Active Southern Downs

2.1 Improve existing recreation opportunities to encourage a healthier lifestyle for residents in the region.

2.2 Continue to upgrade pathways throughout the region to encourage increased walking and cycling by residents and visitors in accordance with the Footway and Bikeway Master Plan

2.3 Complete, implement and review a Sport and Recreation Master Plan

2.4 Implement the Morgan Park Master plan including: a) Recycled water, b) 1/4 mile drag way racing strip, c) Infrastructure development of water and sewerage through increased demand, d) Expansion through the acquisition of adjoining State land.

3. The Southern Downs Learning Community

3.1 Investigate opportunities for additional tertiary education in the region (e.g. USQ MOU)

3.2 Further develop libraries to become active community hubs of learning and social inclusion

3.3 Continue to work with external agencies to deliver learning opportunities (e.g. U3A, Men's Shed)

3.4 Lobbying state government for improved state secondary educational opportunities and/or facilities in the Southern Downs

3.5 Ensure that library services reflect agreed State Library standards.

4. The Economically Strong, Sustainable and Diverse Southern Downs

4.1 Identify new external revenue sources to fund regional infrastructure and services

4.2 Participate in the development of a fire trail implementation and maintenance program with other agencies.

4.3 Protect our prime agricultural land for sustainable primary industry use

4.4 Continue to provide development assessment, operational works, building, plumbing, regulatory, health and local law services in accordance with legislative requirements, community expectations and to ensure the protection of the environment and our community

4.5 Rationalise and provide appropriate levels of service to the parks and gardens network and flora reserves/wildlife corridors.

4.6 Investigate alternative uses of the Warwick TAFE facilities for other suitable activities.

4.7 Lobby State and Federal Governments on issues of concern to the regional community

4.8 Maximise private and government funding opportunities to foster both community and business growth in the region

4.9 Review and expand the amount of serviced land available for industrial growth and development, including land for special industry and develop strategies for the expansion of key Council infrastructure to allow for this growth including opportunities for Council funding of this infrastructure.

4.10 Explore the establishment of Council quarries in the region to enable the delivery of economically viable process construction and maintenance projects

4.11 Further develop and foster the strategic alliance between SDRC and TSC and investigate opportunities with other neighbouring councils

4.12 Explore potential efficiencies and opportunities for Council's operations

4.13 Develop strategies for the provision of infrastructure for Maryvale, Mt Colliery and Hendon.

Implement and Review the following agreed Plans and Strategies:

- Public Car Park Plan
- **Economic Development Strategy**
- Planning Scheme for the Southern Downs Regional Council

5. Destination Southern Downs

5.1 'Streetscaping' Stanthorpe and Allora in terms of beautification, safety and accessibility

5.2 Assist in development and promotion of appropriate marketing brands for the Southern Downs Regional Council

5.3 Review Council's role in Tourism

6. The Environmentally Sustainable Southern Downs

6.1 Promote education and environmental awareness programs in relation to water conservation and wastewater recycling for both industry and residents.

6.2 Investigate appropriate waste water services and systems.

6.3 Construct new Waste transfer Stations at Broadwater, Amiens, Greymare, Forest Springs, Ballandean and to service the Northern Granite Belt in accordance with the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan. Upgrade the existing Waste Transfer Stations at Leyburn and Pratten and upgrade the Yangan Landfill and construct a major new landfill cell at the Warwick Waste Management Facility. Close unmanned waste facilities following the construction of new facilities.

6.4 Implement innovative measures to reduce Council's energy use and carbon emissions

6.5 Protect the natural environment of reserves under Council control via strategic natural resource management.

6.6 Develop and manage the urban stormwater system

6.7 Provide and maintain a reliable, secure and high quality long-term water supply for existing urban communities.

6.8 Develop and review current plans for Emu Swamp Dam including the associated risk management strategies.

6.9 Continue to promote, educate and implement awareness and best practice waste collection, recycling, environmental health and environmental protection strategies

Implement and Review the following agreed Plans and Strategies:

- Waste Management Strategy

7.The Well-Connected Southern Downs

7.1 Develop a Regional Transport Strategy encompassing - Road, Air and Rail

7.2 Lobby State and National Governments to enhance and develop key transport gateways and freight links including public transport

7.3 Review and implement strategies to allow for the expansion of aviation activities at both aerodromes.

7.4 Lobby relevant authorities in regards to the upgrade of the Mt Lindsay Highway to a safe and accessible highway

7.5 Lobby Department Of Main Roads to identify the corridor for a Warwick Heavy Vehicle bypass

7.6 Provide a transport infrastructure network that provides adequate accessibility across the region

7.7 Develop and enhance key strategic alliances with the Department of Main Roads and other key partners.

7.8 To provide well maintained sealed and unsealed roads, including footpaths and stormwater drainage, to determined levels of service as defined in the Asset management plan

7.9 Provide an economically sustainable timber bridge replacement program

7.10 Analyse current roads and other associated infrastructure to determine priorities.

8.The Well-Governed Southern Downs

8.1 Review the Planning Scheme in accordance with the new Planning Act

8.2 Develop and implement policies and procedures to effectively manage HR resources and practices across the entire Southern Downs organization

