REPLACEMENT REPORT

REPORTS THROUGH THE GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

[GM-CM] Stronger Country Communities Funding 3

SUBMITTED BY: Financial Services



Making decisions with you

We're in this together

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

Making decisions with you

2.2 Engagement

222 Communications - To inform, educate and engage the public about Council and community activities.

ROLE: Collaborator

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) was established by the NSW Government to help deliver local infrastructure projects to regional communities. The objective of the fund is to provide the kind of infrastructure that improves the lives of local residents.

Council was granted a total of \$1,586,376 for four separate projects in Round One of the SCCF.

The Deputy Premier has advised Council in writing that the adjusted Round Two funding allocation for Tweed Shire Council is \$1,984,665 split between the electorates of Tweed and Lismore.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council submits the following projects in priority order for 2018 (round 2) funding under the Stronger Country Communities Fund for the Tweed **Electorate:**

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REPORT:

The Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) was established by the NSW Government to help deliver local infrastructure projects to regional communities. The objective of the fund is to provide the kind of infrastructure that improves the lives of local residents.

The NSW Government has doubled the funding total for Round Two to \$200 million along with an increased focus on local sporting infrastructure.

Opening on 12 March 2018, Round Two will see a single round of applications for all local government areas in regional and rural NSW.

Council was granted a total of \$1,586,376 for four separate projects in Round One of the SCCF.

Each eligible council has a specified allocation of funding committed to projects in their area. The Deputy Premier has advised Council in writing that the adjusted Round Two funding allocation for Tweed Shire Council is \$1,984,665 split between the Tweed and Lismore electorates. This amount is effectively double the Round One allocation, minus the additional amount that was committed to in Round One.

Councils have been asked to make multiple applications with a combined total value that exceeds their funding allocation.

To reflect the total funding split of \$100 million for general community amenity and \$100 million for local sport infrastructure projects, councils are required to submit sport projects that total at least 50 per cent of their total Round Two allocation. If a council does not submit sport projects that total on or above this quota, their full allocation may not be committed.

Where a sports project is seeking over \$1 million in grant funding, a council must obtain a letter of support from the relevant NSW state sporting organisation.

Individual project applications must seek a minimum of \$50,000. Applications seeking between \$50,000 and \$1 million can be for the entire project cost as a grant. Projects requiring grant funding of over \$1 million will only be considered where there is a minimum financial co-contribution towards the project of 25 per cent of the total grant amount.

The financial co-contribution to the project can be from council or other funding sources, but must be confirmed.

Councils will be required to provide evidence of community consultation on the projects they submit. This could include information in the council's Community Strategic Plan and other plans or processes that show how community support for projects has been captured. If projects are brought forward to a council by community groups but are not submitted, an independent review process can be requested to ensure councils have given the project appropriate consideration.

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ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Stronger Country Communities Fund supports projects that deliver local community infrastructure or sporting facilities. Projects must be for:

- construction of new or refurbishment/upgrade of existing community infrastructure
- construction of new or refurbishment/upgrade of existing local sporting infrastructure
- capital works related to street beautification and public 'place making'.

The fund guidelines provide the following examples of eligible projects:

General community amenity, place making and street beautification	Local sporting infrastructure
Community halls	Amenities for sports participants and spectators
Community kitchens, barbecue and recreation facilities	Oval or court lighting, sports field fencing or surfacing
Playgrounds and parks	Sports field and golf course drainage and irrigation
Murals or community art instalments	Indoor sports facilities
Toilet blocks	Sports clubhouses, change rooms and grandstands
Town and tourism signage	Court resurfacing including synthetic surfaces
Libraries	Skate parks and mountain bike tracks
Seating, planting boxes, paving	Community fitness stations (fixed)
Shade cloth and pergolas	Aquatic facilities and pools
Memorials or statues	Accessibility upgrades, walking or cycle pathways

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects must not:

- be located outside an eligible Local Government Area
- be exclusively for planning activities
- be for the maintenance or construction of local roads or other core service infrastructure works that are the ordinary responsibility of council or other level of government
- seek retrospective funding to cover any project component that is already complete/underway
- be for any works that have already been approved and allocated funding in councils forward capital works program
- seek grant funding for ongoing staff or operational costs
- seek grant funding under \$50,000
- be for a general works package without specific scope, costs and location (e.g. 'Upgrade lighting at sports ovals' without identifying the work required, number of sites or the locations)
- be for events, marketing, branding, advertising, or product promotion
- provide direct commercial and/or exclusive private benefit to an individual or business.

