



2 April 2013

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an Ordinary Council Meeting of the Blayney Shire Council to be held in the Chambers, Blayney Shire Community CentreCouncil Chambers on Monday, 8 April 2013 at 6.00 pm for consideration of the following business -

- (1) (2) Acknowledgement of Country
- **Recording of Meeting Statement**
- (3) Apologies for non-attendance
- (4) Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11.03.13
- Matters arising from Minutes (5)
- Disclosures of Interest (6)
- (7)Reports of Staff
  - (a) **Corporate Services**
  - **Engineering Services** (b)
  - **Environmental Services** (c)
- Committee Reports (8)
- (9) **Closed Meeting**

Yours faithfully

A Wilcox GENERAL MANAGER

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# CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013



#### 01) REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 26 MARCH 2013 (Manager Financial Convince)

(Manager Financial Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That the report indicating Council's investment position as at 26 March 2013 be received and noted.
- 2. That the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report be adopted.

# <u>REPORT</u>

This report provides details of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 26 March 2013.

Council's total investment and cash position as at 26 March 2013 is \$9,589,154. Investments earned interest of \$35,095.11 for the month of March 2013.

Council's monthly net return annualised for March of 4.44% outperformed the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 3.04%.



Institution	Maturity	Amount \$	Monthly Net Return Annualised
Term Deposits			
NAB	9/07/2013	500,000.00	4.24%
Bankstown City Credit Union	4/06/2013	500,000.00	4.20%
Rural Bank	4/06/2013	500,000.00	4.55%
Beirut Hellenic Bank Ltd	16/04/2013	500,000.00	4.55%
The Rock Building Society	16/07/2013	500,000.00	4.25%
ME Bank	21/05/2013	500,000.00	4.35%
St George Bank	27/08/2013	500,000.00	4.20%
Bank of Queensland	8/05/2013	500,000.00	4.25%
Railways Credit Union	18/06/2013	500,000.00	3.96%
IMB	3/04/2013	500,000.00	4.40%
Police & Nurses Credit Union	15/05/2013	500,000.00	4.24%
Gateway Credit Union	4/06/2013	500,000.00	4.21%
ING	30/07/2013	500,000.00	4.49%
Peoples Choice	16/04/2013	500,000.00	4.46%
B & E Ltd	16/04/2013	500,000.00	4.45%
Police Credit Union	25/06/2013	500,000.00	4.35%
Warwick Credit Union	23/07/2013	500,000.00	3.81%
Total		8,500,000.00	4.29%
Collateralised Debt Obligation (CDO's)			
ANZ Custodian (Kakadu, BBSW + 140 points)	20/03/2014	500,000.00	4.55%
Total		500,000.00	4.55%
Total Investments		9,000,000.00	4.31%
Benchmark: BBSW 90 Day Index			3.04%
Commonwealth Bank - At Call Account		500,365.13	
Commonwealth Bank Balance		88,789.16	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS & CASH		9,589,154.29	

# **REGISTER OF INVESTMENTS AND CASH AS AT 26 MARCH 2013**

Summary of Investment movements - MARCH		
Invst/(Recall)		
Financial Institution	Amount \$	Commentary
Term Deposits		
St George Bank	500,000.00	Term Deposit invested 27/02/2013
Bankstown City Credit Union	(505,555.00)	Term Deposit matured 05/03/2013
Bankstown City Credit Union	500,000.00	Term Deposit invested 05/03/2013
The Rock Building Society	(505,547.26)	Term Deposit matured 12/03/2013
The Rock Building Society	500,000.00	Term Deposit invested 12/03/2013
Police Credit Union	(508,000.55)	Term Deposit matured 26/03/2013
Police Credit Union	500,000.00	Term Deposit invested 26/03/2013

# Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDO's)

As per Council's Auditor recommendations the disclosure of the impact of market conditions on the value of the Collateralised Debt Obligations held is provided. It is estimated by ANZ Custodian Services that the market value of Kakadu is \$169,413 as at 28 February, 2013. It is anticipated that as the investment draws near to maturity the market value will increase. Council is also involved in ongoing legal action to minimise any losses.

Council's monthly net return annualised for March on the CDO is 4.55% outperforming the 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate of 3.04%.

# CERTIFICATION – RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

I, Chris Hodge, certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council Policy.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

A good investment strategy optimises Council's return on investments.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.3.2 Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.

# **Attachments**

# **02**)

# ENDORSEMENT OF INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING PLANS

(Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That Council endorses the draft:
  - a. Community Strategic Plan
  - b. Delivery Plan 2014 2017
  - c. Operational Plan 2013 2014 Part 1 & 2
  - d. Workforce Management Plan 2014 2017
  - e. Asset Management Strategy and Plans
  - f. Long Term Financial Plan
- 2. That these plans be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- 3. That the organisational structure as outlined in Figure 1 be endorsed in accordance with the provisions of section 333 of the Local Government Act.

# <u>REPORT</u>

All councils in NSW are required to develop long term, medium term and short term plans under new legislative requirements, the *Local Government Amendment Planning and Reporting*) *Act 2009* which transitions councils to a new Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework.

Pursuant to the Local Government Act section 402(5) an incoming council must review the community strategic plan before 30 June following the election. Further, section 404(3) requires Council to establish a new 4 year Delivery Program commencing 1 July following the election.

As part of Council's requirements to comply with the IP&R Guidelines the attached plans need to be considered and endorsed by Council prior to being placed on public exhibition for 28 days. The plans include:

- Community Strategic Plan (min. 10 years)
- Delivery Plan (4 years)
- Operational Plan (1 year)
- Long Term Financial Planning (min.10 years)
- Workforce Management Planning (min. 4 years)
- Asset Management Planning (min. 10 years)

The following outlines in simple terms what IP&R is about, how the plans are linked and how to read the plans.