8.3 Continue to promote and encourage a proactive approach to workplace health and safety.

8.4 Develop a procedure to ensure all lobbying processes are reported and completed.

8.5 Develop and implement a Native Title and Cultural Heritage Policy

8.6 Develop and implement customer focussed policies and processes in keeping with Council's commitment to customer service

8.7 Become an employer of choice - appropriate training, innovative leadership and improved career pathways

8.8 Use info management, communication and technology to provide and support modern delivery of services to Council and the region

8.9 Continue to develop accurate flood mapping studies

8.10 Investigate Council vs. contractor for delivery of services

8.11 Review depot/workshop operations including development of master plan

8.12 Develop and implement council land management strategies

8.13 Review plant strategy (own or lease)

8.14 Manage and develop SDRC's disaster management and recovery responsibilities

8.15 Implement a website for council's disaster management, including ability to notify the community using available technology

8.16 Update existing Asset Management Plans and develop meaningful new asset management plans for the remaining major assets.

8.17 Implement an ongoing review of the rating system encompassing benefited rate areas

8.18 Review pest management services in accordance with legislative requirements, community expectations and to ensure the protection of the environment.

8.19 Continue to promote and encourage a proactive approach to risk management, including business continuity

8.20 Provide and maintain appropriate security measures to protect council's assets (buildings, plants, sites etc).

8.21 Implement a video conferencing solution to allow constituents to connect with council's officers.

8.22 Provide and maintain WiFi functionality within council's administrative buildings, with some free access from the public where feasible.


8.23 Upgrade council's network structure between council's main administration buildings and other minor sites (Stanthorpe depot, pounds, cemeteries etc).

Implement and Review the following agreed Plans and Strategies:

- 10-year Financial Plan (Investment policy, debts policy, procurement policy, revenue policy)
- **Disaster Management Plan**
- Asset Management Plan
- **Risk Management Plan**
- Pest Management Plan and ensure compliance with the new Biosecurity Act
- **Review Infrastructure Charging**
- Local Laws and Regulatory functions

4.2 Warwick Aerodrome

Document Information

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
|  | Report To: Special Council Meeting | |
| | Reporting Officer: | Meeting Date: 12 May 2014 |
| | Chief Executive Officer | File Ref: |

Recommendation

THAT Council:-

- 1 Confirm its position to pursue development of the Aerodrome by providing incentives for new businesses from Toowoomba and Archerfield.
- 2 Pursue an upgraded classification of the aerodrome from its current rating of 2(c) to 3(c) with CASA.
- 3 Write to Ergon to ask for compliance of the CASA 3(c) rating, including maximum distance of all obstacles from the facility.
- 4 Lobby the State Minister for Energy to ensure that the Warwick Aerodrome is not impeded in any way into future for its growth.

Report

The Mayor and CEO met with representatives of Ergon Energy on 31 March 2014 to discuss the potential route of the new 110kw line to Stanthorpe following a lengthy CRG process undertaken over the past few years.

At that meeting Ergon representatives assured Council that the route would not impact or impede future development plans of Warwick Aerodrome. The outcome of that meeting was for Council to forward its CASA rating so that Ergon had on file the compliance obligations for Councils' development plans (letter attached).

Council advised Ergon that our current CASA rating was level 2(c), with the future development moving to level 3(c). What this meant to Ergon's electrical line planning was a non-negotiable obstacle compliance distance from Council's Aerodrome.

The Mayor and CEO left that meeting being comfortable that Ergon would adhere to this compliance regime, and therefore protect the future growth of the Aerodrome.

Following a number of community meetings over the past month, Council received a number of complaints stating that the Ergon position was different from the above stated position.

As such, the CEO sent the following email on 17th April 2014...

" Dave,

I've had a number of enquiries coming to Council from community members following meetings your team has undertaken, to engage over route 5.

The Mayor and I are of the understanding from our meeting, that we were to advise our existing CASA rating and the one we intended to move towards I have provided such information in correspondence recently. You stated at that meeting that once you had that information, Ergon had no choice but to comply with the minimum distance/obstacle compliance of that rating (the higher one) so that Warwick Aerodrome would not be affected by the power lines route.

Community members have stated that your team did not support this position publicly, and that Ergon had the ability to place the line anywhere within the corridor.

This is of great concern to Council.

Could you please confirm in writing the information you provided to the Mayor and I at our recent meeting, so that we can be assured that future growth of the Warwick Aerodrome will not be affected.

*Regards
Andrew"*

Subsequently the CEO received a phone call from Ergon's Dave Shephard on 23 April 2014 advising that Ergon's position had changed since its meeting with Council.

Ergon were now in the process of appointing a consultant to advise them how close they could now encroach the Aerodrome. The CEO explained that this position will now require a revised approach by Council for the planned route.

Ergon advised the CEO that they would provide this new advice in writing the following week. Council still has not received that advice.