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Examples of ineligible types of projects from Round One include:

- aerodrome refuelling facility
- master planning for adventure trails
- truck wash facility
- causeway infrastructure
- training and film production.

KEY DATES

Round Two applications open for all councils	9am, Monday 12 March 2018
Round Two applications close for all councils	5pm, Friday 4 May 2018
Eligibility, assessment and approval process	May to August 2018
Announcement of successful projects	August 2018

POSSIBLE PROJECTS

Projects identified for the Tweed Electorate in alphabetical order to date for consideration are:

General community amenity, place making and street beautification (* denotes Council's 25% contribution (for those projects over \$1 million) is not included in the Long Term Financial Plan)

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Banora Point Community Centre - Solar plus battery storage	\$65,000
Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse Revitalisation	\$990,000
Kingscliff Library - Solar	\$20,000
New Animal Pound and Rehoming Centre	\$1,350,000
*Ocean Going Charter Vessel Wharf	\$1,725,000
Playground shade Program	\$240,000
South Tweed Community Hall - Solar plus battery storage	\$34,000
Streetlight Bulk Replacement to LED	\$2,960,000
Tweed Coast Koala Holding Facility.	\$261,000
Tweed Heads Civic and Cultural Centre Plaza and Social Enterprise Café	\$1,130,000
Tweed Heads SES Headquarters	\$1,600,000
Tweed Heads South Pool - Solar	\$65,000
Tweed Regional Accessible Park and Playground (Stage 1)	\$1,500,000
Tweed Riverbank stabilisation	\$900,000
Upgrade and expansion of Pottsville Beach Community Hall and market	\$300-500,000

Local sporting infrastructure

Local sporting initiastructure		
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUIRED	
*Arkinstall Park / Tweed River High School	\$5,000,000	
Barry Sheppard Sportsfields Upgrade	\$350,000	
Beach access upgrades (Ambrose Brown Park, Casuarina Beach, Pottsville Beach)	\$390,000	
Casuarina Sportsfield Lighting	\$120,000	

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DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Cycleways (up to the value of available funds)	\$992,145
Exercise trail stations, such as those installed along Marine Parade, Kingscliff (up to the value of available funds)	\$992,145
Fingal Headland boardwalk and whale watching platform	\$600,000
Kingscliff Skate Park/youth precinct	\$995,000
Kingscliff Sport & Recreation Complex (Stage 1)	\$2,000,000
Kingscliff Tennis Club - Court refurbishment	\$130.000
Philp Parade walkway and boardwalk (South Tweed Heads)	\$565,000
Piggabeen Sportsfields facilities Upgrade	\$500,000
Pottsville tennis Club - amenities roof replacement and club extension	\$150,000
Tweed Heads South Aquatic Centre - Program Pool Upgrade	\$150,000
Youth recreation facilities - Quota Park Tweed Heads	\$90,000

Projects identified for the Lismore Electorate in alphabetical order to date for consideration are:

General community amenity, place making and street beautification

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Downtown Gallery Trial	\$50,000
Knox Park Entry Plaza	\$600,000
Living Arts for All – Murwillumbah Auditorium	\$990,000
Mural Wall – Treasures of the Tweed	\$150,000
Murwillumbah Community Centre - Solar	\$114,000
Murwillumbah Community Centre design improvements	\$200,000
Museum and Records Storage, Honeyeater Circuit - Solar plus battery storage	\$50,000
Playground shade Program	\$240,000
Queen St toilet block reuse conversion	\$62,000
Streetlight Bulk Replacement to LED	\$2,960,000
Tweed Riverbank stabilisation	\$900,000

