



SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 277E of the Local Government Regulation 2012 it is not practicable for the public to attend the meeting because of health and safety reasons associated with the public health emergency involving COVID-19.

The meeting will therefore be closed to the public, with only Councillors and staff essential for the functioning of the meeting in attendance. Consistent with Council's legislative responsibilities, the minutes of Council's meeting will be made available for inspection by the public on its website.

Dear Councillors

Your attendance is hereby requested at the Special Meeting of Council to be held in the Warwick Town Hall, Palmerin Street, Warwick on **Tuesday, 30 June 2020 at 9:00AM.**

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

Jane Stroud

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

26 June 2020

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

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

4. EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

4.1 Water Allocations in the Granite Belt and Emu Swamp Dam

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: Special Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 30 June 2020
	Acting Chief Executive Officer	ECM Function No/s:

Recommendation

THAT Council

1. Acknowledges and commends the work undertaken to date by the Granite Belt Irrigation Project to bring the Emu Swamp Dam project to the current phase, and notes the significant benefit the project will bring to the region; and
2. Endorses the participation of senior Council officers in the project to work with the State Government and Granite Belt Irrigation Project in a co-ordinated and structured project management approach guided and led by the State Government; and
3. Notes the request from Granite Belt Irrigation Project in relation to the offer received in the letter dated 11 June 2020 which requests consideration of the following:
 - a. Purchase a volume of water in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project.
 - b. Negotiate the transfer/sale of 400ML – 450ML of un-supplemented water from Storm King Dam to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project to offset the cost of purchasing a volume of supplemented water allocation.
 - c. Negotiate the sale of 59ML of un-supplemented water allocations to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, for inclusion in the total water aggregation for the Project.
 - d. Support the short to medium term (10-15 year) lease of the State's unallocated water for future urban supply to enable the project to aggregate sufficient entitlements for the project to commence and deliver the economic benefits to the Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Stanthorpe area such as 700 new full time jobs, a \$65 million increase in gross farm production, and improved urban water security for Stanthorpe.
4. Provides in-principle agreement to the request from Granite Belt Irrigation Project, conditional on the following parameters being fully resolved and reported back to Council for a final resolution:
 - a. Financial agreement being reached on the cost of water per ML from Council's water allocation associated with Storm King Dam, as well as the smaller allocations (where available); and
 - b. Clarification, to the satisfaction of Council, on the operating conditions of Emu Swamp Dam to ensure Southern Downs Regional Council can access town water supply when and as needed, and clear prioritisation of town water in the operations; and
 - c. Clarification provided by the State Government on expectations for water quality should the dam be associated with an urban water supply which may result in affecting changes to the dam, including but not limited to the reduction of the buffer zone to 20 metres; and
 - d. The State Government being satisfied with the proposal for the transfer of the water allocations and providing written advice to this effect; and
 - e. Outcomes of further modelling by either the State Government or Council confirming the updated hydrologic modelling of the Emu Swamp Dam project supplied by Granite Belt Irrigation Project; and
 - f. Clarification from the State Government that the water from Storm King Dam could be transferred to Emu Swamp Dam as town water supply, and that the water can be temporarily sold or leased when not required by Council.

5. Notes and commits to collaboratively working with both the State Government (who will make the decision) and the proponents to finalise a further report to Council on any transfer of the water allocations.
6. Ensures any further financial contributions be put to a future report for consideration, as Council does not currently have any allocation budgeted for any aspect of the offer from Granite Belt Irrigation Project.
7. Forms a delegation consisting of Deputy Mayor Bartley, Councillor Tancred, and relevant senior officers to discuss with the State Government support in the form of funding of the purchase of a water allocation up to 450 ML for water security for Stanthorpe in the Emu Swamp Dam project.

Report

Ensuring urban water security is one of the key functions of Council. Council works closely with the State Government around this issue, and has been doing so for many years – in particular in the last few years as the ongoing effects of severe drought are felt throughout the region.

During the ongoing drought Council has undertaken many steps to improve and address water management and supply including the following:

- Improvements to reduce water losses including replacement of raw and treated water mains, leak detection and repair works;
- Monitoring the network more effectively;
- Monthly reporting on water contingency planning;
- Plant and equipment upgrades;
- Co-ordination of water carting to Southern parts of the region;
- Water restrictions coupled with an education and engagement program has resulted in daily, monthly and annual water demands decreasing significantly, in some cases the current demand is around 55% of the demand 12-18 months ago (refer to the Infrastructure Services Directorate Monthly Report in Council Meeting Agendas for details).

Council staff are doing all they can to ensure the water needs of the community across the region are given serious time, consideration and planning. Meeting urgent needs for water supply during severe drought, as well as planning for the future remains a strong focus for Officers. There remains a need to plan for the longer term security of the region, to allow for growth in both residential and commercial business. Council has a vision of the region growing to about 50,000 residents in Shaping Southern Downs, which will mean increased water demand and therefore water security must be obtained for the whole region.

Council has been working on various short, medium and long term planning solutions for some time (refer to the Water Contingency Plan which is presented monthly in Council Meeting Agendas for details). The work undertaken includes:

- Options for new pipelines within the region to help form a grid network,
- Investigating new dams, increasing water availability from Leslie Dam,
- Investigating new bore fields,
- Utilising existing bores,
- Raising the wall of Storm King Dam,

- Forming a grid with neighbouring Councils with water from New South Wales, amongst a number of other options for improved water security.

One of the current options that has progressed through to feasibility stage is the pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick, which forms part of a solution to the region's water security.

The work described above outlines the range of options and work being undertaken by staff in partnership with the State Government to ensure water supply and effective planning for the region. It is important to set the scene and explain the context that the current Emu Swamp Dam project exists within for Council. This is critical to understand as Council needs to be across the myriad of options, their pros and cons and consider the facts accordingly.

