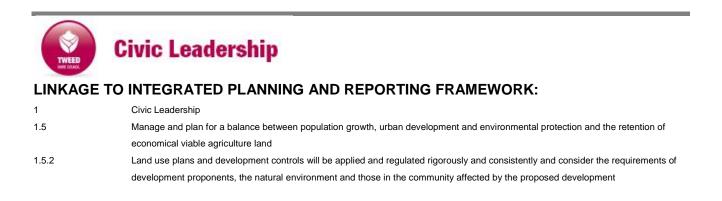
TITLE: [PR-CM] Planning Reform Unit - Priorities Work Plan 2014/15

1 of 7

SUBMITTED BY: Planning Reform Unit



SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report has been prepared to provide Tweed Councillors with the option of resolving to identify their strategic town planning priorities, which will assist in the formulation of a work plan for the Planning Reform Unit.

A Councillor workshop was held on 15 April 2014 to discuss options for allocating resources to projects based on their perceived benefit and their likelihood of them being delivered within reasonable time horizons. This preceded a further workshop on 22 May at which a priority led assessment matrix was tabled, along with a draft Project Plan for 2014-15.

Councillors demonstrated a preference for a move away from the previous format of work programmes, which centred on timeframe based resource allocation, which had been used since 2009. This was in recognition that projects with an apparent greater benefit to the Tweed community were often being delayed while lesser benefiting/value projects were resourced for no other reason than being commenced earlier in time.

A meaningful work plan is an essential project management tool. It assists staff with the allocation of finite resources as well providing a useful aid for advising the broader community about the Council's strategic planning priorities. They may also assist prospective applicants determine time associated risks with their own project forecasting.

A work plan based on priority opposed to first in-time is amenable to change and better signifies Council's intention to deliver outcomes. It is more flexible but inherently less certain for proponents as there must be a limit to the quantum of high priority projects meaning that marginal projects may be downgraded as resources are redirected or allocated.

This report presents a strategic planning project prioritisation plan based on feedback from the elected Council, which manifests the key areas or project of priority to the Council. A Work Plan 2014-15 representing the Organisation's Divisional resource response to the Council's priorities is also provided. Both are recommended for adoption and endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the:

- 1. Council's strategic planning project prioritisation plan detailed in Table 1 through to Table 4, as detailed in the report, is adopted.
- 2. Planning Reform Unit's priority project Work Plan 2014-15, identified as Table 5 within the report, is endorsed.

REPORT:

Background

As part of the on-going project management of Council's strategic town planning resources the Planning Reform Unit's Work Program is reviewed annually and where appropriate revised to reflect and 'match' resource-to-commitment.

First adopted in June 2009 and employed successively up to and including June 2014 it has been effectively utilised to manage expectations arising from speculative requests and investigations as well as genuine development strategic/opportunity proposals arising either through Council or from the private sector.

The major challenge for the work programmes has been the inflexibility inherent with the allocation of resources on a first-in-time basis. This arises in part because it raises an expectation with the project proponent that once their project is 'in' and resourced it will remain so for the duration of the project. Projects that are later-in-time, despite any apparent greater net benefit, are then forced to wait until resources become available, and this has given rise to significant tension between the interests and priorities of the proponent and the Council. The net result has been a gradual and unsustainable increase in the number of projects expected to be resourced and delivered by the Planning Reform Unit. The effective result is that projects are fundamentally treated as having the same level of priority, which in totality of the quantum of projects to resources available means they each rank relatively low, and that higher priority allocation is typically reactive, short-lived, and responsive only to matters of conflict or complaint.

Prior to preparing this report a Councillor workshop was held on 15 April 2014 to discuss options for allocating resources to projects based on their perceived benefit and their likelihood of being delivered and within a reasonable timeframe. Councillors were briefed on sixteen project reports and were provided with an overview of each project, the time that each project had been with the Council, the technical issues, progress and an opinion on the proponent's and Council's performance with regard to progressing a project. Evident from the project overview is that many projects had been with the Council's control. Reasons for want of progress are many and varied and driven equally by many factors; economic, technical, communication, willingness, public reception and the like. No matter the cause, the translation of Council's resource commitments to tangible planning outcomes has consistently yielded less than expected returns.