# IP&R - Understanding the plans, terminology and process

Legislation requires Council to have:

- <u>Community strategic plan</u> for the local government area (CSP)
- A 4 year <u>delivery program</u> that aligns with Council elections (DP)
- An annual operational plan and budget (OP).

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- Long term <u>resourcing strategies and plans</u> 10 year asset plan, 10 year long term financial plan, 4 year workforce plan.
- An <u>annual report</u> that describes progress in achieving the community strategic plan. This also includes the state of the environment report.



# **Integrating Council plans**

# Planning linkages and language

This table shows the relationship and the common elements between the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and the Operational Plan.

Community Strategic Plan 10 years		
Vision Values Future directions	Delivery Plan 4 years	
Strategic outcomes	Strategic outcomes	Operational plan Annual
	Actions	Actions
		Tasks & Budget
WHAT	WHAT & HOW	HOW

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# Council Role(s)

The overarching document is the **Community Strategic Plan** – determined by the community. Council is only one organisation that can help realise the community plan. It cannot and should not do everything. There are many groups and organisations that need to play a role.

There are three roles councils can play:

Provider	Council does the work or provides the service (including
	regulatory functions)
Facilitator	Council <u>helps</u> or works with others to get things done
Advocate	Council speaks out and supports a community direction or
	issue

# **Community Strategic Plan**

The Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan 2025 was developed under the previous Council and adopted in 2012. The plan needs to be endorsed by the current Council by June 30 following their election to office. The plan is considered to be a current reflection of the community aspirations in Blayney Shire. It has been used to provide support for the next four year delivery plan development.

The Community Strategic Plan remains unchanged to that adopted by the previous Council following the extensive community consultation program undertaken.

# **Delivery Program**

Blayney Shire Council's Delivery Plan covering 2013/14 - 2016/17 informs and provides a longer term vision for its Operational Program 2013/2014. The Delivery Plan 2014 - 2017 provides an overview of the details contained in the one year Operational Program. It allocates high level responsibility for achieving outcomes identified in the Blayney Shire 2025 Community Strategic Plan and aligns actions to the strategies in the Community Strategic Plan.

The Delivery Plan details the annual financial program by service across the four year period. The Delivery Plan format is based on the Community Strategic Plan and is divided up into Future Directions and Strategic Outcomes. These outcomes are expanded to strategies for achieving the outcome as discussed with the community and the actions that Council will undertake to achieve the strategy and contribute to the outcome within the Council defined role and responsibility. Responsibilities are allocated by department in the Delivery Program.

The Delivery Program must inform, and be informed by, the Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Management Plan).

The Delivery Program remains largely unchanged to that adopted by the previous Council.

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# **Resourcing Strategy: Long Term Financial Plan**

The Draft Long Term Financial Plan has been prepared to identify and communicate Council's financial objectives and forecasts for the planning period to the community and all of Council's stakeholders through the Special Rate Variation application. It also forms the basis of Council's annual Operational and Delivery Program within the context of long term financial sustainability.

The Long Term Financial Plan spans for the next ten years addressing Council's revenue streams, pricing policy, assumptions, risks and forecasts. Two planning assumptions are shown in the plan as follows:

- Maintained Services Model
- Reduced Services Model

The Maintained Services Model proposes a 3.324% increase to rate revenues in 2013/14, a 15% special variation per annum to rate revenues for six years from 2014/15, and 3.3% per annum increase to rate revenues for 2020/21 onwards (impacting on all rating categories). It has also been updated to reflect amendments to Council's Asset Management Planning and articulates borrowings proposed to bring Council to a sustainable position over the life of the plan. Council will be required to undertake a robust consultation process with the community and obtain support for the Special Variation prior to application to IPART.

The Reduced Services Model proposes a 3.324% increase to rate revenues in 2013/14 and 3.3% per annum increase to rate revenues thereafter (impacting on all rating categories). This model will result in a decline to Council services and infrastructure and is not sustainable in the long term.

# **Resourcing Strategy: Workforce Management Plan**

The aim of the Workforce Plan is to provide suitably qualified and highly engaged employees to deliver quality services to our community and customers over the next four years.

As part of Council's assessment of its workforce structure, Council requested an independent review be undertaken of its workforce plan and to provide the opportunity for all staff to meet with the consultant and provide advice as to the individuals concerns and how management may undertake a revision to meet community and staff outcomes. The review was conducted in January 2013.

The review formed the basis of discussions by Council and senior staff as to changes that need to be undertaken to meet Council's ten year long term financial plan. The review also highlighted a number of concerns in relation to communication, management and effective delivery of services within the organisation. The results indicate that no area of the organisation are immune from a need to generally improve communication and for a recognition that current staffing levels and experience of staff require improvement if councils works and administrative programs are to be achieved.

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The consultant's report identifies that the current workforce strategy provides a clear and concise managerial direction for Council up to the year 2017 and highlights a number of challenges facing Blayney Shire Council which include:

- A multigenerational workforce;
- Significant local labour market competition due to strong regional mining influences;
- Impending retirements;
- Anticipated skill shortages in key areas;
- Attraction and retention capacity and market competitiveness;
- Developing and maintaining a skilled, trained and flexible workforce;
- Increased community expectations in services and delivery;
- External financial, technological and legislative reforms.

The review has highlighted that Council needs to communicate at a higher level, provide training and support for staff to meet the expected roles across the organisation and to ensure that council is planning for the future rather than reacting to complaints or single issues (plan strategically).

Senior staff have reviewed and made minor adjustments to the proposed structure as required to meet long term strategic outcomes identified for the Long Term Financial plan and IP&R documents. A number of roles have been identified by the consultant as requiring changes to meet the strategic directions to ensure better communication and service delivery and to ensure that Council's staff are employed to meet the community needs. These changes will be subject to budgetary constraints.

Council is required to determine its structure pursuant to section 332 of the Local Government Act as follows:

# 332 Determination of structure

(1) A council must determine:

- an organisation structure
- those positions within the organisation structure that are senior staff positions
- the resources to be allocated towards the employment of staff.

Further, section 333 requires council to re-determine its Council structure with 12 months of an ordinary election. Figure 1 proposes the Organisational Structure incorporated into Council's plans.

# **Resourcing Strategy: Asset Management Planning**

Blayney Shire Council is responsible for assets with a total replacement value of \$252 million. These assets assist Council to deliver services to the community and provide personal and economic benefits for the area. Council is required to make decisions on where to allocate resources to provide and maintain assets delivering the services required by the community. The demand for services will always outstrip the funds to provide services and as such a constant process of evaluation is required. This is not just in the creation of new assets, but how we manage assets already providing a service to ensure that this continues.

Amendments to Council's Asset Management Strategy and associated Plans can be summarised as follows:

- The Asset Management Strategy remains largely unchanged however requires adoption by Council.
- The renewal and upgrade plan for Transportation Infrastructure (roads, bridges, drainage, footpaths and kerbing) has been updated following a robust review of priorities and unit rates. The Transportation Asset Management Plan has previously been adopted and remains unchanged.
- Buildings and Other Structures Asset Management Plan has been updated following a review of the portfolio and the renewal / upgrade program. This will require adoption by Council.
- Sewer Asset management Plan has previously been adopted and remains unchanged.
- The Parks and Gardens Asset Management Plan has been updated following a review of the renewal / upgrade program. This will require adoption by Council.

# **Operational Plan**

Supporting the Delivery Program is an annual Operational Plan. It spells out the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

In accordance with Section 405 of the Act, Council must adopt its annual Operational Plan before the beginning of each financial year, outlining the activities to be undertaken that year, as part of the Delivery Program. The Operational Plan must include the Statement of Revenue Policy.

The Operational Plan has had extensive changes to reflect service delivery for 2013/14. The plan is in two parts as follows:

- Part 1 Activities. This part outlines specific actions and tasks that Council will do.
- Part 2 Financials. This part outlines the annual budget, revenue policy, fees and charges and other important financial information.

The draft Operational Plan must be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days and public submissions can be made to Council during the period. Council must accept and consider any submissions made on the draft Operational Plan before its adoption. Council must post a copy of its Operational Plan on the council's website within 28 days after the plan is adopted.



#### Figure 1: Proposed Organisation Structure

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of this report are detailed in the Delivery Program 2013-17, Resourcing Strategy and Operational Plan 2013/14. It should be noted that works in the Delivery Program to be funded by additional revenue from a special variation to rate income will not proceed if the application is not approved by IPART.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the Delivery Program 2013-17, Operational Plan 2012/13 and Resourcing Strategy establishes a comprehensive and clear statement of the direction and activities of the Council over the next four years, and in particular establishes Council's Revenue Policy for the year ahead.

# <u>IP&R LINK</u>

DP6.3.1 – Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

# **Attachments**

1	Community Strategic Plan	36 Pages
2	Workforce Management Strategy	14 Pages
3	Asset Management Strategy	41 Pages
4	Parks & Gardens Asset Management Plan	50 Pages
5	Buildings & Other Structures Asset Management Plan	53 Pages
6	Long Term Financial Plan	32 Pages
7	Delivery Program	62 Pages
8	Operational Plan: Part 1 - Activities	89 Pages
9	Operational Plan: Part 2 - Financial Information	62 Pages

# 03) TRAVEL CLAIM - DEMONDRILLE RAILWAY LINE MEETING (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council approve the travel claim by Clr. Ferguson for attendance to the Demondrille Railway Line meeting on 19 March 2013 pursuant to the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors Policy.

# <u>REPORT</u>

A meeting of the Demondrille Railway Line Working was held on 19 March 2013 at NSW Parliament House, Sydney. As an appointed delegate of Council, Clr. Ferguson attended this meeting.

The Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors Policy requires the following:

# 4.3 Non-Local and Other Travel Arrangements and Expenses

Payment of travelling expenses for all other travel outside of the "local area" as defined above must be submitted to Council for consideration, and will only be paid if approved.

As Sydney is outside of the "Local Area" as defined in the policy, Council approval for payment of travel expenses is sought. The total claim due is \$384.69.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Provision is held in Council's budget for this purpose.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The claim made is in accordance with Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors Policy.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.3.1 – Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

#### **Attachments**

#### 04) <u>ADOPTION OF PRIVACY MANAGEMENT PLAN</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That the Model Privacy Management Plan for Local Government as attached be adopted.

# <u>REPORT</u>

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the release of the new Model Privacy Management Plan for local government, and implementation requirements.

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIPA) requires all Councils to prepare a Privacy Management Plan. Council adopted its previous Model Privacy Management Plan for Local Government in August 2000.

The Division of Local Government has in consultation with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the Local Government NSW, updated the model Privacy Management Plan to incorporate the requirements of the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (HRIPA), which commenced on 1 September 2004 and include references to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA), which commenced on 1 July 2010.

