

9.8 Policy Reviews - Revenue

REPORT BY THE MANAGER PROPERTY AND REVENUE
TO 13 DECEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, GOV400047

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. receive the report by the Manager Property and Revenue on the Policy Reviews - Revenue;
2. place on public exhibition for 28 days the revised *Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy, Pensioner Concessions Policy, Debt Management and Recovery Policy* and *Credit Policy*; and
3. adopt the revised *Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy, Pensioner Concessions Policy, Debt Management and Recovery Policy* and *Credit Policy* if no submissions are received during the exhibition period.

Executive summary

The existing *Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy, Pensioner Concessions Policy, Debt Management and Recovery Policy* and *Credit Policy* have been reviewed and proposed amendments are suggested as part of Council's ongoing policy review program.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The policies listed below have been reviewed and are attached with relevant changes being highlighted in the draft documents. A summary of the main changes are -

Road, Bridge and Place Naming Policy

The objective of this Policy is to provide consistent guidelines for developers, the community and Council when allocating new road names or re-naming existing roads; allocating bridge names and allocating place names; and to ensure names are allocated that will stand the test of time and are of local or historical significance.

Road Naming

The advent of the Geographical Names Board's Road Name Eligibility Check site did away with the requirement to write to the GNB to find out if a proposed name would be acceptable. It also removed approximately 1 month from the processing time of a proposal.

The GNBs NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System replaced the old NORNS system. Proposals via the GNB are now more streamlined and approvals (or not) are now processed quicker. The GNB also include notification of other agencies as part of the proposal system which removes that task from Council staff's workload. Once a name is approved the Gazettal is also

processed through the GNBs proposal site and Council no longer incurs a cost to include the gazettal in the Government Gazette.

Bridge Naming

Bridge Naming is entirely in the purview of Council. Following the road naming process provides a solid basis for the bridge naming process however bridge naming is not subject to the same legislative requirements. The bridge naming process has been streamlined to; calling for submissions, presenting submissions to Council in a Report and Council then making a decision from the submissions received. Council continues to notify all parties and submit gazettal's for publication in the Government Gazette.

Place Naming

The GNBs NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System replaced the old hard copy application system for Place Name proposals. Proposals via the GNB are now more streamlined and approvals (or not) are now processed quicker. The GNB is the authority for place naming and continues to notify other agencies as well as ensure the naming is gazetted.

Pensioner Concessions Policy

The objective of this Policy is to provide guidelines to eligible pensioners regarding the statutory pensioner concession legislation as specified in Division 1 Part 8 of Chapter 15 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The main amendment which is an addition to this Policy, is on page 2. The addition reflects the recent practice of verifying on-going bulk pensioner eligibility with Centrelink and Department Veterans' Affairs on a quarterly basis. Prior to this financial year, only one bulk pensioner verification was processed just prior to the main July rate levy. Three additional bulk verifications will ensure greater data accuracy in relation to on-going eligibility of pensioners for rate rebates.

Debt Management and Recovery Policy

The objective of this Policy is to provide a framework for the efficient and effective collection of outstanding debts and to fulfil statutory requirements in relation to the recovery of rates, charges, fees and other debts.

The proposed changes to the Policy are consistent with the intent of the existing Policy and are primarily minor amendments to give clarity to, and reflect the scope of Council's current business operations and current business practices.

Credit Policy

The objective of this Policy is to set out Council's principles in relation to the provision of credit facilities for external parties.

The proposed changes to the Policy are minor to reflect Council's current business operations.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Government
Goal	An effective and efficient organisation
Strategy	Prudently manage risks association with all Council activities

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not Applicable

Council Policies

By adopting the recommendation, Council is endorsing the changes to the policies to be placed out on public exhibition for comment. Should any submissions be received a further report will be presented back to Council for consideration. If no submissions are received at the end of the exhibition period, the revised policies will be adopted and apply from that date.

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

The review of Council policies ensures suitable governance arrangements and guidance exists for the implementation of Council's functions. Amending policies reduces the risk of policies becoming out of date, not meeting best practice or referencing out of date or incorrect legislation.

DIANE SAWYERS
MANAGER PROPERTY AND REVENUE

LEONIE VAN OOSTERUM
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

17 November 2023

- Attachments:*
1. Draft - Road Bridge Place Naming Policy. (separately attached)
 2. Draft Pensioner Concessions Policy. (separately attached)
 3. Draft Debt Management and Recovery Policy. (separately attached)
 4. Draft Credit Policy. (separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER