

TABLE OF CONTENTS
8 JUNE 2022

| | |
|---|----------|
| OFFICERS' REPORTS – PART A - FOR DETERMINATION | 2 |
| GOVERNANCE..... | 2 |
| 1. RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW – COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM..... | 2 |
| CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES..... | 6 |
| 1. NORTH HENTY RAIL CROSSING – PROPOSED LOAN BORROWING OF \$500,000..... | 6 |
| ENGINEERING | 8 |
| 1. TENDER TL 11 – 2021 / 22 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COPPABELLA CREEK: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT | 8 |
| 2. TENDER TL 13 – 2021 / 22 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT 5 BRIDGES..... | 11 |

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 40 BALFOUR ST CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2022**

OFFICERS' REPORTS – PART A - FOR DETERMINATION

GOVERNANCE

1. RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW – COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM

**Report prepared by Executive Assistant, Governance, Tourism and Promotions
– Kerrie Wise**

REASON FOR REPORT

To update Councillors on the number and value of applications received for the Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program.

REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTIONS

Outcome We are revitalising our communities, welcoming visitors, growing our economy and promoting the lifestyle, culture and heritage offered in our communities.

Objective Increased number of visitors enjoy our shire.

DISCUSSION

Correspondence was received from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Police, Paul Toole MP announcing funding to Greater Hume of \$301,708 under the Reconnecting Regional NSW – Community Events Program (CEP). This program will promote the social and economic recovery of regional communities, by renewing social connections and providing a revenue boost to local businesses, following the extended COVID-19 restrictions across regional NSW and impacts of border closures.

Eligibility criteria:

- be open to all members of the public
- free to attend or a very small fee to cover any extra costs
- have a primary purpose of reconnecting communities and improving social cohesion of the local community
- be planned and delivered using the COVID-19 NSW Public Health Orders current at that time and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place for all events (the development of these plans is an eligible expense)
- be held before 31 March 2023

Eligible events are:

- community markets and bazaars
- festivals and fairs
- sporting events
- food and leisure events
- recovery events
- community classes and workshops
- agricultural field days (run by community organisations)
- regional racing carnivals (e.g. horse or greyhound racing) run by community organisations
- touring events and theatre programs
- community public holiday celebrations (eg Australia Day or Anzac Day).

RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW – COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM [CONT'D]

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It was proposed that Council seek expressions of interest from existing and for new community events in Greater Hume. An online expression of interest form was developed requesting relevant information. This enabled event organisers to provide Council with sufficient information for their event to be assessed and if selected as a priority event enable Council to complete the grant application.

The following timeline was included in the Expression of Interest.

| Activity | Date for completion |
|--|----------------------------|
| Expressions of Interest information promoted to Greater Hume community | Thursday 14 April 2022 |
| Expressions of Interest close | Wednesday 25 May 2022 |
| Expressions of Interest assessed and shortlisted by Council | Wednesday 8 June 2022 |
| Successful/Unsuccessful applicants advised by Council | Monday 13 June 2022 |
| Council to submit a Greater Hume Application | 5pm, Friday 24 June 2022 |
| Assessment/approval by NSW Government will be within 20 working days of the application being submitted. | |
| Projects Completed | Friday 31 March 2023 |

At the closure of the Expressions of Interest 27 applications were received totalling \$372,534.00.

The applications were forwarded to the Deputy Director, Regional Coordination, Regional NSW for an initial assessment on their eligibility for the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program.

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
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COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 40 BALFOUR ST CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2022**

RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW – COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM [CONT'D]