Council's Privacy Management Plan must ensure it informs the community about how their personal information will be used, stored and accessed after it is collected by Council. It must also ensure that it informs Council staff of their obligations in relation to handling personal information and when they can and cannot disclose, use or collect it. The Division of Local Government has advised that Councils should adopt a new Privacy Management Plan, based on the new Model Privacy Management Plan for Local Government or develop their own Privacy Management Plan based on the requirements outlined above. Council is also required to provide a copy of the updated Privacy Management Plan to the Privacy Commissioner as soon as practicable.

The Privacy Management Plan as tabled is the adopted model plan for Local Government.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Nil effect.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.3.1 – Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.

# **Attachments**

1	DLG Circular 13/03 Revised Model Privacy Management Plan	1 Page
	for Local Government	
2	Policy 11C: Privacy Management Plan	62 Pages
		5

# 05) <u>CENTROC PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CONTRACT</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council agrees to participate in a regional preemployment services contract.

# <u>REPORT</u>

This report seeks Council's participation in a regional contract for preemployment services through Central NSW Councils (Centroc) and the Human Resources Team.

# Background on the Centroc Regional Training Service and HR Team

The Centroc Training Service is in its ninth year of operation and continues to address the needs of Centroc councils and other local councils surrounding the Centroc region. The Training Service works to:

- Research and source relevant and quality training for members;
- Coordinate training for members to improve access to courses and
- Achieve cost savings for members through group purchasing and negotiating discounts with training providers.

The Human Resources Team focuses on bringing together Human Resource professionals across Central West councils to network, share information and find solutions on a wide range of human resource matters that impact on Centroc councils.

Background on developing a regional pre-employment services contract

In accordance with direction provided by GMAC at the July 2012 meeting, after a presentation by Labour Co-Operative Group, it was commended that a regional approach to pre-employment services be looked into by the Centroc Human Resources Team.

The Centroc HR Team resolved at their meeting in December 2012 to pursue a regional approach to pre-employment services by going to tender for a regional contract.

Should Council agree to participate in a regional contract for pre-employment services, Centroc will put out an RFT (Request For Tender) and proceed to a contract.

Advice regarding service and pricing under a regional contract will be provided to members.

Benefits of a regional approach include:

- cost savings to members through bulk procurement;
- time saved by HR staff though centralised coordination and
- income stream to Centroc with a view to reducing fees

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# **Council contribution**

Centroc manages the process including all costs of advertising and tender assessment and takes a management fee from the supplier to cover these costs.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council has provision for pre-employment services expenditure in future years of its Long Term Financial Plan.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.1.2 – Promote resource sharing and collaboration with regional organisations.

# **Attachments**

#### 06) <u>CENTROC INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council agrees to participate in a regional internal audit contract.

# <u>REPORT</u>

This report seeks Council's resolve to participate in a regional purchase of internal audit services through Central NSW Councils (Centroc) Compliance and Cost Savings program.

# Background on the Centroc Compliance and Cost Savings Program

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 236,000 people covering an area of more than 70,000sq kms comprising Bathurst Regional, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Harden, Lachlan, Lithgow City, Oberon, Orange City, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Wellington and Young Councils and Central Tablelands County Council.

Centroc exists to do two things – advocate on behalf of the region and support member operations through regional co-operation and resource sharing.

To support member operations, a Compliance and Cost Savings Program has been created to add better value to members and generate more cost savings to individual councils. The program is being funded in part from the Centroc surplus and comes at no extra cost to members.

The objective of the program is to drive initiatives across the region to reduce Council costs through:

- providing a regional approach to compliance with State and Federal legislation thereby reducing costs to member Councils
- trialling with the intent to implement products and services to reduce costs and
- implementing regional contracts to reduce costs through group purchasing

The aim is to have the Compliance and Cost Savings Program be self-funding through the revolving cost savings fund. A percentage (5%) of each member Council's savings will be placed back into the program in order to continue to provide further funds for Centroc.

The program has been in operation since 14 December 2009 and over \$1,000,000 of savings to the region have been realised through a variety of programs including desktop telephony audit, on site telephony audit at some councils, diesel tax rebate audit and a desktop electricity review.

# Background on developing a regional internal audit services contract

A tender for internal audit services was assessed by Centroc representatives on 14 December 2009 which resulted in a contract being signed with IAB for internal audit services to 9 Centroc members. Subsequently, Weddin and the WBC alliance signed up to the regional internal audit contract for a 3 year period, culminating 30 June 2013. As we near the completion of the current contract, Centroc seeks to repeat the process.

At the Centroc General Managers' Advisory Committee meeting 26 July 2012 it was resolved to proceed to a new contract commencing 1 July 2013.

Should Council agree to participate in a regional contract for internal audit services, Centroc will put out an RFT (Request For Tender) and proceed to a contract.

Advice regarding service and pricing under a regional contract will be provided to members.

Benefits of a regional approach include:

- cost savings to members through bulk procurement;
- time saved by Council staff though centralised coordination and
- income stream to Centroc from the Contractor with a view to reducing Council's contribution

# **Council contribution**

Centroc manages the process including all costs of advertising and tender assessment and takes a management fee from the supplier to cover these costs.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council has provision for Internal Audit expenses in future years in its Long Term Financial Plan.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.1.2 – Promote resource sharing and collaboration with regional organisations.

DP6.4.4 – Review risk management of Council operations.

# Attachments

07) <u>REGIONAL SOLAR PANEL PROCUREMENT</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council participates in a regional bulk procurement of solar panels on behalf of the broader community coordinated by Central NSW Councils (Centroc).

# <u>REPORT</u>

The objective of this report is to seek Council's support for a project proposed by Centroc to coordinate the bulk purchase of solar panels on behalf of the local community.