Council is aware that the Emu Swamp Dam (ESD) is a proposed new dam in the Granite Belt that is currently moving towards the construction phase. ESD has received various levels of funding (some conditional) to progress and will soon move through to the tender phase of the project for design and construction. The project has been successfully progressed by Granite Belt Irrigation Project (GBIP) and will generate 700 ongoing full time equivalent (FTE) jobs and an additional 250 FTE jobs during construction over a three year period. One of the major components (and conditions by the State Government for funding) is the need to obtain sufficient water allocations, equivalent to 3,510 ML of mean annual diversion (MAD) to achieve the sale of 3,900 ML of nominal entitlements to customers of the project. Council recognises the important strategic role that the ESD will play in the future of the Granite Belt and acknowledges the complex and detailed work the proponents have done to date.

Under the Murray Darling Basin Water Plan, Council has a number of surface water allocations for various purposes. In the Stanthorpe area, Storm King Dam has an allocated urban water allocation of 1150 ML, and Council holds three other surface water totalling 59 ML. Of this 59ML, there is an amount of 30 ML and 5 ML (which is 52ML in a three year period, as it is a harvesting licence) is associated with a site that is currently subject to a long term lease and includes the water allocation in the lease.

The 24ML relates to the license at Leslie Parade, Stanthorpe. This was an irrigation license but is now purposed as "any". Trading of water under the current water plan is complex and would require State Government involvement, even for a small amount of water such as this.

Council also has a water allocation of 1150 ML which is associated with Storm King Dam. Of this allocation, current use in a normal year is up to 700ML, with projections of use of up to 740ML with estimated future growth projections up to 2036. Although Storm King Dam would not currently yield the 1150 ML of water, modelling shows that raising the dam wall would allow this amount to be utilised. Council consultants have undertaken initial concept plan and design work on the raising of Storm King Dam wall, however at this time the project remains unfunded. It may be possible to sell 400 – 450 ML from the current allocation associated with Storm King Dam and then if the wall is raised to move a relevant amount over from the 1500ML town water supply as required.

The Water Plan (Border Rivers and Moonie) 2019 shows there is 4500ML of unallocated water reserves of surface water in the Stanthorpe water management area, the below extract from the Border Rivers and Moonie Water Management Protocol 2019 demonstrates volume and the purpose of this unallocated water.

Attachment 8 Availability of unallocated water

Table 1 Unallocated water reserves of surface water

Water management area	Average annual volume (ML)	Purpose
Stanthorpe water management area	1740	Coordinated project
Stanthorpe water management area	1500	Town water supply
Stanthorpe water management area	1060	Any
Stanthorpe water management area	200	For helping an Aboriginal community achieve its economic and social aspirations
Moonie water management area	100	For helping an Aboriginal community achieve its economic and social aspirations

Reports for the ESD project outline the need to secure water allocations for the project's success, and determined that in order to provide a nominal volume of 3,900ML of 90% reliable water allocations from the dam, it was likely a total mean average diversion (MAD) of 3,510 ML needs to be secured (Badu Advisory, December 2019).

The proponents of ESD, the Granite Belt Irrigation Project (GBIP) have recently presented to Council and subsequently formally written to Council (11 June 2020 - Refer Attachment 1) requesting Council considers an offer composing of five (5) elements, four (4) of which are associated with water allocations, as follows:

1. *Purchase a volume of water in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project.*
2. *Negotiate the transfer/sale of 400ML – 450ML of un-supplemented water from Storm King Dam to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project to offset the cost of purchasing a volume of supplemented water allocation.*
3. *Negotiate the sale of 59ML of un-supplemented water allocations to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, for inclusion in the total water aggregation for the Project.*
4. *Support the short to medium term (10-15 year) lease of the States unallocated water for future urban supply to enable the Project to aggregate sufficient entitlements for the project to commence and deliver the economic benefits to the Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Stanthorpe area such as 700 new full time jobs, a \$65 million increase in gross farm production, and improved urban water security for Stanthorpe.*

There is significant relevant history associated with this request; much of which has been covered in the previous report to Council for the planning and infrastructure aspects of the project and Council's touch points.

There has also been correspondence between GBIP and Council over the past 12 months regarding the water allocations, which are significant for Council and the future water supply for the Stanthorpe urban water supply, which Council needs to consider. The recent background regarding water allocations is outlined below, and forms a background for Council to be able to consider the remaining elements of the recent letter from GBIP.

In a letter dated 19 July 2019, an offer was made by GBIP to Council for 3 different options, being:

Option 1: *Access water that could be made available from the Granite Belt Irrigation Project for "Emergency Supply" only. This option, subject to operational terms and conditions, would require*

no contribution toward the capital cost of the Dam, however the Southern Downs Regional Council would be responsible for any cost associated with accessing this water.

Option 2: *Participate in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project as a customer/investor with the ability to use or deal with the associated allocation in the best interests of the community and Council.*

Option 3: *Do not participate in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project.*

In September 2019, Council responded (through a letter from the CEO) to the offer, and included the following comments:

“Council is working with the Queensland State Government to determine the yield of Storm King Dam to better inform the capacity of the storage facility to deliver 1150ML of supply to Stanthorpe. Following this confirmation or otherwise Council will be in a better position to consider the opportunities that are associated with any transfers or proposed allocations. It is important that Council considers all aspects of an adequate and accessible urban water supply for the Stanthorpe region that may commit the community to water that is cost prohibitive or requires additional infrastructure.

Council has not, at this stage, formally considered direct involvement in the project, nor has it considered accessing an emergency supply of water from the proposed Emu Swamp Dam.”

The letter went on to talk of the conditions imposed by the State Government for their element of the funding of the dam, and then stated:

“It is likely that Council would wish to see these conditions progressed by Granite Belt Water Limited before commitments relating to emergency water supply are considered, as well as alterations to the allocations in the existing Regional Operation Plan.