The following applications were considered eligible to be included in a grant application submitted by Greater Hume Council:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Active Farmers Run for Resilience @Table Top | \$10,000.00 |
| Back to the G-Rodge Festival at Gerogery | \$48,450.00 |
| Battle Of The Border (Horse and Carriage event) at Mullengandra | \$21,965.00 |
| Bowna Wymah Community - Fanny Lumsden Concert | \$18,500.00 |
| Burrumbuttock Flower Show | \$9,738.00 |
| Culcairn Street Party | \$25,000.00 |
| Henty Covid Recovery Street Party | \$21,862.00 |
| Henty Fest - Reconnecting in the Country | \$58,432.00 |
| Holbrook Regional Producers and Farmers Market | \$33,000.00 |
| Holbrook Rotary - Australia Day Poker Run - Fun Motor Car and Cycle Rally | \$4,200.00 |
| Holbrook Rotary - Christmas Markets and Festivities | \$5,600.00 |
| Holbrook Twilight Markets | \$16,500.00 |
| Jindera Community Carols | \$1,200.00 |
| Jindera Spring Fling | \$3,300.00 |
| St Patrick's School Values Festival | \$7,500.00 |
| Wirraminna Wattle Day | \$7,650.00 |
| Woolpack Inn Museum Holbrook 51st Birthday Festival | \$1,500.00 |
| Greater Hume Council Event Coordinator | \$7,311.00 |
| Total Amount: | \$301,708.00 |

The following applications were considered not eligible to be included in a grant application to be submitted by Greater Hume Council:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Holbrook Rotary - Community Showcase to Foster Volunteering | \$5,400.00 |
| Culcairn Pony Club - Des Gleeson Showjumping Clinic | \$1,800.00 |
| Henty Business House Barefoot Bowls | \$3,050.00 |
| Henty Presbyterian Church - Henty Health Forum | \$2,400.00 |
| Holbrook Netball Football Debutante Ball | \$36,791.00 |
| Knox Art Group Holbrook - Life Drawing | \$950.00 |
| Mental Health and Responsible Gambling Education Presentation – John Heagney | \$3,150.00 |

The author will be in attendance at the Council meeting to answer any questions from the Councillors.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

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RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW – COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM [CONT'D]

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council proceed with a grant application to Reconnecting Regional NSW – Communities Event Program. Including the following Expressions of Interest:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Active Farmers Run for Resilience @Table Top | \$10,000.00 |
| Back to the G-Rodge Festival at Gerogery | \$48,450.00 |
| Battle Of The Border (Horse and Carriage event) at Mullengandra | \$21,965.00 |
| Bowna Wymah Community - Fanny Lumsden Concert | \$18,500.00 |
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| Woolpack Inn Museum Holbrook 51st Birthday Festival | \$1,500.00 |
| Greater Hume Council Event Coordinator | \$7,311.00 |
| Total Amount: | \$301,708.00 |

2. The Expressions of Interest who were not considered eligible be notified.

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CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. NORTH HENTY RAIL CROSSING – PROPOSED LOAN BORROWING OF \$500,000 Report by Chief Financial Officer – Dean Hart

REASON FOR THE REPORT

For Council to consider entering into a loan borrowing of \$500,000 repayable over 20 years for the above project.

REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTIONS

- Objective** Our development and maintenance is sustainable, accessible, environmentally responsible and enjoyed by our community
- Outcome 4.1** Infrastructure and facilities meet the needs of our communities.

DISCUSSION

Councillors would be aware that the budget for the North Henty Rail Crossing included a commitment by Council to contribute \$500,000 toward the cost of the project. This contribution would be made by drawing on a loan borrowing.

As the project is now complete Council is requested to consider the options available for this loan borrowing.

An expression of interest was advertised in the Albury Border Morning Mail and the Wagga Daily Advertiser on 11 May, 2022 and 14 May, 2022.

Council received only one expression of interest from National Australia Bank with a number of different options presented to Council. These options are listed below;

Option 1. 20 year Fixed Interest Loan

Fixed rate = 7.85%

Option 2. 3 year Fixed Interest Loan with option to roll over (up to 20 years)

Fixed rate for 3 years = 7.25%

Option 3. 20 year Floating Rate Facility

Floating Rate 90 Day Roll = 4.42%

Option 4. 3 year Floating Rate facility for 20 years

Floating Rate 90 Day Roll = 4.23%

The above rates are indicative and may alter slightly. The fixed interest options are significantly more expensive than the variable rate alternative.

It is proposed to undertake the loan borrowing with a drawn down date of 20 June 2022.

Council has applied for additional funding from the State Government to assist with the additional costs incurred by Council to bring the project to practical completion.