In the past 18 months, a large number of solar bulk purchase schemes have emerged in response to spiraling electricity costs and rapidly decreasing prices for solar panels. Typically Councils will coordinate the purchase of solar panels on behalf of a large number of ratepayers to simplify the purchasing process and reduce the costs of electricity for local residents.

Councils undertake bulk purchasing for a number of reasons. Usually it is in response to demand from local residents who are grappling with increasing energy costs and want to investigate cheaper options including residential solar power. Typically households are unsure where to start their search or who to contact. Sometimes, Councils are keen to demonstrate environmental leadership and a commitment to pollution reduction by encouraging clean energy.

Councils act as honest brokers, using their expertise in community engagement and tender management to promote the opportunity to ratepayers and gauge their interest, as well as managing the vendor selection process. Perhaps most importantly, Council's involvement and oversight removes much of the uncertainty and anxiety associated with this type of purchase for households. Once selected, the vendor will typically deal directly with residents to arrange the installation.

There has never been a better time to invest in solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Panels have never been cheaper, more efficient and so readily available at reasonable price levels. Moreover, with energy prices doubling in the past 5 years, solar panels enable households to generate the electricity they need and to feed excess power into the grid. The rapidly decreasing cost of panels has compensated for the removal of Government subsidies. Consequently growth in the amount of installed solar capacity in Australia has been dramatic with a 10-fold increase between 2009 and 2011. Solar power is now installed on more than 300,000 rooftops across Australia and generates almost 2.5 % of National needs.

Parkes Shire Council provides a good example of a bulk solar procurement program in Central NSW. Launched in June of last year as a trial with a view

to regional roll out, the Council-led program was designed to assist local residents to gain access to affordable domestic solar panels by combining their purchasing power and achieving the best bulk price possible. Providing significant financial and environmental leadership, Parkes Shire Council coordinated the bulk purchasing process and the vendor selection. The chosen provider then contacted residents directly to arrange installation, with Council overseeing the process. To date, more than 300 households registered an interest in the scheme and more than 200 have been installed since the start of 2013. Savings are expected to flow through in the coming months.

Importantly, one of the key recommendations of WRI's December 2012 Final Evaluation Report of the Parkes project was that Centroc should build on the successes of the project and extend the approach regionally.

Adopting a regional approach to procurement makes sense and delivers a range of additional benefits to Councils. These include increased purchasing power and economies of scale; an opportunity to access the project management expertise of Centroc without diminishing internal capacity; and access to learning from other Councils who have already successfully pursued the option of bulk solar purchasing.

Council is committed to genuine engagement with the community and stakeholders into the future. The Community Engagement Strategy includes a variety of stakeholder engagement and communication methods and aims to involve our diverse community in future decisions made by Council.

# **Costs and Benefits**

The experience to date suggests that the benefits to Council are substantial across a broad spectrum of activity - economic, social <u>and</u> environmental.

For example, City of Victor Harbor Council in South Australia facilitated a successful bulk solar purchase for the local community. The scheme was immensely popular with ratepayers because it lowered their energy costs. Furthermore, it generated local jobs for installers, spawned a new industry in the region, lowered the LGA's carbon footprint and established a degree of energy independence for the region. As a direct result of the program, almost 40,000 properties installed solar panels on their roof and residents enjoyed access to solar power for almost half the price of an off-the-shelf alternative. For more details, see <u>http://solarprogram.com.au/</u>.

The costs to Council would be small, particularly considering the potential benefit. In the first instance, Centroc would ask Councils to nominate a staff member to act as a point of contact for the project. In the early stages, attendance at weekly or fortnight Webex (online) meetings would form the total requirement, primarily to act as a conduit for information.

# **Proposal and Timeline**

Centroc has already applied for funding through the New South Wales Government's Community Renewable Energy grant program to support the marketing of this program, the outcome of which should be known by the end of March 2012.

Item	When
Report to council seeking participation	March/April
Report to GMAC/Board	April/May
Develop marketing	March/April
Launch EOI to communities	May - June
Reports to council re: interest in their LGA	July
RFT issued	August
Tender assessment	September
Report to council on progress and successful	
contractor	October
Contract commencement	November

It is envisaged that the contract would be awarded in October 2012 with installations of panels commencing in November 2012.

# **Next Steps**

Assuming the funding request is successful, Centroc will work with Council's appointed staff member to initiate a communications' program within the local community to gauge levels of interest. This might include a direct mail drop, advertising in local newspapers, public meetings, as well as visits to local businesses and business associations. Similar to other bulk purchase schemes, interested applicants may also be charged a small service fee (\$25 per household or \$10 for pensioners) to facilitate the delivery of future energy savings programs.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Should the funding request be successful, Centroc will work with Council's appointed staff member to initiate a communications' program within the local community to gauge levels of interest. This might include a direct mail drop, advertising in local newspapers, public meetings, as well as visits to local businesses and business associations. Similar to other bulk purchase schemes, interested applicants may also be charged a small service fee (\$25 per household or \$10 for pensioners) to facilitate the delivery of future energy savings programs.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# <u>IP&R LINK</u>

DP1.5.2 – Promote sustainable energy development and use within the Shire.

# Attachments

08) <u>CENTROC FUEL CONTRACT</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# RECOMMENDED:

1. That Council agrees to participate in a regional fuel contract.

# <u>REPORT</u>

This report seeks Council's participation in a regional purchase of fuel through Central NSW Councils (Centroc) Compliance and Cost Savings program and Supply Management Team.