Furthermore, Council would require more details about the structure of Granite Belt Water, such as the financial capacity of the company and the governance processes. It is important that the future of Stanthorpe is not constrained by a permanent reduction in the amount of water allocated to future urban supply. Previous reports prepared by the proponents of Emu Swamp Dam have forecasted industrial and commercial development in Stanthorpe, accompanied with significant population growth. Council would be concerned if any alterations to the allocation for “future urban supply” compromised the potential of Stanthorpe to be sustainable and prosper.”

In a letter from GBIP to Council dated 10 December 2019, the following was advised:

“On 18 July 2019, the project wrote to you outlining three potential options for the Southern Downs Regional Council to consider if it wished to be involved with the project. The response from the Chief Executive Officer, 24 September 2019, identified that the Council had not formally considered the project’s offer.

The Board of Granite Belt Water Limited are also cognizant that since that time, the Southern Downs Regional Council has publicly identified, and/or formally resolved, its preferred options of securing urban water security for Stanthorpe. As a consequence of the Southern Downs Regional Council’s publicly identified preference for potentially raising Storm King Dam, or securing water from NSW or Toowoomba in the future via a pipeline, the urban water supply options identified in the detailed business case and again offered in our letter dated 18 July 2019 are no longer relevant and will be discontinued for the purposes of planning the project’s future.”

The most recent offer regarding water allocations from GBIP dated 11 June 2020 follows a report from the GBIP consultants, Badu Consulting (dated 10 June 2020), detailing the outcomes of hydrological modelling for the water allocations for the dam, with the aim of reaching the nominal volume of 3,900ML availability at 90% water allocations from the project. A number of hydrologic scenarios were run by the consultants, including leaving the 1150 ML allocation within Storm King

Dam (status quo) and the raising of the wall, as well as reducing the allocation held by Council in Storm King Dam and using it for ESD.

The consultants found through their recent modelling, in order to attain the required nominal volume and reliability, which is the premise of the whole project, the modelling suggests that a number of factors need to be met, with the factor affecting Council being:

- “Achieving a long-term monthly reliability for the project of 90% is possible but contingent on:*
- reducing the total nominal volume of upstream water allocations (i.e. by purchasing / reconfiguring / absorbing them into the supplemented water allocations for ESD) by around 2,300 ML and*
 - reducing (again by purchasing / reconfiguring / absorbing them into the supplemented water allocations for ESD) the nominal volume of the Southern Downs Regional Council’s (SDRC’s) water allocations at Storm King Dam (SKD) by at around 400 ML.”*

In recent times there have been a number of changes proposed (and in some cases, approved) for the project, including the reduction of the buffer zone from 200 metres to 20 metres. The Co-ordinator General’s evaluation report on the Environmental Impact Statement (2014), states the following regarding water quality:

“The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) address the microbial limits, the physical and chemical requirements and the radiological limits of drinking water. The water in the proposed dam will be pumped to the existing Mt Marlay Water Treatment Plant, for treatment as potable water. The requirements for designing a rigorous water quality monitoring program, with suitable levels of quality control are also stipulated in the ADWG and were considered in the preparation of the EIS. Operational water quality parameters related to organic carbon and colour are also identified in the ADWG.”

The report then goes on to discuss impacts and mitigation measures, including: “A 200-metre-wide vegetated buffer will be established around the dam for the purposes of protecting water quality within the dam. This buffer will delay surface runoff by acting as a sink for nutrients and minimising potential nutrient and sediment runoff.” This report, as well as the Environmental Impact Statement, can be found on the Coordinator General website:

<http://www.coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general/assessments-and-approvals/coordinated-projects/completed-projects/emu-swamp-dam-project.html>

The impact on water quality of reducing the buffer to 20 metres and still proposing to use the water for drinking water purposes requires further investigation – these changes are recent and it is unclear if the changes were made after the letter of December 2019 to Council where it is stated that the urban water supply options identified in the Detailed Business Case and again offered in our letter dated 18 July 2019 are no longer relevant and will be discontinued for the purposes of planning the project’s future. Should Council wish to consider being a customer of the ESD project it will be important to receive clarification on this aspect to ensure the water will be suitable for treating and using as drinking water.

At this point in time, is not 100% clear to Council what the model for operating the dam will be and subsequently the daily availability of water for Council to use it, should it be needed. Obviously, the time Council would need the water would be in times of drought, when the cheaper water from Storm King Dam is no longer available to access. However, this would understandably be a period when all users from a dam would be in need of water – therefore Council would need to be a higher priority user than others to ensure water is available for urban water supply. None of this detail has been outlined to Council officers in writing or with certainty. Conversely, in a good year where water is not needed by Council for urban use, it could temporarily sell the water allocation to other users.

The Detailed Business Case outlines the cost of water at \$6,000 per ML (capital buy in cost for a water allocation), plus an annual charge of about \$408 per ML, which is made up of a fixed cost plus a usage cost. The current value of water allocations traded permanently is expected to be significantly lower, more in the order of \$2000 - \$3000 per ML, however this is market dependent. Council has not budgeted to purchase a water allocation in ESD, nor for the sale of any of the water allocation held at Storm King Dam.

Trading of water such as this requires approvals from the State Government. Meetings held between GBIP, SDRC, and State Government representatives have included discussions on water allocations and availability of urban water supply for the project. The State Government have advised they would consider the request should some certainty be able to be demonstrated, as well as suitable information to make a case for any changes to the current urban water allocations. It is important to realise that for the State Government and Council, the first priority is for an appropriate amount of water to be retained as urban water supply to ensure the long term sustainability of the region with access to urban water for Stanthorpe and surrounds.

Additionally, it is likely the State Government will need to undertake their own modelling following the latest report and results from GBIP's consultants, which Council may wish to consider or to wait for the DNRME modelling before making a final determination on the transfer of any water allocations.

It is considered that the letter from GBIP dated 11 June 2020, requesting a response by 30 June 2020, is seeking Council decisions that may not be feasible at this point in time, due to some uncertainties related to the project, and the range of other water options currently in front of Council.

