

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

SECTION 3 ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

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ITEM: 5 **ROAD CLOSURES WITHIN WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK****FILE NUMBER:** GR080/050 PT01/CSV

REPORT:

Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 9 May 1995 considered a report recommending the closure of two public roads within Wollemi National Park and resolved that the information be received. The report was prompted by a request from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Loop Line Road runs off the Putty Road and traverses to the Parish of Angorawa and the Parish of Mellong which generally follows the line of the New Yard Creek and Big Angorawa Creek. The Howes Swamp Road runs off the Putty Road and generally follows the line of Howes, swamp and Waterhole Creek. A plan of the proposed closures shall be displayed at the meeting.

The original applicant, being the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, has again written asking that the matter be reconsidered by Council outlining the following issues:-

1. Large sections of the road reserves do not physically exist as formed roads and have never been constructed.
2. The Northern Road Reserve follows Mellong and Howes Swamp Creeks. To provide actual access along the reserve would be physically impossible.
3. Where roads do exist, they often deviate from the reserve, encroaching into the Park.
4. With the exception of a few short sections of track existing Putty Road, neither of the road reserves are in regular use by the public or provide access to features of interest.
5. Those sections of road that are in use are in extremely poor condition and require extensive works to satisfy public safety and environmental requirements.
6. The current use of the tracks is primarily for rubbish and abandoned vehicle dumping and bush rock theft.
7. An extensive network of public access routes into the Park from Putty Road already exist and are maintained by the Service. Public access roads in close proximity to the road reserves include Bob Turners Track, Culoul Range Track and Grassy Hill Track. All these tracks have recently been upgraded, provide access to features of interest and are not reserved roads.
8. Closure of the road reserves does not preclude use of the existing sections of track for fire management purposes. Closure of the reserves will allow the opportunity for rationalisation of the extensive track network and upgrading of strategically important fire control tracks.

Photographs taken by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service shall be displayed at the meeting.

A number of public submissions were received mostly from four wheel drive clubs and enthusiasts, who objected to the closures on the grounds that the tracks provided recreation venues. In addition, a petition of signatories was also received requesting that the roads remain as public roads.

Having regard to the general poor condition of the two public roads, and the subsequent issues of liability in regard to public safety and to the undertaking by National Parks and Wildlife Service to continue to allow access by bush fire vehicles, the application to close these roads is supported.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council, as roads authority, apply to the Department of Land and Water Conservation for the closure of the public roads generally known as the Loop Line Road and Howes Swamp Road which traverse the Wollemi National Park, through the Parishes of Angorawa and Mellong.
2. All necessary documents be completed under the Common Seal of Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

FN:OG822NBX.C04

****** END OF ITEM 5 ******

ITEM: 6 GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**FILE NUMBER:** GC280/004 PT03; GC280/010 PT02/CSV**REPORT:**

Council has requested a report concerning the possibility of no longer conducting the General Purpose Committee by day and alternatively having two Committee Meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of the same week each starting at 7.30p.m. on the basis of the first evening consisting of a Development and Planning Committee and the second to conduct the Infrastructure and Organisation and Resources Committees.

Under the present Committee structure and program the General Purpose Committee comprises the whole of the Council and meets on eleven (11) occasions during the calendar year. This has been the case since the inception of Hawkesbury Council following the amalgamation of Windsor and Colo Local Government Authorities in 1980. The various Councils have continued with this program as it has provided sufficient time to embrace the significant degree of public participation which occurs, particularly in relation to the Planning and Development Committee and has also provided the opportunity to conduct site inspections generally on the same day as the Committee Meeting.

It is common within the Local Government industry for Councils to conduct their respective Committee Meetings during the evening. By random survey of a number of Authorities the degree of public participation and incidence of site inspections varies considerably, however, where evening meetings are conducted, it would appear those Councils that do promote site inspections and on-site meetings with applicants and objectors usually do so on the weekend.

In the situation of evening meetings being conducted there are two options available to Council in terms of Committee membership. They are, various Councillors being appointed to each of the Committees or membership comprising the whole of the Council. Certainly by tradition the Council, as a whole has formed the General Purpose Committee. If Committee membership was divided there is the potential for the agenda to be reconsidered and debated at length when before Council, particularly by members that were not involved on that Committee. Certainly, the philosophy to date of Hawkesbury City Council has been one of total involvement and team work on each of the General Purpose Committees. This attitude may well have emerged and is reflective of the area being undivided in terms of representation.

As an option and given the fact that the General Purpose Committee Meetings usually are conducted over the duration of several hours, Council could consider commencing its General Purpose Committee Meeting say later in the afternoon e.g. say 4 or 5p.m. and with the application of the adopted time frame for presentations being applied the meeting could be concluded that evening by a reasonable hour. However, the Council would then need to determine when it could undertake appropriate site inspections.