# Background on the Centroc Supply Management Team

The Supply Management Team was established in June 2003. The objectives of this team are:

- 1. Networking of professional purchasing staff
- 2. Achieve savings through joint procurement of goods and services
- 3. Generate income through rebates to Central NSW Councils
- 4. Facilitate professional development and training of Council purchasing staff
- 5. Encourage use of the latest technology for communication and purchasing functions

The Supply Management Team has been successful in all of these areas over the past ten years and continues to provide ways for councils to save money and time through working together regionally.

In addition to fuel, the team has currently has regional tenders in road signs and bitumen emulsion and are continuously looking at ways that purchasing regionally can assist Centroc members.

# Background on developing a regional fuel contract

A report to the Centroc General Managers Advisory Committee in July 2008 highlighted that petrol prices are a significant line item for Councils where the State contract is not regarded as competitive by supply team members and most are not buying from the State contract. This may have legal ramifications as each Councils spend is typically over \$150K even when separating diesel from unleaded as line items.

Feedback from the supply team suggests that staff are vigilant in monitoring petrol prices and that this leads invariably to local purchase. Under State legislation Councils are obliged to both seek best value and go to tender for spends over \$150K. As the State has a contract for petrol and it is not competitive, the DLG was approached about how Councils can best manage this situation and if it was possible to not have to go to tender as long as councils were purchasing better than prices the state contract has to offer.

DLG responded and said that Councils must be purchasing under contract for fuel, due to the amount spent per annum.

The Supply Team has subsequently investigated possibilities for regional fuel purchase through either a regional approach or "zoned" approach to account for different distributors across Centroc.

The Supply Management Team decided to do a regional contract for fuel in 2010 culminating in a two year regional contract in 2011. As we near the completion of the current contract, Centroc seeks to repeat the process.

At the Centroc Supply Team meeting 22 August 2012 resolved to proceed to a new contract commencing 1 July 2013. This has also been noted by the Centroc General Managers' Advisory Committee on 1 November 2012.

Should council agree to participate in a regional contract, Centroc will put out an RFT (Request for Tender) and proceed to a contract.

Advice regarding service and pricing under a regional contract will be provided to members.

Benefits of a regional approach include:

- cost savings to members through bulk procurement;
- time saved by Supply team staff though centralised coordination and
- income stream to Centroc from the Contractor with a view to reducing fees

# **Council contribution**

Centroc manages the process including all costs of advertising and tender assessment and takes a management fee from the supplier to cover these costs.

Council will also give consideration to future compliance with the contract.

# Options

To be compliant with DLG, Council can either purchase on the State contract at greater expense than purchasing locally or agree in principle to the regional contract. The regional approach has the following benefits:

- DLG compliance
- Regional collaboration
- Cost savings due to regional management of tender/contract

On the negative side, some members have reported that locking themselves into a contract has forced them to purchase fuel at a higher price than what can be supplied at the local bowser.

Centroc GMAC and Board are acutely aware of these problems and have been advocating for better regional fuel procurement and outcomes for Council (see letter attached). Council currently purchases bulk fuel through Centroc's regional contract.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council has provision for purchase of fuel in future years in its Long Term Financial Plan.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP6.1.2 – Promote resource sharing and collaboration with regional organisations.

# **Attachments**

1 Centroc Letter to Minister for Local Government 2 Pages

#### 09) <u>BLAYNEY MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That Council commit to the Blayney Music Scholarship Program for a further 4 year period.
- 2. That Councillors advocate the value of this program to Blayney businesses and philanthropic individuals in the wider community and invite those interested in sponsoring the awards to attend a promotional function in the Blayney Community Centre 12 May 2013.

# <u>REPORT</u>

Council has received correspondence from Mitchell Conservatorium regarding the Blayney Music Scholarship Program.

Since 2009 Council has been part of the above program offering 4 scholarships with Mitchell Conservatorium, Bathurst and Orange Regional Conservatorium to the Blayney Shire community. The scholarships had a collective value of \$6,000 with Council has contributing \$1,500 per annum and the balance had been contributed through private sponsorship. The program was for an initial period of 4 years however private sponsorship of \$1,500 has been committed to the program to enable its continuation subject to Council support.

The Mitchell Conservatorium is now seeking to re-model the scholarship program following offering the following:

- 2 music scholarships of \$1,500 each
- 2 encouragement awards of \$750 each

Councillors are also being requested to advocate the value of this award to Blayney businesses and philanthropic individuals in the wider community and invite those interested in sponsoring the awards to attend a promotional function in the Blayney Community Centre 12 May 2013.

The event will include performances of by current and past scholarship winners and provide a networking opportunity for music teachers, potential sponsors and Conservatorium Directors.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council has provision of \$1,500 in the 2012/13 budget for music scholarship program. Provision has also been made in the Long Term Financial Plan for future years, subject to approval.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP2.3.1 – Encourage participation and continue relationships with music organisations.

DP2.3.2 – Develop partnerships with other arts organisation to assist to deliver arts and cultural activities.

# **Attachments**

**1** Correspondence from Mitchell Conservatorium 2 Pages

10) <u>NSW INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL SCHEME FUNDING</u> (Director Corporate Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That the reports on NSW Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme funding be noted;
- 2. That Council endorse execution of the funding agreement and associated documentation by the Mayor and General Manager under Council seal.

# <u>REPORT</u>

In January 2012 the Division of Local Government released a Circular regarding the Local Government Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) introduced as part the State Government's commitment to implementing a Local Infrastructure backlog Policy.

The Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) provides the opportunity for councils to access interest subsidies for the purpose of funding legitimate infrastructure backlogs. The LIRS will provide a 4% interest subsidy to assist councils with legitimate infrastructure backlogs to cover the cost of borrowing.