It is acknowledged that the ESD proposal presents some opportunities (and challenges) for SDRC and that these require careful consideration and ongoing thought. Should Council wish to participate as a customer in the ESD project it may consider agreeing in principle with a number of conditions to be clarified prior to agreeing to any or all of the four offers regarding water allocations that were offered to Council in the letter from GBIP dated 11 June 2020.

Should Council wish to respond to this letter, it is the advice of Officers that the following aspects be caveated and form part on the ongoing negotiations:

- Financial agreement being reached on the cost of water per ML from Council's water allocation associated with Storm King Dam, as well as the smaller allocations;
- Clarification to the satisfaction of Council on the operating conditions of Emu Swamp Dam to ensure SDRC can access town water supply when and as needed, and clear prioritisation of town water in the operations;
- Clarification provided by the State Government on expectations for water quality should the dam be associated with an urban water supply again which may result in affecting changes to the dam, including but not limited to the reduction of the buffer zone to 20 metres;
- The State Government being satisfied with the proposal for the transfer of the water allocation and providing written advice to this effect;
- Outcomes of further modelling by either the State Government or Council confirming the updated hydrologic modelling of the Emu Swamp Dam project supplied by GBIP;
- Clarification from the State Government that the water from Storm King Dam could be transferred to Emu Swamp Dam as town water supply, and that the water can be temporarily sold or leased when not required by Council.

The offer from GBIP for Council is a complex opportunity, which requires careful consideration. The decisions in front of Council to become a customer of ESD, enter into negotiations to sell part of Council's water allocations to the project, and to support the request to lease the 1500 ML of town water supply all require further information and clarification.

It is clear the dam project is progressing, and Council notes the significant benefit the project will bring to the region. However the ongoing changes to the project such as changes in buffer zones and new modelling data all have impacts on the requests from GBIP and it is the best advice of staff that Council takes time to continue to work through these matters prior to agreeing to the sale, trade or lease of water allocations.

There remains uncertainty in a number of elements which have not formed part of the information in the letter from GBIP, including the operations of the dam and how Council's needs for town water would be prioritised. Coupled with this, the State Government has also expressed the need for further information before they would recommend to the Minister the transfer of water or the lease of the town water supply.

At this time, it would appear premature to agree to accept in full the offer from GBIP. However, if Council wishes to proceed with participating in the ESD project it would be reasonable to establish some parameters, be clear about what further detail is required from the proponents so that Officers can work towards finalising information and facilitate any Council decision making processes on the request from GBIP. It is the Officers' professional advice that a number of conditions / parameters be set to help guide the in principle agreement. Officers believe that the project has merit, needs consideration and would appreciate some certainty on Council's position whilst participating in working groups, and moving through the detail.

Budget Implications

Not currently budgeted for any capital purchase of water from the Emu Swamp Dam project, sale of water from the Storm King Dam allocation, ongoing annual costs associated with the use of water from Emu Swamp Dam (annual costs and per ML usage costs) or sale of water from temporary lease of any allocations from any dams.

Policy Consideration

Operational Plan Objective 4.7 Develop and implement a Water Security Strategy that secure a sustainable, reliable water supply for the region.

Community Engagement

Internal Consultation

Nil

External Consultation

Ongoing consultation with DNRME and GBIP regarding the water allocations

Legislation/Local Law

Water Plan (Border Rivers and Moonie) 2019

Attachments

1. Letter from Granite Belt Irrigation Project [↓](#)



PO Box 23, Stanthorpe QLD 4380
www.granitebeltirrigationproject.com.au
Granite Belt Water Limited ACN: 631 442 129

Ms. Jane Stroud
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Southern Downs Regional Council
PO Box 26
WARWICK QLD 4370

11 June 2020

By Email: jane.stroud@sdrcl.qld.gov.au

Dear Jane,

On behalf of the Board of Granite Belt Water Limited and the team involved in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, thank you for providing the project with the opportunity to present an update to Council on Monday 8 June 2020. The Board and the Project appreciate the openness and the expressed willingness of the Southern Downs Regional Council to work in collaboration to deliver this vital piece of water infrastructure to the Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Stanthorpe.

During the presentation, the project outlined the various interactions that will be required between Granite Belt Water Limited and the Council if the project is to be delivered expeditiously. Granite Belt Water also acknowledges the impost that projects such as this make on the normal operations of Council and the workload of its employees.

In this regard Granite Belt Water would like to negotiate with Council to facilitate an increase in the Council's operational capacity to enable the projects necessary approvals to be coordinated and delivered within the project's timelines. This approach is not uncommon in the mining and development industries.

Granite Belt Water would also like to offer the Southern Downs Regional Council the opportunity to participate in the project as a customer. Customers of the Granite Belt Irrigation Project are required to pay \$6,000 per Megalitre (ML) as a capital contribution. The volume in megalitres that equates to the total capital contribution will be converted, prior to the schemes commissioning, into a supplemented water allocation. This supplemented water allocation would be owned by the Southern Downs Regional Council.

Should the Southern Downs Regional Council participate in the project it would also be responsible for the payment of annual charges that reflect the annual maintenance and operational costs for the dam and distribution scheme, as well as the depreciation or renewal annuity for the replacement of the Dam, Pipeline, Pumps and Power infrastructure. As an example, if the Councils were to connect to the Scheme at Applethorpe, the Detailed Business Case identifies that the annual charges would be in the vicinity of \$408 per annum per ML.



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The purchase of a 400ML – 450ML allocation in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, combined with the intended ‘continuous sharing’ operations model proposed has the potential to increase the water supply for urban use in the Stanthorpe Water Management Area by 50% (upwards of 1200ML).

As the owner of an allocation within the Granite Belt Irrigation Project (and subsequent distribution scheme) the Southern Downs Regional Council will have the option to reserve all of the water for urban supply; temporarily trade the full annual allocation to irrigators within the scheme to offset the purchase price and annual charges; or any combination of the above. The water allocated to Southern Downs Regional Council is able to be managed by the Council to obtain the best value to the community.