Local sporting infrastructure

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Cycleways (up to the value of available funds)	\$992,145
Field lighting - Rabjones Oval Murwillumbah	\$200,000
Murwillumbah Hockey Centre - lighting of field 2	\$250,000
Replacement of grandstand roof - Stan Sercombe field	\$300,000
Murwillumbah	ψ300,000

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Murwillumbah Community Centre design improvements

To review the functionality of the existing centre to accommodate services displaced by the recent flood event

REPLACEMENT REPORT

Knox Park Entry Plaza2

The Knox Park Masterplan was adopted by Council in 2015. Stage 1 of the implementation of the plan including the youth precinct and adventure playground was completed in 2016 and funding has been provided for the construction of a new central public amenities.

This project advances the implementation of the masterplan with the construction of a plaza

Queen St toilet block reuse conversion

Restoration of Heritage aspects and repairs to make fully operational.

Tweed Heads Civic and Cultural Centre Plaza and Social Enterprise Cafe

The project is a refurbishment of existing infrastructure at Tweed Heads Central Plaza and Auditorium. The major renewal has four key parts; (1) the construction of outdoor an amphitheatre for cultural activities, (2) a social enterprise café to provide jobs, stimulate the local economic, and address social issues, (3) the provision of universal access to comply

Upgrade and expansion of Pottsville Beach Community Hall and market and Holiday Park parking area

To ensure safety for this highly utilised community hall by repairing the floor, improving traffic management on site, and the expanding the hall to include additional meeting and backstage facilities

Tweed Regional Accessible Park and Playground

The proposal is to construct a regional park and playground based on universal design principles that enables full accessibility and social inclusion to all members of the community regardless of age, ability or circumstances.

Objectives

- Playground and Park designed and constructed using the principles of universal design providing access and inclusion for all members of the community as well as for visitors to the area.
- Provide facilities, play spaces and recreational environments that cater to the needs of people with a range of physical and cognitive challenges.
- Provide a destination park attracting visitors to the park and surrounding businesses from across the shire and from across the Queensland border.
- Inclusion of connecting and continuous pathways, outdoor furniture, shade and other fittings such as drinking fountains, play equipment, landscape features and both natural and constructed sensory elements specifically designed for universal accessibility.
- allow for the inclusion of active and passive spaces, children's play and areas for older visitors

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Mural Wall – Treasures of the Tweed

The Treasures of the Tweed is a public mural along the Murwillumbah levee wall which celebrates the Tweed Shire's vast biodiversity. Initiated in 2008, older parts of the Treasures of the Tweed mural need restoration. Once restoration is complete, a protective coating needs to be applied to preserve and protect this unique piece of public art. The mural is one of the sites of the Murwillumbah Art Trails event held in May each year. It will be a key site in the Art Precinct App that will be developed with this funding.

Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse Revitalisation

Works to the Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse concrete slab forming the public viewing platform and roof of the emergency communications centre which has been severely degraded.

In addition to the works proposed for the Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse the team has identified a second local monument that would complement the works being completed at the lighthouse. The iconic border marker, designed by Rodney Spooner to commemorate the Centenary of Federation, symbolises an unobstructed doorway between the two states and is located at the site of the early fence and gates as a reminder of that historical period. This project shall work to link the revitalised memorial with the historic border markers.

Ocean Going Charter Vessel Wharf

A site exists within Tweed Heads that should be considered for development of a specialised facility for the berthing of small ocean going vessels. In particular, this site may be of benefit to commercial whale watching operators.

The site is located adjacent to Wharf Street.

The site is comprised of three lots, being Council administered Crown Land. The combined waterway frontage is approximately 75 metres. The presence of old heavy duty bollards and piles indicate that the site would have once been a working wharf. The area is currently used as informal car parking for the neighbouring restaurant. A cycle path passes through the site and it is popular for recreational fishing.

The site would likely permit development of three or four finger pontoons to accommodate vessels, in an alignment similar to the trawler wharf located nearby.

SES/RFS Headquarters

Purpose built facilities that provide for the current and future residents of the Tweed.

New Animal Pound and Rehoming Centre

It is proposed to relocate Council's existing Animal Pound facilities at Stotts Creek and to develop a new Council Pound and Rehoming Centre on an alternative site of another nearby Council owned property identified as Lot 1 DP 34555, No. 719 Eviron Road, Eviron.