Council submitted an application for \$1m for the Blayney Bridge Recovery program. Advice has now been received from the Division of Local Government that Council has been successful with the application.

The funding agreement for this project requires signature by an authorised signatory under common seal.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Provision has been made for this funding in the 2012/13 budget and in future years in the Long Term Financial Plan. Borrowings were authorised as part of the approval of the 2012/13 Operational Plan.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# <u>IP&R LINK</u>

DP4.1.1 – Manage Local Road Network to agreed service levels. DP6.3.2 – Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.

# **Attachments**

1 Correspondence and Funding Agreement re LIRS 24 Pages

# ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013



# 11) <u>CENTROC - WATER UTILITIES STRATEGIC BUSINESS</u> <u>PLAN</u>

(Director Infrastructure Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council accept the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance contract with New South Wales Public Works for the preparation of Strategic Business Plans for member councils for the price of \$16,050.

# <u>REPORT</u>

# Executive Summary

As part of the regional approach to Best Practice in Water Utilities Management, Centroc is undertaking a raft of activities. The Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Business Plan is available upon request. Included in these activities is a regional approach to the procurement of Strategic Business Plans (SBP).

# **Background Information**

An open tender process through the Centroc Tenderlink Portal with associated advertising as directed under the Local Government Act was undertaken, opening on 12 September 2012 and closing on 4 October 2012 for the preparation of SBP's for Water and Sewer utilities within the Centroc Region.

The following companies submitted tender responses:

- AEC Group Limited
- Cardno Pty Ltd
- GHD Pty Ltd
- Hydroscience Consulting
- MWH Australia Pty Itd
- NSW Public Works

The Steering Committee, made up of members of the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance undertook an assessment of the tenders using the APET tender assessment tool at a meeting in Cowra on Friday 19 October. Attendees undertaking the assessment were Nicole Vonarx (Young), Daniel Buckens (Lithgow), Ben Falconer (Lachlan), and Tim Long (Cowra).

The Centroc Water Utilities' Alliance subsequently resolved to accept the tender submission from NSW Public Works.

Council is advised that participating Councils have agreed to accept the terms and conditions of these tenders and that evaluation of tenders has been undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Council's current Strategic Business Plan for Sewer services was prepared in 2007 and adopted by Council in 2009. Best Practice recommends the

This is Page No. 30 of the Business Paper of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Blayney Shire Council held on 8 April 2013

document be reviewed on a rolling 5 year basis. The current plan identifies work to be undertaken in the 2012/13 year, however work was deferred in order to maximise savings that would become available through the joint tender approach.

NSW Public Works have programmed work on the Blayney Shire SBP to be undertaken in the first half of the 2013/14 year.

It is therefore recommended that Council accept the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance contract with New South Wales Public Works for the preparation of Strategic Business Plans for member councils for the cost of \$16,050.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Provision exists within the Blayney/Millthorpe Sewer Business' to fund the preparation of the Strategic Business Plan for Sewer services within Blayney Shire.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# <u>IP&R LINK</u>

DP4.2.2 – Ensure Sewerage Treatment Plants are able to meet the needs of the Blayney Shire.

DP4.2.3 – Provide an effective and safe sewerage collection network for Blayney Shire.

# **Attachments**

#### 12) <u>ROAD MAINTENANCE COUNCIL CONTRACT</u> (Director Infrastructure Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That the report on the Road Maintenance Council Contract arrangements with Roads and Maritime Services be received and noted.

# <u>REPORT</u>

Executive Summary

Council undertakes maintenance and construction activities on a nominated section of the NSW State Road Network on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), in accordance with the provisions of the Routine Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC).

The current contract took effect in October 2008, and following a one year extension, is due to expire on 30 June 2013.

Council has recently received advice from RMS that it will be extending the current contract arrangements for a further 12 months from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

# Background Information

The Single Invitation Maintenance Contract utilised by the Roads and Traffic Authority between July 2000 and September 2008 to undertake road maintenance works on State Roads was replaced by the RMCC in October 2008.

RMS is currently reviewing its responsibilities for road maintenance delivery across NSW in order to ensure it provides:

- Value for money
- Quality outcomes
- Work Health and Safety compliance
- Environmental compliance
- Customer expectations

RMS has conducted engagement workshops with Councils, at which time it is reported that both council's and RMS sought a closer and more effective working relationship to foster collaboration and deliver mutual benefits to both parties.

RMS proposes to provide options for a new form contract to Councils for discussion in early 2013, whilst ensuring Council has the capacity and capability to provide value for money.

Councillors may have heard in the media of the NSW Government's examination of options for contestable road maintenance contracts. RMS has

advised that these are currently only being considered for the Sydney metro area and not regional areas.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Funding is currently provided by RMS for Routine Works (Maintenance) as an annual fixed upper limit, and Ordered Work (Upgrades) subject to joint assessment between Council and RMS staff to identify network prioritisation.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP4.1.2 – Manage Regional and State Road Network to agreed service levels.

DP4.1.6 – Seek additional grant funding for construction and maintenance of roads and associated facilities.

# **Attachments**

#### 13) ROAD SAFETY OFFICER - CONTRACT EXTENSION (Director Infrastructure Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

 That Council approves the extension of the existing Road Safety Officer's Position until 30 June 2014, and advise Bathurst Regional Council and Roads and Maritime Services of its approval.

# <u>REPORT</u>

Executive Summary

Council has received correspondence from Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) providing notification of a new direction for the Local Government Road Safety Program.

This report seeks to extend the contract of the Road Safety Officer as an integral part of the program, for a period of twelve (12) months.