Through detailed discussion it became quite apparent the format of the Planning Reform Unit's work program was not delivering the right information to enable the Council's Operational Division to allocate and reassign resources. The first-in-time allocation of resources was proving inflexible essentially locking valuable resources to projects that for many reasons, including the public interest, are not warranting of that commitment.

Preceding a further workshop on 22 May the 15 April workshop was decisive for the Councillors because it was clear their expectations of strategic planning were not being achieved. Their clear preference for a priority assessment of projects led to the development of a priority based assessment matrix and this was tabled at 22 May workshop, along with a draft project Work Plan 2014-15. Both the matrices and draft Work Plan were presented and discussed in detail at the workshop. Important to the development of the matrices is the acknowledgement that it is a tool of the elected council for representing their priorities, opposed to those of the Council Officers who recast the priorities into their resource based work plan.

Priority Planning Projects

Tables 1 to 4 below have been development for and in consultation with Tweed Councillors, and reflect the current list of projects and their priority to the Council.

In the left column to each table is the list of projects, these have been categorised under the headings of; LEPs, DCPs, Locality Plans, and Strategies. The second column in each table reflects the level of priority to be assigned to the respective project from the date the Work Plan is adopted, if at all, to the date when the priority level is amended by Council resolution, if any. The third column to each table shows the number of projects by priority category under each heading, and the column to the right is a guide to the number of projects that the Planning Reform Unit can reasonably be expected to manage efficiently within current Unit resourcing capacity.

Table 1 - Strategic plannin	g project prioritisation	plan (LEPs)
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LEPs	PP10/0002 Marana Street	PRIORITY 2	Project Count				
	PP10-0007 Mooball Village(Perlo)	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 1	6			
	DA10/0737 s72J BP Chinderah Extension (South Bound)	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 2	8	Project Workplar	Target:	
	PP10/0005 Extension of Hundred Hills Murwillumbah	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 3	6	PRIORITY 1	4	×
	PP10-0004 Enterprise Avenue	PRIORITY 3	BLANK	Q	PRIORITY 2	6	×
	PP10-0006 225 Terranora Road	PRIORITY 3	Total	20	PRIORITY 3	4	×
	PP11/0002 Pottsville Employment Land	PRIORITY 1				14	
	PP11/0005 Club Banora (Leisure Drive)	PRIORITY 2					
	PP12/0001 Terranora Road (Stones)	PRIORITY 2					
	PP12/0002 Mooball Village (No.2)	PRIORITY 3					
	PP12/0003 Palms Village Caravan Park (Dry Dock Rd)	PRIORITY 2					
	PP12/0004 Wardrop Valley Employment	PRIORITY 3					
	PP13/0001 Border Park (Bunnings)	PRIORITY 1					
	PP13/0002 Palm Lake Resort (Banora Point)	PRIORITY 2					
	PP13/0003 Chinderah Service Station (North Bound)	PRIORITY 1					
	PP13/0004 Wooyung (Neff)	PRIORITY 2					
	PP14/0001 Coastal Villages	PRIORITY 1					
	PP14/0002 Lot 490 (Kingscliff)	PRIORITY 1					
	PP14/0003 Elrond Drive Kingscliff	PRIORITY 2					
	PP14/0004 Environmental Zones Review	PRIORITY 1					

Table 2 - Strategic planning project prioritisation plan (DCPs)

DCPs	Tweed DCP (maintenance review)	PRIORITY 2	Project Count					
	Mooball DCP (facilitating)	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 1	4	Project Workplan Target:		rget:	
	Standard Instrument DCP	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	5	PRIORITY	1	2	×
	Border Park (Bunnings) DCP	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3	2	PRIORITY	2	4	2
	Fingal Head (Heights) DCP Review	PRIORITY 1	BLANK	7	PRIORITY	3	2	4
	Urban Agriculture	PRIORITY 1	Total	11			8	
	Rural Tourism DCP	PRIORITY 2						
	Pottsville Employment DCP (facilitating)	PRIORITY 2						
	Heritage DCP	PRIORITY 1						
	Landscaping DCP	PRIORITY 3						
	Business Park/Industrial DCP	PRIORITY 3						

Table 3 - Strategic planning project prioritisation plan (Locality Plans)