The Project would also seek to negotiate with Council the moving or purchase of 400-450ML of the 1150ML un-supplemented allocation associated with Storm King Dam. Historical modelling conducted by both Granite Belt Water and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has identified that Storm King Dam might only be capable of meeting an annual demand of 740ML above which the frequency of supply failures (i.e falling below its minimum operating volume) increases, as identified in the *Stanthorpe Regional Water Supply Security Assessment* (DEWS 2016:10).

Moving the un-supplemented water from Storm King Dam, situated high in the catchment and an area of only 92 km² to Emu Swamp Dam, lower in the catchment with an area of 586km² improves the reliability of both catchments and may be potentially more financially viable and fiscally prudent for the Council. It will also contribute to the ultimate success of the Granite Belt Irrigation Project.

The Project would also seek to negotiate the purchase of other parcels of un-supplemented water held by the Council. Granite Belt Water Limited has identified three parcels of water (30ML + 5ML + 24ML) totalling 59ML which the project would like to purchase to improve the reliability of the volume of water being aggregated for the project.

Granite Belt Water would also appreciate the support and approval of the Southern Downs Regional Council to lease water from the Queensland Government’s Unallocated Water for future urban supply in the Border Rivers and Moonie Water Plan.

The ability of the project to aggregate 3510ML of Mean Annual Diversion is required as a pre-requisite for the ongoing support of the Queensland Government. The Detailed Business Case identified the availability of unallocated water in the catchment serviced by the Granite Belt Irrigation Projects, Emu Swamp Dam. The project has identified that leasing 1000ML-1500ML of unallocated water for future urban supply, enables the project to fulfil two objectives. Firstly, it identifies that the project is able to aggregate sufficient volume of water to progress and, secondly the leasing of water enables the project to purchase all of the necessary allocations to replace the leased water over time, thus avoiding paying a premium for water on the open market.



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The project has identified a strategy whereby the leased water will be replaced by purchased allocations over a period of 10-15 years, returning the water, incrementally, to the Queensland Government for allocation or use for future urban purposes. This strategy also addresses the Minister for Natural Resources Mines and Energy's stated goal of see all of the water in the Water Plan used for productive purposes.

In summary the offer to the Southern Downs Regional Council is in five (5) parts:

1. Purchase a volume of water in the Granite Belt Irrigation Project
2. Negotiate the transfer/sale of 400ML – 450ML of un-supplemented water from Storm King Dam to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project to offset the cost of purchasing a volume of supplemented water allocation.
3. Negotiate the sale of 59ML of un-supplemented water allocations to the Granite Belt Irrigation Project, for inclusion in the total water aggregation for the Project.
4. Support the short to medium term (10-15 year) lease of the States unallocated water for future urban supply to enable the Project to aggregate sufficient entitlements for the project to commence and deliver the economic benefits to the Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Stanthorpe area such as 700 new full time jobs, a \$65 million increase in gross farm production, and improved urban water security for Stanthorpe.
5. Negotiate the provision of, and assistance with, extra capacity within Southern Downs Regional Council to enable the coordination and processing of all approvals necessary to deliver the Granite Belt Irrigation Project.

Granite Belt Water Limited stands ready to partner with the Southern Downs Regional Council to deliver this vital piece of water infrastructure to the Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Stanthorpe. The project has already secured \$47 million in funding from the Australian Government, conditional approval of \$13.6 million from the Queensland Government (with \$6 million already flowing to the project) and an irrigator customer commitment of \$23.4 million.

This \$84 million dollar fully funded project has the potential to provide significant economic opportunities, employment and water security to the region. Your response to our offer would be appreciated before 30 June 2020.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the following telephone number, 0414 480 140 or email lloyd@granitebeltirrigationproject.com.au


Kind regards

Lloyd Taylor
Chief Executive

5. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

5.1 Policies Review

Document Information

 Southern Downs REGIONAL COUNCIL	Report To: Special Council Meeting	
	Reporting Officer:	Meeting Date: 30 June 2020
	Governance, Risk And Land Coordinator Manager Corporate and Commercial Services	ECM Function No/s: 22.03

Recommendation

THAT Council adopt the following policies:

1. Complaints About a Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* Policy, subject to obtaining formal approval from the Crime and Corruption Commission regarding the proposed amendments;
2. Related Party Disclosure Policy; and
3. Advertising Expenditure Policy.

Report

Upon the commencement of each term of Council, all policies are to be reviewed within the first six months of the quadrennial election. This report presents a number of policies for Council's review and adoption.

Complaints About a Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) – Section 48A Crime and Corruption Act 2001 Policy

This policy is a specific requirement under section 48A (1) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and must outline how Council will deal with a complaint that involves or may involve corrupt conduct of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). There are minimal changes proposed as shown in the attached policy. Consideration of the relevant provisions of the Human Rights Act 2019 have been proposed for inclusion.

Related Party Disclosure Policy

The purpose of the Related Party Disclosure Policy is to ensure that Council's financial statements contain the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit or loss may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments, with such parties. This policy is consistent with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures. A review of the policy has been undertaken and no changes of consequence are proposed as shown in the attached policy.

Advertising Expenditure Policy

Section 197 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires that Council adopt an Advertising Spending Policy which outlines the requirements that must be adhered to in relation to advertising expenditure, which ensures that Council advertising is in accordance with the public interest and

Council policies. This policy has been reviewed in accordance with the legislative requirements and no amendments are proposed. A copy of the policy is attached for Councillors information.

Budget Implications

Nil.

Policy Consideration

All Council policies must be reviewed within six months of each quadrennial election.

Community Engagement

In accordance with section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*, the Crime and Corruption Commission must be consulted in relation to the Complaints About a Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) – Section 48A *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* Policy. The Crime and Corruption Commission have been consulted about the proposed policy changes and while a response has not yet been received, it is not envisaged that there will be any major concerns with the proposed amendments.