If successful this would reduce the need for Council to subsidise these costs from its own reserves and would allow Council to repay part or all of the above loan.

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NORTH HENTY RAIL CROSSING – PROPOSED LOAN BORROWING OF \$500,000
[CONT'D]

In view of the high rates of fixed interest quoted, management do not consider it in the best interest of Council to take up option 1 or 2.

As Council may be able to reduce or completely pay out the loan within the next three years the option of a three year floating rate facility (Option 4) would present the best outcome for Council at this time. Council will still have the option to fix the loan for a fixed term and fixed interest in the future should it wish to do so.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Annual repayments on a \$500,000 3 year floating rate facility will cost \$37,173 per annum based on a rate of 4.23%. A movement of 1% in the rate would cost an additional \$3,289 per annum. This repayment has been included in the 2022-23 budget and the forward estimates for the following three years.

CONCLUSION

Council needs to borrow \$500,000 to finance its contribution toward the North Henty Rail Crossing project.

Option 4. 3 year Floating Rate facility for 20 years on a 90 day rolling basis is considered the most advantageous option for Council at this time.

Accordingly authority to undertake the loan borrowing with a drawn down date of 20 June 2022 is sought.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council authorise the General Manager to arrange a 3 year floating rate facility loan borrowing of \$500,000 from National Australia Bank (option 4) with a draw down date of 20 June 2022,
2. the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to sign loan documentation under the Common Seal of Council.

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ENGINEERING

**1. TENDER TL 11 – 2021 / 22 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COPPABELLA CREEK:
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT**

Report prepared by Works Engineer – Andrew Walls

REASON FOR REPORT

To consider tenders for the replacement of a flood damaged bridge over Coppabella Creek on Coppabella Creek Road.

REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTION

Objective Our development and maintenance is sustainable, environmentally responsible, and accessible and enjoyed by our community.

Outcome 4.1 Infrastructure and facilities meets the needs of our communities.

DISCUSSION

This project is part of the Council 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

The existing single lane bridge over Coppabella Creek near the intersection of Coppabella Road and Maginnitiys Gap Road was damaged beyond repair during a number of recent flood events.

Funding for the design and construction of a replacement on a Like-for-Like basis has been secured through the State Government - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Advertisements were placed in the Border Mail and on Tenderlink.

Tenders closed on Tuesday 24th May 2022. Two tenders were received via the Tenderlink portal.

The following tenders were received and are listed in alphabetical order.

| Company | Tender Price (excluding GST) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bridge and Marine Engineering P/L | \$1,255,900.00 |
| NELMAC P/L | \$770,000.00 |

A table of the apportionment used to assess the tenders is **ENCLOSED SEPARATELY** for Councillors information.

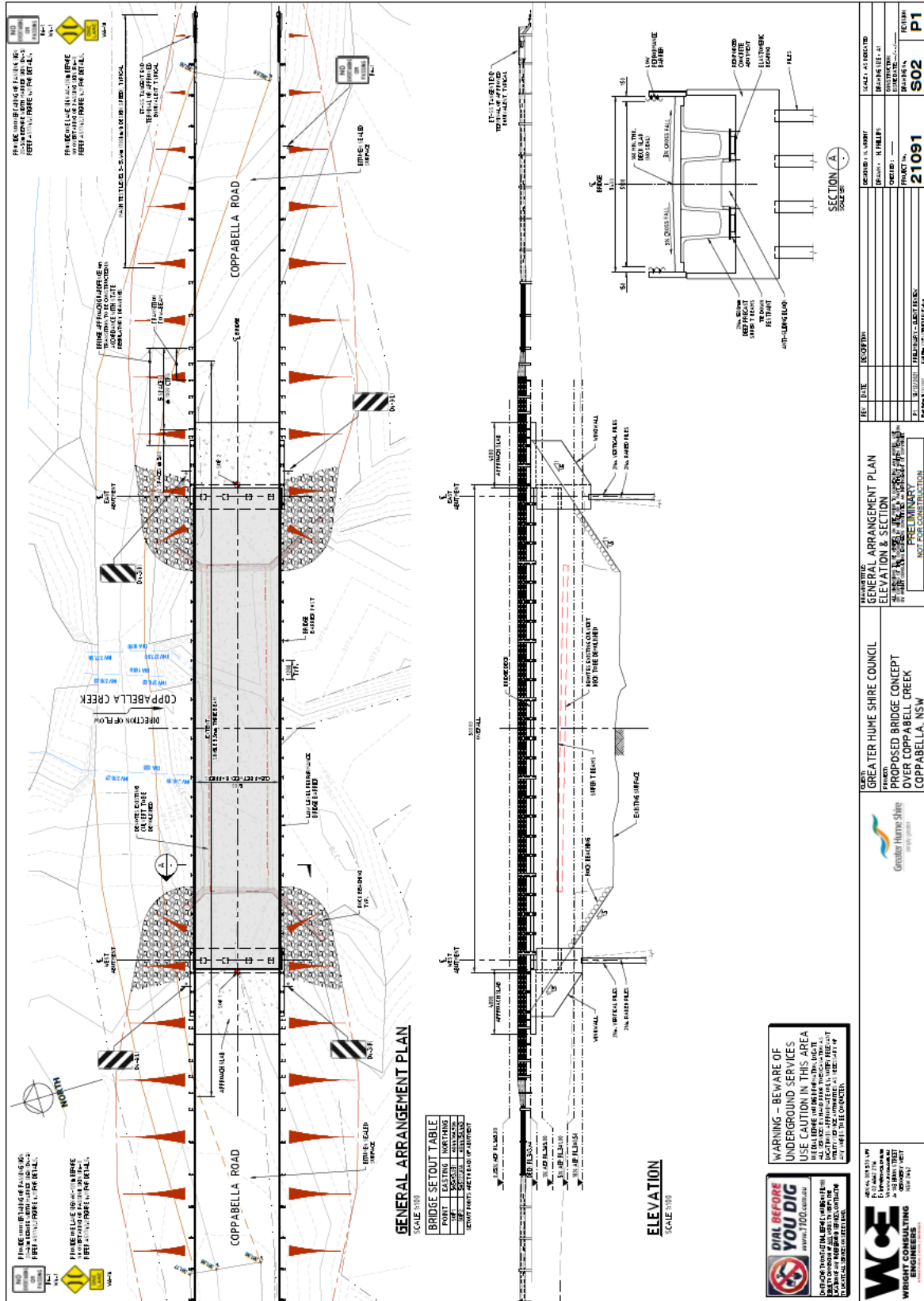
NELMAC P/L is a well-established bridge construction contractor based in Yackandandah and has previously completed works for Greater Hume Council to a satisfactory standard. Nelson McIntosh from NELMAC attended a post-tender telephone interview where it was confirmed that he was satisfied that they have the personnel and equipment to complete the project to the required standard in a safe manner. Mr McIntosh indicated that a projected commencement date for the design phase soon after being awarded the tender is possible.

Bridge design is estimated to be completed within 2 months of award of the contract. The construction of the new structure is intended to follow soon after the design although steel procurement issues may extend the completion date past the programmed late September finish.

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TENDER TL 11 – 2021/22 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COPPABELLA CREEK; DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT [CONT'D]

A drawing of the proposed works is shown below for Councillors information.



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TENDER TL 11 – 2021/22 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COPPABELLA CREEK; DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT [CONT'D]

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The budget for the Coppabella Creek Bridge Replacement project is \$1,300,000.00 (excl GST).

The tender price of \$770,000.00 (excl GST) is consistent with the engineers estimate and within the remaining budget of \$1,300,000.00(excl GST).

The remaining funding can be used for project management costs as well as road widening and reconstruction that is within the scope of the Disaster Claim submitted.

The tendered price does not include the possibility of provisional items.

CONCLUSION

Two tenders were received for the Bridge Replacement Coppabella Creek project.

Two tenders were considered.

The tender submitted by NELMAC P/L has been assessed to be suitable for the intended purpose and there is no technical or practical reason to conclude that NELMAC P/L are not capable of completing the contract to the required standard and within a reasonable timeframe.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The tender submitted by NELMAC P/L for tender TL11 Bridge Replacement Coppabella Creek; Design and Construct for \$770,000.00 (excl. GST) be accepted.
2. The unsuccessful tenderer be notified.
3. The General Manager and the Mayor be authorised to execute contract documentation with NELMAC P/L under the Common Seal of Council.