In terms of available technologies to assist in the meeting process, it is considered that there are opportunities available in audio visual presentations, particularly in relation to Development Applications and other items on the planning and development agenda.

However, it may be recalled that this was introduced some time ago, however, was not pursued as the Council felt that it was still appropriate in certain instances to visit the particular site and hear first hand from applicants/objectors as to their particular points of concern. In terms of video conferencing, this is something that may be further examined as the need may arise.

Whilst there has been some concern expressed as to the time required to complete a General Purpose Committee agenda, and the fact that it may conflict in terms of other day time commitments, the general feed back from a number of elected members has endorsed the current routine in that it provides an adequate time frame to complete all normal business including the degree of public participation that regularly occurs, as well as undertaking the necessary site inspections etc. Should the Council feel that it would like to take the opportunity to trial an alternative routine, this could be done over a period of say three months so that the impact and workability can be assessed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information concerning General Purpose Committee Meetings be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

FN:OG822NCX.C03

****** END OF ITEM 6 ******

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

Meeting Date: 22 August 1995

Item: 7

ITEM: 7 MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - JULY 1995**FILE NUMBER:** GF011/004 PT04/FNC**REPORT:**A. CASH EXPENDITURE WARRANT 7/1995SUMMARY - Accounts Paid

General Fund Nos.	36424 -	36961	10,317,316.32
Trust Fund Nos.	4407 -	4425	2,593,262.00
			12,910,578.32

CERTIFICATE BY RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

This summary Warrant presented above is fully supported by Vouchers and Invoices which have been duly certified as to the receipt of goods and/or rendition of services and as to prices, computations and costings and the amounts shown were due for payment. The detailed Warrant is available upon request.

L M Weatherstone
Divisional Manager Community Management and Finance

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCESMeeting Date: **22 August 1995**Item: **7****B. STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AND GENERAL MANAGER'S CERTIFICATE**

STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31 JULY 1995

GENERAL FUND	CR. 541,534.29
TRUST FUND	CR. 92,155.90

CR. 633,690.19

FORM 2

GENERAL

Balance - Cash Account as at 1 July 1995	1,745,051.18 CR
Receipts for period ended 31 July 1995	12,009,156.56 DR

10,264,105.38 DR

Payments for period ended 31 July 1995	10,331,507.32 CR
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67,401.94 CR

Limit of overdraft arranged with bank	\$800,000.00
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RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that the Cash Book and Bank Statements have been reconciled in all funds as at 31 July 1995.

L M Weatherstone
Divisional Manager Community Management and Finance

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

Meeting Date: 22 August 1995

Item: 7

C. INVESTMENTS

Hereunder is the list of amounts invested:

Bank Bills

Interest

<u>Period</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Interest A/C</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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Term Deposits

56 Days	31.08.95	7.73%	General Fund	770,000.00
56 Days	31.08.95	7.73%	Sewerage Fund	1,230,000.00
77 Days	01.09.95	7.70%	General Fund	780,000.00
77 Days	01.09.95	7.70%	General Fund	300,000.00
365 Days	15.09.95	7.80%	General Fund	1,000,000.00
92 Days	20.09.95	7.71%	General Fund	610,000.00
92 Days	20.09.95	7.71%	General Fund	1,490,000.00
56 Days	20.09.95	7.63%	General Fund	1,000,000.00
56 Days	20.09.95	7.63%	General Fund	1,000,000.00
60 Days	26.09.95	7.60%	General Fund	500,000.00
97 Days	03.10.95	7.73%	Sewerage Fund	2,000,000.00
396 Days	09.10.95	7.35%	General Fund	3,500,000.00
132 Days	09.11.95	7.35%	General Fund	800,000.00
132 Days	09.11.95	7.80%	General Fund	200,000.00
140 Days	17.11.95	7.81%	General Fund	1,800,000.00
216 Days	18.12.95	8.00%	Sewerage Fund	1,000,000.00
181 Days	11.12.95	7.80%	General Fund	660,000.00
181 Days	11.12.95	7.80%	General Fund	163,680.16
181 Days	11.12.95	7.80%	Sewerage Fund	976,319.84

Australian Treasury Corporation

03.08.95	5.31%	Workers' Comp Board	200,000.00
03.08.95	7.26%	Workers' Comp Board	750,000.00

Short Term Investments	General Fund	2,810,000.00
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\$23,540,000.00

RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I hereby certify that the investments listed above are the total of all money that have been invested and that the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's investment policies.

L M Weatherstone

Divisional Manager Community Management and Finance

RECOMMENDATION:

The information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

FN:OG822NCX.F01

****** END OF ITEM 7 ******