Legislation/Local Law

The Complaints About a Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) – Section 48A *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* Policy is required under section 48A (1) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Section 177 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires that Council's General Purpose Financial Statement must be prepared in compliance with, among other documents, the Australian Accounting Standards. The Related Party Disclosure Policy has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures.

The Advertising Policy is required in accordance with section 197 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Attachments

1. Complaints About a Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 Policy [↓](#)
2. Related Party Disclosure Policy [↓](#)
3. Advertising Expenditure Policy [↓](#)



Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Policy Number:	PL-GV087
Department:	Corporate and Commercial Services
Section:	Governance
Responsible Manager:	Manager Corporate and Commercial Services
Date Adopted:	26 June 2019
Date to be Reviewed:	<u>1125 June 2021</u> ¹⁰
Date Reviewed:	<u>N/A12 June 2020</u>
Date Rescinded:	N/A

REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision description
<u>12/06/20</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>Minor amendments – amend Mayor's details and include provisions relating to the Human Rights Act 2019</u>

Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Policy no: PL-GV087

Updated: 1226 June 2020¹⁹

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Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act
2001

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out how Southern Downs Regional Council (Council) will deal with a complaint that involves or may involve corrupt conduct of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as required by section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* (the CC Act).

This policy seeks to promote:

- public confidence in the way suspected corrupt conduct of the CEO is dealt with; and
- accountability, integrity and transparency in the way the Council deals with a complaint that is suspected to involve, or may involve, corrupt conduct of the CEO.

2 Scope

This policy applies:

- if there are grounds to suspect that a complaint may involve corrupt conduct of the CEO of Council;
- to all persons, employees, contractors and Councillors who hold an appointment with Council who may report a complaint in accordance with this policy.

For the purpose of this policy, a complaint includes information or a matter.

3 Legislative Context

Crime and Corruption Act 2001
AS 8001 – 2008 Fraud and Corruption Control
Human Rights Act 2019

4 Policy Details

4.1 Nominated Person

In accordance with section 48A (2) and (3) of the CC Act, Council nominates the Mayor as the nominated person to notify the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) of the complaint and to deal with the complaint under the CC Act.

Once Council nominates a person, the CC Act applies as if a reference about notifying or dealing with the complaint to the CEO is a reference to the nominated person as per section 48A (3) of the CC Act

If a complaint may involve an allegation of corrupt conduct of the CEO, the complaint may be reported to the nominated person. If the nominated person reasonably suspects the complaint may involve corrupt conduct of the CEO, they are to:

- notify the CCC of the complaint; and
- deal with the complaint, subject to the CCC's monitoring role, when:
 - directions issued under section 40 of the CC Act apply to the complaint, if any, or
 - the CCC refers the complaint to the nominated person to deal with (section 46 of the CC Act).

Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Policy no: PL-GV087

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If the CEO reasonably suspects that the complaint may involve corrupt conduct on their part, the CEO must:

- report the complaint to the nominated person as soon as practicable and may also notify the CCC, and
- take no further action to deal with the complaint unless requested to do so by the nominated person.

If directions are issued under section 40 of the CC Act which apply to the complaint, the nominated person is to deal with the complaint and the CEO is to take no further action to deal with the complaint unless requested to do so by the nominated person.

4.2 Detection

Council will maintain an internal control structure to minimise exposure to corruption. The primary mechanism for this control will be within the Fraud and Corruption Control Plan, operating in conjunction with established audit and financial management practices.

4.3 Investigation and resourcing

If the nominated person has responsibility to deal with the complaint (under sections 40 and 46 of the CC Act):

- the Council will ensure sufficient resources are available to the nominated person to enable them to deal with the complaint appropriately, including the engagement of external resources to investigate the complaint;
- the nominated person is to ensure that consultations, if any, for the purpose of securing resources sufficient to deal with the complaint appropriately are confidential and are not disclosed, other than to the CCC, without authorisation under a law of the Commonwealth or the State;
- the nominated person must, at all times, use their best endeavours to act independently, impartially and fairly having regard to:
 - the purposes of the CC Act;
 - the importance of promoting public confidence in the way suspected corrupt conduct in the Council is dealt with; and
 - this policy, the Code of Conduct Policy, Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, the Crime and Corruption Commission's *Fraud and Corruption Control: Guidelines for Best Practice (2005)* and any other relevant policies.

If the nominated person has responsibility to deal with the complaint, they:

- are delegated the same authority, functions and powers as the CEO to direct and control staff of the Council as if the nominated person is the CEO of the Council for the purpose of dealing with the complaint only;
- are delegated the same authority, functions and powers as the CEO to enter into contracts on behalf of the Council for the purpose of dealing with the complaint;
- do not have any authority, function or power that cannot under the law of the Commonwealth or the State be delegated by the Council or the CEO to the nominated person.

Investigations will be carried out in accordance with the Crime and Corruption Commission's Corruption in Focus guidelines, Council's Fraud and Corruption Control [PlanPolicy \(PL-FS065\)](#), [Council's obligations under the Human Rights Act 2019](#) and the rules of procedural fairness or natural justice ~~will apply in all cases~~.

Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

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4.4 Liaison with the CCC

The CEO is to keep the CCC informed of:

- the contact details for the CEO and the nominated person; and
- changes to this policy.

In accordance with section 48A of the *CC Act*, the CEO will consult with the CCC when preparing any policy about how the Council will deal with a complaint that involves or may involve corrupt conduct of the CEO.

Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

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Updated: ~~1226~~ June 20~~2019~~

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5 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Corrupt conduct	As per section 15 of the <i>Crime and Corruption Act 2001</i> .
Nominated person	<p>As per section 4.1 of this Policy, means the person nominated by Council to manage and report complaints of corrupt conduct by the CEO to the CCC. Council has nominated the Mayor of Council. The Mayor's contact details are:</p> <p>Cr Tracy Dobie<u>Vic Pennisi</u> PO Box 26 WARWICK QLD 4370</p> <p>Ph: 4661 0351 Mob: <u>0413-741-6020412 909 882</u> Email: <u>vic.pennisi<tracy.dobie@sdrc.qld.gov.au< u=""></tracy.dobie@sdrc.qld.gov.au<></u></p> <p>All written correspondence should be marked 'Private and confidential' to assist in maintaining confidentiality.</p>

6 Related Documents

- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Investigation Procedure
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Complaints Management Policy

Complaints About A Public Official (Chief Executive Officer) - Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Policy no: PL-GV087

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Related Party Disclosure Policy

Policy Number:	PL-FS025
Department:	Corporate and Community Services
Section:	Finance
Responsible Manager:	Manager Finance & Information Technology
Date Adopted:	23 June 2016
Date to be Reviewed:	23 July-June 2021 ⁰
Date Reviewed:	24 July-June 2020 ¹⁹
Date Rescinded:	N/A

REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision description
26/06/18	1	Annual Review
03/06/20 ¹⁹	2	Annual Review
24/06/19	3	Annual Review – minor amendments to section 5.2.3

Related Party Disclosure Policy

Policy no: PL-FS025

Updated: 24 ~~July 2019~~ June 2020

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1 Policy Background

Councils are required to prepare financial statements annually and these must be prepared in compliance with the Local Government Act, the Local Government Regulation and Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures has been amended to include Public Sector entities from 1 July 2016.

2 Purpose

This policy is to provide guidance for determining who are the related parties of Council, what equates to related party transactions and how to record them.

3 Scope

This policy applies to key management personnel and related parties of Southern Downs Regional Council.

4 Legislative Context

- AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures
- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Part 3, Division 1

5 Policy Details

5.1 Identifying related parties and transactions

5.1.1 Entities related to Council

These are entities that are controlled by Council, jointly controlled by Council or over which Council has significant influence. Payments to these entities will be identified through Council's accounts payable system, with non-monetary transactions reviewed through Council's document management system.

5.1.2 Key Management Personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel have been defined for this policy as elected members, the chief executive officer, directors and managers.

All key management personnel are responsible for self-assessing their own related parties and close family members on an annual basis. All related parties must be included in the self-assessment. Key management personnel are responsible for keeping the Chief Executive Officer updated when any changes to those related parties occur outside of those times.

Related Party Disclosure Policy

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Self-assessment will be recorded on the Related Party Declaration form.

Transactions with related parties will be identified through Council's accounts payable, accounts receivable, applications, payroll and document management systems.

5.1.3 Close family members of KMP

Close family members are people who can be expected to influence or be influenced by key management personnel.

Key management personnel will identify close family members (see definitions) through the self-assessment process.

Transactions with those applicable close family members will be identified through Council's accounts payable, accounts receivable, applications, payroll and document management systems.

5.1.4 Entities controlled or jointly controlled by close family members of key management personnel

Key management personnel will identify all entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by close family members through the self-assessment process.

Transactions with those applicable entities will be identified through Council's accounts payable, accounts receivable, applications, payroll and document management systems.

5.1.5 Types of related party transactions that are to be included

The types of transactions that need to be captured for analysis to be included in the related party disclosure are as follows:

- Grants and subsidy payments made to associated entities of Council
- Non-monetary transactions between Council and associated entities of Council
- Other goods and services provided by Council to associated entities of Council
- Compensation made to key management personnel
- Fees and charges charged to related parties
- Infrastructure contributions and application fees from related parties
- Purchase of materials and services from related parties
- Employee expenses for close family members of key management personnel

5.2 Assessment of Related Party Transactions

5.2.1 Materiality

Once the related party transactions have been identified they will be analysed by the CEO and those found to be of a material nature will be disclosed in the financial statements.

For the purposes of this policy any transaction where the aggregate amount involved will be expected to exceed \$10,000 in any financial year will be disclosed in the annual financial statements.

5.2.2 Ordinary Citizen Transactions

Ordinary citizen transactions (see definitions) are those transactions that are made on an arm's length basis between Council and related parties that an ordinary citizen of the community would transact with the Council. Examples of these are rates payments for properties owned by the related party and dog registration payments.

Council will identify all transactions between Council and related parties. Any that are deemed to be ordinary citizen transactions (see definitions) will not be required to be disclosed in the annual financial statements.

Transactions between Council and related parties that would normally be considered to be ordinary citizen transactions but where the terms and conditions differ from normal practice will not be considered to be an ordinary citizen transaction for the purposes of this policy. These will be disclosed in Council's annual financial statements in the related party disclosure.

5.2.3 Identification of all related party transactions

Capture of all related party transactions will be ~~done-completed~~ to allow a full assessment of related party transactions ~~that are included in the related party disclosure~~. This will ~~also~~ allow Council's external auditors to perform a full analysis of the entire process that results in the related party transaction disclosure ~~in the annual financial statements~~.

5.2.4 Privacy

Council's Finance Manager will endeavour to ensure that only those staff and external auditors that are involved in preparing the related party disclosure will have access to the Related Party Declarations and related party transactions.

5.3 Disclosure

The related party disclosure will include the nature of the relationship and information about transactions, outstanding balances and commitments.

Transactions will only be included in the disclosure within the annual financial statements if the transaction has occurred or there is a commitment that it will occur. The types of disclosures will be relationships, transactions, outstanding balances and commitments.

If an elected member or staff member is affected by the related party disclosure they will be given a copy of the disclosure for comment before the external audit is finalised. All comments will be considered however any deviations from the standard or policy will not be included in the final disclosure. The CEO will give the final approval of what will be contained in the disclosure.