Council is currently developing a Masterplan for the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre (SCRRC) that will provide guidance on future development at the site. As part of a program of works identified through the Masterplan process, the relocation of the current Animal Pound facilities is required prior to a significant number of the early works being able to commence.

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The property at No. 719 Eviron Road is considered to have a number of significant superior site location advantages when compared to the current Pound site, which is a major safety and liability risk in terms of its deteriorating state of buildings and services, susceptibility to being cut off from access during major weather and flood incidents as well as its general incompatibility of safety and welfare for both Council staff and volunteers and the impounded animals, as well as poor access and amenity for the public visiting the site. A concept plan that was recently prepared for a similar Pound/Rehoming Centre on the current Pound site is provided as an attachment to provide an indication of the design for the new site.

The new alternative site is located in a higher position (predominately flood free) and rural setting. Council has previously proposed a Botanical Gardens for a larger part of the lower section of the property. It is considered that the Council Pound/Rehoming Centre would be compatible and complementary to the broader public facility proposed.

The site provides a great opportunity to provide a more contemporary and functional facility to accommodate both Council's companion animal regulatory service, as well as an enhanced rehoming centre for Council's not-for-profit partner, Friends of the Pound (FOP), who have provided an important volunteer assistance to the day-to-day running of the existing Pound and care for the animals over several decades.

Council is interested in establishing a co-located Council Pound/FOP Rehoming Centre facility similar to that operated by the Gold Coast City Council and the Australian Welfare League Queensland at Coombabah.

Playground Shade Program

Council is seeking funding for a Playground Shade Program which will include the installation of four (4) permanent built shade structures over Council owned and managed playgrounds subject to high levels of use by children and their families. Shade structures will be installed over:

- District level playgrounds,
- Playgrounds located alongside other attractors such as the beach, creeks, sporting or community facilities; and in
- Locations where the establishment of natural shade is not achievable.

In addition to installing built shade structures, Council is seeking funding for a shade tree planting program, specifically to increase natural shade over its neighbourhood level playgrounds across Tweed's local communities, including rural villages.

Key locations for the installation of shade structures

- Cudgera Creek Park, Hastings Point
- Norries Headland Playground, Cabarita

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- Faulk Park, Kingscliff
- Banora Community Centre Park

Living Arts for All – Murwillumbah Auditorium.

The Living Arts for All – Murwillumbah Auditorium project will refurbish and upgrade an existing performance facility, the Murwillumbah Auditoria, first built in 1975. The project includes three components; (1) major restoration to remove asbestos from the roof so that technical upgrades within the auditorium can take place and to address safety hazard with an electrical panel, (2) provide universal access to bring an older building in line with new legislation, making it more desirable to attend and catering to a wider section of the population, and (3) technical upgrades to theatre equipment such a as lighting and sound to enhance performance and increase energy efficiency while addressing safety and code issues due to the age of existing equipment.

Tweed Coast Koala Holding Facility.

Plan, construct and operate a koala holding facility in collaboration with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. The facility will facilitate the ability to include koalas from the far north coast in the current chlamydia vaccine trial. The project also involves the establishment of a koala food tree plantation to provide food resources to koalas at the facility.

Streetlight Bulk Replacement to LED.

Engage Essential Energy to carry out a bulk replacement of approximately 7000 streetlights on Council's road and footpath network. Initial roll out to target Wharf Street and Casuarina, which contains a number of non-compliant, high energy use street lights.

Downtown Gallery

Proponent Stephen Webb, has developed a plan for, and is in the process of establishing, a Murwillumbah arts precinct, to be known as M-Arts, in the Brisbane Street, Wollumbin Street and Proudfoots Lane block surrounding the Regent Theatre in the Murwillumbah central business district (CBD). The project aims to transform a set of vacant industrial buildings into a vibrant new arts precinct where artists will create, collaborate, interact with and sell to the public. The precinct will also include a new café, wine bar and restaurant.