Council, at its General Meeting held in February 2014, approved the installation of Avgas, together with bi-annual resurfacing. Council has invested over \$0.5m in this facility. Additionally, the facility provides for the following activities:-

- Gliding school for over 30 years
- 15-18 year RAAF Cadets
- 23 Lessees
- Potential new business, say 5 new ones with an annual turnover of \$250k each, \$1.25m
- Royal Flying Doctor's Service will not land if the new power line is too close.
- Occasional use by Australian Defence Force and Rural Fire Service.
- Etc.

Council has just engaged Airport Operations Support to proceed with the preparation of an Aerodrome Obstacle Survey Plan. The cost will be \$3,000. This plan will be based on the expanded model of CASA rating 3(c).

Once Council has this data, it can form the basis or argument to protect the future expansion of the Aerodrome. Without this document, Council will have a flawed position with the consultancy review Ergon has engaged.

The other side of the argument is whether Aerodromes are part of Council's core business or not. If not, then Council should look to divest itself of this asset. Regardless of who should own it, the value of this asset would be downgraded substantially if Council did not protect the expansion abilities by still pursuing this line with Ergon.

Council needs to formulate a position and then pursue the required course.

Budget Implications

Council has invested \$100,000 in an Avgas facility this year, as well as approximately \$300,000 on resurfacing in 2011/12. Other capital works includes the preparation of the taxiway. Council operational budget is \$64,000.

If Council divested its interests to a private company, there would be a one-off cash flow injection that would either fund a long term asset or retire debt.

Policy Consideration

PL-HR055 Drug & Alcohol Management Plan – Warwick & Stanthorpe Aerodrome Policy

2009-2014 Corporate Plan

Item 1.11 Continue to investigate ways to develop aerodromes in the region.

2013/2014 Operation Plan

Item 4.9.3 Promote our regional assets to potential businesses. Maintain and maintain aerodrome facilities at Warwick and Stanthorpe.

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

1. Council defend its pro-development position of the Warwick Aerodrome and lobby the State Minister, Local Member and Ergon to ensure no impediments are placed before the Aerodrome.
2. Council do nothing and accept whatever outcome of the Ergon process. Council then should wind back future development of the site and stop pursuing new businesses.

Attachments

1. Letter to Ergon [View](#)



ABR-LJK

8 April 2014

Mr Dave Shephard
Regional Asset Manager South
Ergon Energy
P O Box 2312
Toowoomba Qld 4350

Dear Dave,

RE: Warwick Aeropark – CASA Rating

Thank you for meeting with the Mayor, Cr. Peter Blundell and I last week to discuss the new powerline corridor between Warwick-Stanthorpe.

Councils only concern for the proposed path as presented last week is its proximity to the Warwick Aeropark, ensuring its development over the next few years is not impeded in any way.

The Aeropark is currently a CASA rating of "2", with the Master planning recently undertaken by Council, this will move the CASA rating to "3".

Council requests that this rating be applied to the decision making process of this corridor.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Roach'.

Andrew Roach
Chief Executive Officer

ase address all
munications to:
Chief Executive Officer,
Southern Downs
Regional Council
Box 26
Warwick Qld 4370
l@sdr.c.qld.gov.au
w.sdr.c.qld.gov.au
59 786 792 651

Warwick Office
Ritzroy Street
Warwick Qld 4370

Stanthorpe Office
Aarsh Street
Stanthorpe Qld 4380


1300 MY SDRC
(1300 697 372)

07 4661 0333

5. ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5.1 Request for Financial Contribution for Submission of a Proposal for a Pilot Project to fund Regional Development of Road Infrastructure Renewals and Upgrades.

Document Information

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
|  | Report To: Special Council Meeting | |
| | Reporting Officer: | Meeting Date: 12 May 2014 |
| | Director Engineering Services | File Ref: |

Recommendation

THAT Council consider the Request for a Financial Contribution.

Report

Council has received a proposal from the Australian Rural Road Group Inc. a copy of the proposal is attached.

Council has provided data previously to the Group along with six other Councils. The data was used to assess if it was possible to collate data across a broad geographic area. Five of the Councils are from NSW as well as Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council.

A meeting was held in Bingara (NSW) on Australia Day 2014. Southern Downs Regional Council did not attend or sign the subsequent Accord.

The Bingara Accord seeks to bring roads in line with mainstream practices of Australia's Infrastructure Sectors; employ "user pays - user gets" trials for road improvements; that the Australian Rural Roads Group Asset and Investment Template is seen as appropriate; and that submissions be made to include suitably aggregated proposals in Infrastructure Australia's National Infrastructure Audit and Infrastructure Priorities List.

The attached document details the methodology proposed in order to meet the Accord priorities. The total cost of the work proposed is \$67,000.00 excluding GST. The Group is seeking a contribution from Council to assist with the Project.

Budget Implications

\$9,571.43 excluding GST.

Policy Consideration

Community Plan

Clause 5.14 calls for exploring transport options for moving visitors through the Region. Clause 7.1 is for the maintenance and upgrade of Regional Road Networks.

Community Engagement

Nil

Legislation/Local Law

Nil

Options

1. Provide funding of one-seventh of the cost which is \$9,571.43 excluding GST.
2. Decline Financial Support.

Attachments

1. Proposal - Infrastructure Australia (Confidential - Provided to Councillors only)[View](#)