6 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Related parties	A person or entity that is related to the entity that is preparing its financial statements (taken from AASB 124). For the purpose of this policy related parties are entities related to council, key management personnel and close family members of key management personnel of Southern Downs Regional Council.
Key Management Personnel	People that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, either directly or indirectly (taken from AASB 124). For the purposes of this policy key management personnel are elected members, the chief executive officer, directors and managers.
Close family members	Close family members are people who can be expected to influence or be influenced by key management personnel. This includes but is not limited to spouse or partner, children and dependents, children and dependents of spouse or partner and possibly parents and grandparents and other family members. Other family members that would expect to influence or be influenced by KMP need to be included as close family members.
Arm's Length Transaction	A transaction between two related parties that is conducted as if they were unrelated, so that there is no question of conflict of interest.
Ordinary Citizen Transactions	Transactions that are made on an arm's length basis between the Council and key management personnel and their close family members that an ordinary citizen of the community would transact with the Council. This includes but is not limited to payment of rates for properties owned by the key management personnel and dog registration.
Normal Terms and Conditions	The standard rules governing transactions between Council and all external bodies. These can be governed by policies, legislation or accepted business practices.

7 References

~~The~~ State of Queensland, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning fact sheets and examples on Related Party Disclosures



Advertising Expenditure Policy

Policy Number:	PL-GV012
Department:	Executive Services
Section:	Governance
Responsible Manager:	Media and Consultation Officer
Date Adopted:	25 June 2008
Date to be Reviewed:	October 2017 <u>16 June 2021</u>
Date Reviewed:	26 October 2016 <u>17 June 2020</u>
Date Rescinded:	N/A

REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision description
19/09/12	2	Revision
29/04/14	3	Revision
26/10/16	4	Reviewed and Updated.
<u>17/06/20</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Revision</u>

Advertising Expenditure Policy

Policy no: PL-GV012

Updated: ~~26 October 2016~~<Date>17 June 2020 Page 1 - 6

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1 Purpose

This policy provides for the control of expenditure on advertisements placed by Council in various media. The *Local Government Regulation 2012* outlines requirements that must be adhered to in relation to advertising expenditure, which ensures that Council advertising is in accordance with the public interest and Council policies.

The objectives of this policy, in line with accountability, transparency and good governance, are:

- to meet the requirements of the legislation;
- to ensure appropriate authorisation of advertising expenditure; and
- to ensure that Council obtains value for money in placing advertising.

2 Scope

This policy applies to any paid advertisement or notice in any media, to promote goods or services (including facilities) provided by Council.

This policy does *not* apply to:

- advertising for recruitment;
- advertising for the acquisition or disposal of property plant and equipment used, or to be used by Council in its business;
- matters required by legislation to be advertised;
- advertisements for tenders or expressions of interest under Council's Procurement Policy or under the *Local Government Act 2009*; or
- reports published in the media where no payment is made for the report.

3 Legislative Context

- *Local Government Regulation 2012*, s 197 states:

197 Advertising spending

(1) A local government must prepare and adopt a policy about the local government's spending on advertising (an **advertising spending policy**).

(2) The local government may spend money on advertising only—

a) if—

- i. the advertising is to provide information or education to the public; and

ii. the information or education is provided in the public interest; and

(b) in a way that is consistent with the local government's advertising spending policy.

(3) **Advertising** is promoting, for the payment of a fee, an idea, goods or services to the public.

4 Policy Details

Advertising should be used where the purposes of the Council or the benefit of the community is advanced. It should not be used to promote the particular achievements or plans of individual Councillors or groups of Councillors. In particular, advertising should not be used to influence the voters in an election.

4.1 Advertising Expenditure

Council may incur expenditure for advertising only if:

- a) the advertising is for provision of information or education to the public; and
- b) the information or education is provided in the public interest; and
- c) the Authorising Officer has approved the expenditure.

The Authorising Officer must ensure that:

- i. the expenditure is in accordance with this policy; and
 - ii. the cost of the advertisement is appropriate for the audience and provides a benefit to the Council or to the public; and
 - iii. the cost is budgeted for and subsequently accounted appropriately.
- d) the advertising falls into one of the categories set out in section 4.2.

4.2 Acceptable Advertising Expenditure

Acceptable uses of Council money for advertising are:

- a) to advise the public of a new or continuing service or facility provided by the Council; or
- b) to increase the use, or inform the public of a service or facility provided by the Council on a commercial basis with a view to profit; or
- c) to inform the public about endorsed regional marketing, events or activities; or
- d) to advise the public of the decisions made by Council at its meetings; and/or

- e) to request comments or feedback on proposed policies, services, facilities or activities of Council; or
- f) where the advertisement facilitates the administration of the Council.

g)

4.3 Unacceptable Advertising Expenditure

Council must not:

- a) during the period of three months preceding an election of the local government other than a by-election; or during the period after the date of a by-election is advertised until the day of the election:
 - i. place advertisements relating to future plans unless, and only to the extent that those plans have been formally adopted by Council;
 - ii. advertise the activities of Council other than in the manner and form it is customary for the Council to advertise its activities;
 - iii. place advertisements which seek to influence support for particular candidates, groups of candidates or potential candidates in the election;
- b) bear the cost of advertisements featuring one or more Councillors or containing quotations attributed to individual councillors (Note: This does not preclude Councillors appearing in unpaid publicity or other publicity where the cost is not borne by the Council) except those deemed acceptable by Council approval.

5 Definitions

Term	Meaning
Advertising	Promoting to the public an idea, goods or services for which a fee is paid.
Medium	Commonly used media for advertising consists of magazines, newspapers, radio, television and promotional products such as magnets and brochures.
Authorising Officer	Council officer with adequate financial delegation.

6 Related Documents

- Procurement Policy

6. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

In accordance with the provisions of Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public and move 'into Committee' to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

Recommendation

THAT the meeting be closed to the public and move into committee to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with Section 275(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following, as indicated:

6.1 Land Proposals, Stanthorpe

Reason for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential in accordance with section 275(1)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to contracts proposed to be made by Southern Downs Regional Council.