Locality Plans	Chinderah Locality Plan	PRIORITY 2				
	Tyalgum Locality Plan	PRIORITY 2	Project Count	Project Workplan	Target:	
	Kingscliff Locality Plan	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 1 1	PRIORITY 1	1	1
	Fingal Head	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 2 3	PRIORITY 2	1	×
	Kielvale Locality Plan	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 3 3	PRIORITY 3	2	2
	Chillingham Locality Plan	PRIORITY 3	BLANK		4	
	Bray Park Locality Plan	PRIORITY 3	Total 7			

Table 4 - Strategic planning project prioritisation plan (Strategies)

Strategies	Local Growth Mngt Strategy	PRIORITY 2				
	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study / Management Plan	PRIORITY 1	Project Workplan T	arget:		
	Architectural Roof Features/Key Sites	PRIORITY 3	PRIORITY 1 4	PRIORITY 1	4	-
	Rural Land Strategy	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2 2	PRIORITY 2	1	2
	FNCRS Review	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3 1	 PRIORITY 3	1	4
	Scenic Iconic Landscape Strategy	PRIORITY 1	BLANK		6	
	Rural Villages	PRIORITY 1	Total 7			
			Project Count			
			PRIORITY 1 15			
			PRIORITY 2 18			
			PRIORITY 3 12			
			BLANK			
			Total 45			

Planning Reform Unit - Work Plan 2014-15

Utilising the priority project information from Tables 1 to 4, Table 5 represents a work plan of resourcing estimates for the period 2014-2015. This is derived from the priority status of each project and combined with an estimate of how much resourcing would be required to progress a project based on an assessment of its, benefit to the community, its technical complexity, and proponent's track record.

Planning Proposals (PPs)		CSP Code	Strategic Policy		CSP Code	General Tasks	
Total (weighting)	13.5		Total (w)	20.0		Total (w)	7.56
	đ					Briefing notes, workshops & presentations,	
PP11/0002 Pottsville Employment			Standard Instrument DCP	d l		Edu/training or similar (public & internal)	lh -
PP13/0001 Bunnings	đ		Fingal Head (Heights) DCP	d l		DAU/BAU Support	di l
PP13/0003 Chinderah S/Station	đ		Urban Agriculture DCP	đ		Other interdivisional support	al
PP14//0001 Coastal Villages	di 🖌		Heritage DCP	al I		General Corro, enquiries, GIS & s149 support	al I
PP14/0002 Lot 490	đ		DCP Maintenance	aí		Goods & Services Procurement	al
PP14/0004 Env. Zones Review	đ		Mooball DCP	đ		Contract Preparation & Management	lh.
PP10/0002 Marana Street	đ		Border Park (Bunnings) DCP	al		Grant & Funding Applications	lh
PP10/0007 Mooball (Perlo)	đ		Rural Tourism	đ		NSW Housing Monitor / SEPP Compliance GIS	d la
PP11/0005 Club Banora	đ		Pottsville Employment Land DCP	đ		Student / University Programs assistance	h
PP12/0001 Terranora (Stones)	di		Landscaping DCP	đ		Heritage advisor - management	al l
PP12/0003 Palms Village	d		Business Park/Industrial DCP	đ			
PP13/0002 Palm Lake	đ					Total ALL Task	41.0
PP13/0004 Wooyung	đ		Kingscliff Locality Plan	đ			
PP14/0003 Elrond Avenue	đ		ACHM Plan	đ			
DA10/0737 BP Chinderah	đ		Rural Lands Strategy	đ			
PP10/0004 Hundred Hills	d		Rural Villages Strategy	ď		Total Resource Allocation 2014-1	5
PP10/Enterprise Avenue	đ		Scenic Landscape Strategy	đ		138.5%	
PP10/0006 225 Terranora Rd	đ		Chinderah Locality Plan	đ		Fluctuation Range 9	2% 147%
PP12/0002 Mooball (No2)	đ		Tyalgum Locality Plan	đ		Descurre Committee out hu Dusiest (
PP12/0004 Wardrop Valley	dl		Fingal Locality Plan	đ		Resource Commitment by Project A	Irea
			LGMS	al			
			FNCRS Review	đ			
			Kielvale Locality Plan	đ		18.0%	
			Chillingham Locality Plan	A		≚ Planı 44.7% Prop	ning osals (PPs)
			Chimingham Locality Plan	đ			
			Bray Park Locality Plan	đ		Strat	egic Policy
			Design Comp Guidelines	đ		75.8%	
						Sene	eral Tasks

Table 5 - Project Work Plan 2014-15

With regard to the resources presently available within the Planning Reform Unit it is estimated that the Unit would be running at capacity with the extensive level of projects and corresponding resource demand arising from the Work Plan in Table 5. At the bottom right corner of the table is an estimate of commitment and this takes into account the ebb and flow inherent in the start-stop nature or strategic planning work; where resource commitment is projected to fluctuate between 90% to 145%, and which is highly sensitive to additional demands.