#### Background Information

A report was presented to the February 2012 meeting of Council which outlined the then status of the Road Safety Program and the position of Road Safety Officer.

At that meeting Council resolved:

"That Council approves the extension of the existing Road Safety Officer's Position until 30 June 2013, and advise Bathurst Regional Council and Roads and Maritime Services of its approval."

The current contract term for the RSO position expires on 30 June 2013 and it is therefore opportune that Council considers its ongoing commitment to the program.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has recently sent correspondence to Council providing an opportunity to extend the current contract by 12 months, thus expiring 30 June 2014.

Council has been a part of the Roads and Maritime Services RSO Program since 1999 when it joined Oberon, Evans, Rylstone, Bathurst and the RMS to form the Tablelands Road Safety Group. The program and Council's participation continues today, although due to amalgamations and the withdrawal of Oberon Shire Council the membership has been reduced to Blayney, Bathurst and the RMS.

The program arrangements are defined by the Program Funding Agreement on the basis that 50% of employment costs are borne by the RMS, while the remainder is provided by the member Councils. Blayney's current share is 17%. The cost of individual projects conducted within any year, is subject to approval from and is fully funded by the RMS.

Bathurst Regional Council is also considering its future membership in the Tablelands RSO Group. However, it is expected that it will continue to support the program.

This financial year to date, the Roads Safety Officer has carried out the following road safety programs and other initiatives:

RMS/RSO Funded program work

- Slowing Down Won't Kill You a speed intervention and prevention project
- Take a Break fatigue education and awareness project
- What's Your Plan? a locally focused education and awareness project aimed at highlighting the negative impacts of drinking and driving
- Graduated Licensing Scheme free workshops for parents and supervisors of leaner drivers

Additional work

- Present road safety paper at Institute Public Works Engineering Australia Annual Conference (IPWEA) – Coffs Harbour
- Present road safety paper at Heavy Vehicle Forum Moree
- The Gateway Project Enhanced Enforcement Program/ speed intervention and prevention
- The Kajulu Project young driver education program with CSU Bathurst
- Bathurst V8 Races alternate transport and road safety management, working collaboratively with Council, Liquor Accord, Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, Licencing Police, General Duties Police, transport providers and others to ensure safe travel and transport options during V8 Race week
- Road Safety Audits
- Kids of Cadia a 6 week program targeted at young drivers funded by Cadia Mines conducted twice annually
- Mining Safer Roads the Mines Safety Advisory Council seconded and funded RSO to deliver road safety programs in rural and remote areas of NSW including Cobar, Broken Hill, Boggabri, Mudgee and Parkes
- Safety Around Schools working collaboratively with council, schools and RMS to improve safety around schools e.g.: parking, pedestrian safety, speeding, safe drop off/pick up zones, signage, etc.
- Sign Audits
- Rail Bridges Over State Roads Audit assisted state rail with safety audit on overhead rail bridges in Bathurst and Blayney
- B2B assisted with the development of safety and traffic management plans for the Blayney to Bathurst bike ride

- Motorised Scooter Education Day an education forum aimed at seniors & people with access issues
- Snow and Ice RMS campaign
- Headlights On (for safety) RMS campaign
- Plan B RMS campaign
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Week RMS Campaigns (November)
- Speed Zone Reviews as required
- School Bus Route Reviews
- Youth Week events

The Road Safety program cannot be directly evaluated for effectiveness, since there is no way of being able to measure whether vehicular crashes, pedestrian / vehicle incidents would have been more or less without the program.

However, The Road Safety Program return on social investment is considered significant. The cost per fatality (June 2010) to the community is approximately \$2.6M and the average cost of per casualty is \$221,000 (Austroads: *Guide to Project Evaluation*). In addition Transport NSW estimates that using the Willingness to Pay methodology that road accidents cost NSW \$5,370M per annum (2010).

It is clear that the total cost of the Road Safety Program of approximately \$21,000 per annum represents good value in terms of not only the potential reduction of fatalities and serious injury and the significant impact that this has on the community but also in the potential reduction of vehicular accident cost to the community.

Given the benefits of the Road Safety Program in implementing road safety behavioral projects and increasing road safety awareness at a local level, it is recommended that Council continue to participate in the Program until 30 June 2014. Should Bathurst withdraw from the program then a further report shall be presented to Council.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The annual funding for the position is 17% of employment costs, estimated to be \$21,000.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

IP&R LINK DP6.2.1 – Identify and engage with Shire Community Groups. DP6.4.3 – Educate communities on road and pedestrian safety.

# **Attachments**

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013



# 14) DA230/2012 - O'BRIEN - CLASS 1 PROCEEDINGS IN THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

(Director Planning and Environmental Services)

# **RECOMMENDED:**

 That Council note the contents of this report regarding the lodgement of Class 1 proceedings in the NSW Land and Environment Court regarding the issue of an approval for the subject development application.

# <u>REPORT</u>

This development application, DA230/2012, is for the erection of storage units at the rear of 142 Adelaide Street, Blayney.

Council was served with advice of the appeal on the 12 March 2013 and the appeal has been discussed with, and placed in the hands of Council's lawyers, Crennan Legal, who will handle the matter on Council's behalf.

Further information and progress of the matter will be made available to Councillors as the matter progresses.

# **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Legal costs provided for in Council's 2012/2013 budget.

# POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil effect.

# IP&R LINK

DP1.1.2 – Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.

# **Attachments**

# CONFIDENTIAL MEETING REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2013



15)

# EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES TENDER

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (c) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

16)

# NAYLOR STREET BRIDGE REHABILITATION TENDER

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) (di) of the Local Government Act, as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.