It is envisaged that somewhere in the region of 20-25 art studios, workshop spaces, and an art community feel under one roof with coffee shop, bar, restaurant and galleries as well as a space for live music performances will be established in an area of approximately 1080 square metres. During the Murwillumbah Art Trail 2017, the proponent hosted a pop up concept of the idea which proved to be highly successful with approximately two hundred people attending the night time event. The site will be used again for Murwillumbah Art Trail 2018 and will also house and participate in the Border Art Prize.

The proponent has brought to Council the opportunity to participate in the precinct as a core anchor tenant through the establishment of the 'Gallery DownTown', a new annex of the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Arts Centre (TRGMOAC).

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Tweed Riverbank stabilisation

The Tweed River Bank Erosion Stabilisation and Fish Habitat Infrastructure project will deliver 400 metres of erosion stabilisation works to river banks adjacent to the Tweed Valley Way, an arterial road connecting Murwillumbah to the Pacific Motor Way, Tweed Heads and Byron Bay. This project will also improve Tweed Estuary fish habitat and water quality for enhanced environmental, recreational and tourism outcomes.

Philp Parade walkway and boardwalk (South Tweed Heads)

The Philp Parade walkway follows the foreshore of Terranora Broadwater and provides a pathway linkage between several residential communities, an over-55s village and the river foreshore. The walkway would provide a safe and convenient access way through a natural environment, encouraging exercise and nature appreciation.

Fingal Headland boardwalk and whale watching platform

Construct a boardwalk and viewing platform on Fingal Headland to eliminate existing environmental and cultural heritage degradation of the site.

Beach accesses Casuarina Beach (Kingscliff to Cabarita Beach)

Provide for safe access to the beach along seven kilometres of coastline.

Cycleways

Cycleways (up to the value of available funds)

Exercise Trail Stations

Exercise trail stations, such as those installed along Marine Parade, Kingscliff (up to the value of available funds)

Kingscliff Sport and Recreation Complex Masterplan implementation - Stage 1.

The Kingscliff Sport and Recreation Complex Masterplan was completed and adopted by Council in March 2015. The Master Plan includes a capital works program estimated at \$5,806,716 to address current and future requirements for seven sporting organisations and six sports. The stage 1 works are those works prioritised within the master plan and required to cater for current needs.

Stage 1 includes:

- Construction of a central clubhouse, change room, toilet facility and access on the Walter Peate Field.
- Installation of sport field lighting on the same field. This will include a transformer upgrade to support further sports lights improvements.
- Construction of a 900mm fencing around new main soccer field on Walter Peate Field.
- Relocation of one synthetic cricket wicket. Reconstruction of part of existing turf cricket wicket, and installation of hockey safety fencing to the Reg Dalton oval.

Casuarina Sportsfield Lighting

Install field lighting on 2nd field at casuarina sports ground (north)

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Barry Sheppard Sportsfields Upgrade

Barry Sheppard Sports field is being developed as an AFL facility to cater for both senior and junior AFL on the Tweed Coast. A masterplan was developed for the site and the junior club has commenced playing competition games at the venue. However the venue lacks change room and field lighting sufficient to allow the senior competition to relocate to this site. This is particularly an issue for the newly formed women's team.

The Junior AFL has funding to install field lighting, and development approval has been attained to install change rooms for which funding is sought.

Kingscliff Skate Park/Youth Precinct

Location selection, design and construction of skate/youth facility in the Kingscliff locale

Piggabeen Sportsfields facilities upgrade

The Seagulls RLC have produced a business plan to guide the development of the club and the sport into the future including facility requirements. Seagulls SRL compete in the QLD Intrust competition which is a feeder to the NRL competition. This is the highest level competition of any sport played in the Tweed and the standard of facilities at Piggabeen need to be improved to comply with the standards expected of this level competition. Additionally, Seagulls RLC are looking to increase opportunities for women's participation which requires additional facilities, and also provide improved facilities for the other sports played at Piggabeen and the broader community.

Tweed Heads South Aquatic Centre - Program Pool Upgrade

Sufficient pool depth and access to provide a program pool for hydrotherapy use, rehabilitation from injury, aquatic programs for the prevention and maintenance of chronic illness .

Sufficient pool depth, access and warmth for social inclusion - people living with a disability. Dual use as a learn to swim pool. Separating the systems will allow for a wider range of Learn to swim classes which require warmer water.

Compliance with Public Swimming Pool and Spa Pool Advisory Document for separation of plant for high risk pools

Jim Devine Sportsfield Carpark and Fencing

The Murwillumbah Football Club is one of the largest football clubs in the Shire and also one of the biggest competing in the Gold Coast League. The club has a growing Junior and senior membership. Currently, there is an unformed area utilised as a carpark between the two playing fields, and directly adjacent to the change rooms and toilets. Children and families are constantly moving across and through this space and the informal nature of the parking makes it particularly unsafe.

The Queens Park field is also used by the club and forms part of the complex. The field in bordered by busy roads and carpark areas. Currently the field is unfenced resulting in balls continually going onto the roads requiring often children to retrieve the balls in dangerous situations. The fencing of the field would significantly increase user safety and field management.

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Replacement of grandstand roof - Stan Sercombe field Murwillumbah

Replace the roof on the grandstand of Stan Sercombe field

Murwillumbah Hockey Centre - lighting of field 2

Lighting of field 2 to competition standard.

Field lighting - Rabjones Oval Murwillumbah

Filed lighting to Rabjones Oval Murwillumbah

Pottsville tennis Club - amenities roof replacement and club extension

Replace the failing roof of the Pottsville Tennis Clubhouse and undertake extensions

Kingscliff Tennis Club - Court refurbishment

Resurfacing and re-fencing of three tennis courts at the Kingscliff Tennis Facility

Youth recreation facilities - Quota Park Tweed Heads

Council is seeking funding to upgrade Quota Park, Tweed Heads to include youth recreational facilities to increase the quality and diversity of the open space for the immediate community. The upgrade will include the installation of a multi court with skate elements (for young people aged 12+ years), hand ball court markings on the multi-court, additional seating and shelters and path improvements to connect the new elements of the park to the existing playground and path network. Quota Park is a neighbourhood park designed to meet the needs of the local neighbourhood (generally for residents within a 500m walkable catchment).

Arkinstall Park/Tweed River High School

This project will enable construction of regionally significant sporting and performing arts facilities as part of the Tweed Regional Cultural and Community Centre Project. The overall project will enhance and integrate Arkinstall Park and Tweed Education Precinct (Tweed River High School and Tweed South Public School).

Council and the Department of Education have been actively working together to deliver a shared cultural and community hub, incorporating: three indoor sporting courts, theatre with supporting specialist facilities; outdoor sporting fields to complement the existing facilities at Arkinstall Park (netball, tennis, soccer).

OPTIONS:

To utilise the already identified and consulted projects as detailed above to discuss with the State Members, noting Council's preferred projects as detailed in Recommendation 1 (I); or

To utilise the already identified and consulted projects as detailed above to discuss with the State Members, altering the preferred and reserved projects as detailed in Recommendation 1 (I) and 1 (II); or

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the General Manager and Mayor liaise with the State Members in regards to Council's preferred and reserved projects.

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COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Corporate Policy Not Applicable

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

For those projects in excess of \$1 million, other than those denoted above, Council's 25% contribution will come from either loan borrowing or reserves.

c. Legal:

Not Applicable.

d. Communication/Engagement:

Consult-We will listen to you, consider your ideas and concerns and keep you informed.

Community engagement is a critical focus for Tweed Shire Council and is embedded in the way we do business and how we set our priorities for projects such as this.

Like other NSW councils, Tweed recently reviewed key planning documents including the Community Strategic Plan.

As part of a comprehensive community engagement process in developing the plan, Council distributed a detailed survey to every Tweed household.

Additional community engagement has occurred at events, workshops and stakeholder meetings across the region over an extended period.

The projects to be put forward by Tweed Shire Council for the Strong Country Community Fund directly reflect the priorities put forward by community members as part of this comprehensive community engagement process.

These projects would provide a direct benefit to the lives of Tweed residents and a lasting legacy that reflects their local aspirations.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nil.