What this will most likely translate too is a channelling of resources too Priority 1 projects when required, and for the duration of that demand. During these periods other lower priority projects may receive minimal or no resourcing and their advancement may be temporarily ceased. However, resourcing a Priority 1 project should result, providing all other conditions are met, with the project being completed sooner, enabling more resources to be committed across the lower priority projects or lower priority projects being elevated up the priority scale. This may be influenced by future demand.

With a continuum of new projects it is likely that some projects may never be elevated above their present priority assignment. This may be viewed several ways, but ultimately the level of resourcing is linked to three key overriding factors: the overall benefit of the project to the broader community ranked against all others, the reasonable likelihood of the project actually succeeding, and the ability and track record of the proponent to actually deliver an outcome within a reasonable time frame. For the reasons highlighted above there is an imperative for the Council to prioritise projects and for resources to be allocated to those projects perceived to have the greatest benefit to the Tweed.

OPTIONS:

- 1. Adopt Tables 1-4 and in so doing express the collective view of the Council on the priority level of projects currently being managed by the Planning Reform Unit, and in association endorse the draft Work Plan 2014-15, or
- 2. Amend or defer either or both the table(s) of priorities or draft Work Plan.

Option 1 is recommended.

CONCLUSION:

There is an essential need for Council to indicate its collective preference with regard to the strategic planning priorities within the Tweed Shire, and without which the Operational Division of the Council has no overriding guidance as to where the Planning Reform Unit's scare resources should best be allocated.

It is well known and understood that the strategic planning priorities of the Council are established by the elected body, whereas the allocation of resources remains an operational activity under the jurisdiction of the General Manager and their delegates. These two functions are each a dependant on the other for the efficient and effective delivery of policy that can effectuate tangible outcomes.

Using the information gathered from the Councillor workshops held in April and May, a list of projects and their relative strategic priority has been compiled, and is used to form the basis of an operational work plan. Both are presented in the body of this report.

The rationale behind the change in approach from a work plan based on first-in-time to one of priority is that it better defines the areas of strategic planning where the Council believes the public interest would be best served. This may originate through resourcing projects that have an environmental, social or economic benefit for the greater community, over individual interests or those of a small class or group. This correlates with the notion that public resources should be used to obtain and secure the best and highest public benefit.

Inevitable with a priority based work plan is that in times of high demand for scarce resources projects perceived or with an apparent lower level of public benefit relative to others will remain the least resourced. This may be seen as unfair by their proponent because they perceive their project to be justified irrespective of the level of benefit it may bring to the broader community. It is the first-in-time basis of the previous work plan methodology that has provided a greater opportunity to access resources for those proponents however, it is has been established that in terms of managing finite resources that are under considerable demand the most appropriate way for achieving the greater good of the community is to design a strategy that prioritises the public interest over any other interest. Council has recognised the need to prioritise projects for that purpose. In doing so the Council is responding to its statutory and civic duties as it endeavours to allocate its scarce public resources during these continuing periods of high demand.

The rationale for the prioritisation of strategic planning projects is sound. It provides clear guidance to the community and development industry about where the Council priorities are for the present time. It also provides a clear direction that operation Divisions of the council can use to define work plans for the allocation of their resources.

Tables 1-5 comprising the strategic planning project prioritisation plan and the Work Plan 2014-15 are recommended for adoption and endorsement respectively.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Corporate Policy Not Applicable

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

Escalation of strategic planning strategies and the introduction of new strategies may have implications for the long term financial plan if they require funding. At this stage and based on the Work Plan 2014-15 detailed in this report no additional funding is being sought.

c. Legal:

There are no apparent legal matters arising from the prioritisation of projects or from the Work Plan 2014-15.

d. Communication/Engagement:

Not Applicable.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nil.