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2. TENDER TL 13 – 2021 / 22 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT 5 BRIDGES

Report prepared by Works Engineer – Andrew Walls

REASON FOR REPORT

To consider Tenders for the design and construction of 5 replacement bridges on Jingellic Road at Wantagong.

REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTION

Objective Our development and maintenance is sustainable, environmentally responsible, and accessible and enjoyed by our community.

Outcome 4.1 Infrastructure and facilities meets the needs of our communities.

DISCUSSION

This project is part of the Council 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

The bridges on Jingellic Road have been assessed by a qualified bridge consultant under a Fixing Country Roads Grant, for their structural adequacy and suitability for use by Higher Mass Limit (HML) vehicles.

The four structures at Serpentine Creek, Fish Creek, Scent Bottle Creek, and Spring Creek were all found to be structurally inadequate for excessive ongoing use by HML vehicles, whilst the width of the Wantagong Creek Bridge was below current design parameters.

Tenders were originally called for the replacement of the 5 structures in December 2021. The only price received was for \$3.8M which exceeded the allocated budget of \$1.9M.

Comments received by Council indicated that the high price and the low number of tenders received was due to the rigid nature of contract and that the project would both be cheaper and more palatable to contractors if the contract took the form of a design and construct project.

Contract documents were prepared for a Design and Construct tender which would allow a tenderer to price the works based on either bridge structures or box culvert structures according to their individual preference.

Advertisements were placed in the Border Mail and on Tenderlink.

Tenders closed on Wednesday 25th May 2022. Two Tenders were received via the Tenderlink portal with each tender giving a bridge option and a box culvert option.

The following Tenders were received and are listed in alphabetical order.

| Company | Tender Price (excluding GST) |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Bridge Marine P/L (Bridge option) | \$ 4,661,510.00 |
| Bridge Marine P/L (Box culvert option) | \$ 5,747,320.00 |
| NELMAC P/L (Bridge option) | \$ 5,347,400.00 |
| NELMAC P/L (Box culvert option) | \$ 4,020,900.00 |

Inexplicably the anticipated cost savings resulting from a Design and Construct tender gave rise to an increase in the best tender price of \$0.2M, greater than the original tender.

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TENDER TL 13 – 2021 / 22 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT 5 BRIDGES [CONT'D]

Council has committed funding of:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| \$926,282.00 | HVSPP Price |
| \$926,282.00 | Black Summer Bushfire Recovery |
| <u>\$860,000.00</u> | 50% Repair Program/50% Block Grant 2022/23 |
| \$2,712,564.00 | |

As this is the second time that tender has been put up for consideration, and due to the timeframes on the expenditure of the grants (by 30 June 2023), it is considered the best option is for Council to not accept any tender and directly negotiate with the most competitive tenderer NELMAC P/L to determine if an option to replace all five bridges can be achieved with the allocated funds.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The budget for the replacement of the five bridges at Wantagong project is \$2,700,000.00 (excl GST).

The best tender price received of \$4,020,900.00 (excl GST) exceeds the remaining budget of \$2,700,000.00 (excl GST).

The tendered price does not include the possibility of provisional items.

CONCLUSION

- Two Tenders were received for the reconstruction of the five bridges at Wantagong.
- Both Tenders were considered.
- Both Tenders exceeded the budget allowance.
- It is considered that Council negotiate with NELMAC P/L to determine if the required outcomes can be actioned with the current funds.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Decline to accept any Tenders for Tender TL13 Design and Construct 5 Bridges, in accordance with clause 178 (1) (b) of the Local Government (General) requirements.
2. Enter into negotiations with Nelmac P/L with the view of entering into a contract for the design and construction of 5 bridges at Wantagong on the basis that the Tender submitted by Nelmac Pty Ltd is the most competitive of the Tenders submitted and they have the proven ability to complete a project of this nature.
3. The unsuccessful tenderer be notified.