1.0 PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Port Macquarie Transport Network Community Consultative Committee is to provide a forum for discussion between Council and the community on issues directly relating to the investigation of proposed Orbital Road options, planned traffic network improvements and upgrades to the existing Port Macquarie road network, through the development of a Strategic Business Case.

At the 19 June 2019 Council meeting it was resolved:

7. Request the General Manager to establish a Proposed Orbital Road Community Consultative Committee that will be guided by a Council-adopted Charter (yet to be determined), with membership of the Committee to be determined via a formal Expression of Interest process, ensuring that a broad cross-section of interests and expertise are represented on the Committee.

2.0 KEY FUNCTIONS

The Committee will:

• Assist Council in meeting its commitment to address the proposed Orbital Road options and broader Port Macquarie road network improvements & upgrades.
• Promote information sharing between Council, local community members and other key stakeholders, on the proposed Orbital Road options and broader Port Macquarie road network improvements & upgrades.
• Work collaboratively with Council and provide feedback on the proposed Orbital Road options, Strategic Business Case studies or reports and broader Port Macquarie road network improvements & upgrades.
• Provide a forum for the community members and other stakeholders to share / seek information on and provide feedback to Council on the development of the Strategic Business Case for the proposed Orbital Road, including planned traffic network improvements and upgrades to the existing Port Macquarie road network,

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Committee will comprise ten (10) members including:

1. One independent Chair
2. Two Councillor representatives
3. Up to five community and stakeholder representatives (including no more than 2 representatives from any one representative group)
4. Two Council staff representatives (Director and Project Manager)

If and when decision-making is required, this will be by consensus.

It is anticipated other Council staff may be present on an as needs basis in support of the project to present information and listen to discussion.
3.1 Independent Chair

The Independent Chair must be:

- A convenor, facilitator, mediator and advisor for the Committee
- Independent and impartial
- The key contact between the Committee and Council

The Chair will be chosen through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process and must be able to demonstrate detailed experience in community relations, facilitation, mediation and / or public advocacy.

The appointment of the Chair to the Committee will be for a period of 12 months at which time the Committee membership will be reviewed; with the option to extend the Independent Chair’s tenure for another twelve-month period via a resolution of the Council, without the need to go through a formal EOI process.

The Chair will be responsible for:

- Convening and running the meetings in a fair and independent way
- Ensuring members comply with the Code of Conduct
- Resolving disputes between members
- Liaising with Council staff on minutes, agendas and reports

3.2 Community and Stakeholder representatives

Community and stakeholder representatives will represent a broad cross section of the community in age and gender and will be chosen through an EOI process.

Local community representative’s must:

- Be a current resident or landowner in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area
- Be able to demonstrate active involvement in local community groups or activities
- Have awareness and knowledge about the projects on which the Committee will be focussed
- Be able to represent and communicate the interests of the community
- Be willing to adhere to the Council’s Code of Conduct at all times, including the need for confidentiality at times.

Representatives of stakeholder groups must:

- Be a member of a stakeholder group with an interest in the projects on which the Committee will be focussed
- Have awareness and knowledge about the projects on which the Committee will be focussed
- Be able to represent and communicate the interests of their group and share information with their respective groups
- Be willing to adhere to the Council’s Code of Conduct at all times, including the need for confidentiality at times.

Appointment to the Committee will be for a period of twelve months, at which time a review of the membership of the Committee will take place; with the option to extend the existing Committee for another twelve-month period via a resolution of the Council, without the need to go through a formal EOI process.
3.3 Obligations of Members

- As per Section 226 (c) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993, the Mayor is the principal spokesperson for the governing body and Councillors that are members of the Committee are to obtain the Mayor's agreement to make media and other statements. Further, only the Mayor, or a Councillor with the Mayor's agreement and otherwise in accordance with Council policies and procedures, may release Council information through media statements or otherwise, and the release of such information must be lawful under the Council adopted Code of Conduct. Council officers that are members of the Committee are bound by the existing operational delegations in relation to speaking to the media.

- A Councillor as a member of the Committee or the Committee itself has no delegation or authority to make decisions on behalf of Council, nor to direct the business of Council. The only decision-making power rests with Councillors, through formal resolutions of Council.

- The Committee may make recommendations to Director of Strategy and Growth or General Manager who will have the discretion to prepare a report, for consideration by Councillors through a formal meeting of Council. Council will consider recommendations that come from the Committee, however is under no obligation to resolve in favour of such recommendations.

- A Councillor as a member of the Committee or the Committee itself cannot direct staff and must abide by the decisions of Council and the policies of Council.

Confidentiality and Conflict Of Interest:

- Councillors, Council staff and members of this Committee must comply with the applicable provisions of Council's Code of Conduct in carrying out the functions as Council officials. It is the personal responsibility of Council officials to comply with the standards in the Code of Conduct and regularly review their personal circumstances with this in mind.

- Committee members must declare any conflict of interests at the start of each meeting or before discussion of a relevant item or topic. Details of any conflicts of interest should be appropriately minuted.

- Where members or invitees at Committee meetings are deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest, it may be appropriate they be excused from Committee deliberations on the issue where the conflict of interest may exist. This does not relate to where a Committee member resides.

- All members of the Committee will be required to complete a confidentiality agreement that will cover the period of their membership of the Committee.

3.4 Appointment of Members

Council will seek Expressions of Interest for the independent chair and community/stakeholder representatives for an appointment of 12 months by the following means:

- Advertising in the local paper
- Social media
- Council Website.

The EOI will be open for no less than 28 days. The EOI submissions will be reviewed and assessed against appropriate selection criteria.

A report will then be prepared for a future Council meeting in relation to the appointment of members to the Committee.

The Committee will be established for the life of the development of the Strategic Business Case.
4.0 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the Committee shall be held on a quarterly basis as a minimum, with no more than six meetings in a 12-month period.

5.0 MEETING PRACTICES

5.1 Quorum

A meeting of the Committee shall not proceed unless a quorum of at least one (1) more than half the number of members are present.

5.2 Chairperson

- The Chairperson shall be the Independent Chair.
- If the Chair is not available, the most senior staff member at the meeting will act as Chair.

5.3 Secretariat

A Council Staff representative is to be responsible for ensuring that the Committee has adequate secretariat support. The secretariat will ensure that the business paper and supporting papers are circulated at least three (3) days prior to each meeting.

6.0 ATTENDANCE BY NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There may be occasions where other attendees are required at Committee meetings, for example; funding partners, other levels of Government, project managers (if applicable), stakeholder engagement specialists and other Council staff. Invitations to Committee meetings will be on an as needs basis and upon the formal request of the Chairperson.

7.0 COMMITTEE INDUCTION

The Independent Chair will ensure that members are given a suitable induction training to equip them for their role in the Committee, in accordance with Council’s Code of Conduct and the Council adopted Code of Meeting Practice.