



Floodplain Management Authorities



2011 Annual Conference

TAMWORTH *'Australia's Country Music Capital'*



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 ABOUT TAMWORTH

Tamworth – a progressive and intelligent city!!

Tamworth is a beautiful, vibrant and prosperous regional city approximately 400km north of Sydney and 600km south of Brisbane. It covers 184 square kilometres and is home to nearly 40,000 people. The Tamworth Region is home to Australia's only true Country Music experience, full of adventure with new and delightful discoveries.



Tamworth is the "capital city" of the New England North West region of NSW, servicing around 182,000 people. Tamworth is the hub of a regional council area surrounded by the localities of Barraba, Manilla, Bendemeer and Nundle. The Tamworth Regional area is approximately three times the size of Sydney basin or about the same size as Lake Eyre.

Visitors come to this region all year round, to soak up the country music atmosphere, to see the magnificent landscapes and take part in the many activities that occur throughout the year such as the Country Music Festival, the National Cutting Horse Association Futurity and various national sporting championships.

The Tamworth region is one of the most progressive and exciting places in inland Australia combining country living with city style, history, sport and culture. The stunning main street, often referred to as the 'best main street in Country Australia' boasts a prosperous and vibrant retail industry.

Tamworth Regional Council is extremely proactive in relation to infrastructure strategic planning for management of flood events. Council is in the final stages of construction of the 'western levee'. This levee will protect residential and industrial areas from floods up to the 1% AEP event. This levee has been constructed over 5 years for a total project cost of \$10 million. Additionally Tamworth Regional Council is well underway with Floodplain Studies for the towns of Woolomin and Nundle and are soon to commence a similar study for Manilla.

1.2 TAMWORTH AND TOURISM



Talk about Tamworth these days and you'll probably think of country music! As Australia's Country Music Capital, Tamworth attracts more than 50,000 visitors from all over the world to the city in January for the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

The Tamworth Region is more than Country Music though – it is surrounded by world class attractions and activities. Manilla is recognised as one of the best paragliding sites in the world and hosted the 2007 Paragliding World Championships, the old gold

fields and Australian heritage town of Nundle is well recognised as a unique boutique escape destination and the bird routes of Barraba holds both flora and fauna treasures such as the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

In addition, Tamworth is a leader in coordinating events with national and international events regularly held here. September 2008 saw the completion of the [\\$30m Australian Equine Livestock and Events Centre](#) (AELEC). This is truly a spectacular world class super centre.

In November 2008 Tamworth achieved the great honour of being named the overall state winner of the NSW Tidy Town Awards, for the second time in a decade, against 450 tidy towns from all over the state. Tamworth also received the inaugural water conservation award for Penford Australia, one of Tamworth's largest employers, and its innovative way of saving 40% water at their factory.

Tourism Tamworth Ltd, responsible for marketing and promoting the region continually works with local businesses to develop a varied and enjoyable tourist experience including events, sports and equine activities, conferences and conventions and entertainment across a number of venues.

2. VENUE OPTIONS

Tamworth enjoys a number of venue options which are modern, professional and conveniently located to accommodate conference delegates. All venues have up to date technical and IT services to support the needs of a conference of this type.

These venues include;

2.1 Performing Arts Centre

The Brand new Capitol Theatre in the heart of the CBD. The Theatre is located within the Forum 6 Cinema complex and offers a great variety of conference and event options. The main theatre seats 405 people with 5 other cinemas available with capacity ranging from 30 to 120 people. The facility has state of the art professional theatre lighting, full sound system and IT projector capacity, dressing rooms which can act as meeting rooms, orchestra pit fully air conditioned.

The facility shares a fabulous airy light filled common area, which can be used for meal breaks and a variety of catering are available within the facility.

2.2 Tamworth Regional Entertainment & Conference Centre (TRECC)



Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC) is the largest facility of its kind outside the NSW and south-east Queensland metropolitan areas.

TRECC provides a venue designed to be flexible in order to meet the needs of the exhibition and large events industry, while remaining flexible enough to cater for the demands of country music during the January

Festival.

TRECC is a fully flexible venue and is able to be transformed from Conference Centre one day to an intimate group dinner the next. The venue hosted the 1999 Floodplain Conference and received fantastic feedback from delegates. Seating can be configured to suit conference needs with sections of the venue not required, simply curtained off.

The impressive 20m long registration counter includes; telephone, fax and office facilities. There is ample space either inside the Foyer area or within the 4,000 sqm auditorium, for displays, events and sponsors booths.

TRECC is situated approximately 5 kilometres south of the city's CBD and can very easily be transformed into the requirements for the Floodplain Management Conference with a plannery room, break out rooms and office.

2.3 Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC)



Tamworth is the proud home of the brand new \$30million Australian Equine Livestock and Events Centre (AELEC). This world class super centre is located on the New England Highway, a few hundred meters from the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC), creating the ultimate conference and events precinct.

Sitting on a 22-hectare site the Centre is much more than a venue for livestock events and conferences. While it is custom built and designed for these groups, the distinctive architect-designed complex includes a superior stadium on two levels and a theatre-style selling ring.

AELEC represents the final success of a decade-long community quest which recognised the value of the equine and livestock industries and a desire to increase this region's stake in future growth and development of these industries and the conference and events market as a whole.

The facility is a credit to the foresight of Tamworth Regional Council and their commitment to growing this beautiful city. In October AELEC won the prestigious State Government Award for project excellence.

3. TECHNICAL TOURS

Below is a snapshot of some technical tour options for conference delegates. Additional technical tour options will be established once success of the conference bid is confirmed.

Technical tour 1:

1. Tamworth City Levee System

The levee system protecting Tamworth is nearing completion. Tamworth is the junction of Goonoo Goonoo Creek and the Peel and Cockburn Rivers with each of these systems capable of generating flooding through Tamworth.

The construction of the levee will not completely eliminate flooding issues for properties within the city. Closed flood gates introduce risk to property from stormwater trapped behind the levee and adequate planning needs to be maintained to reduce risk for these properties.

The study tour will inspect the completed works with a review of the technical issues that arose during the design, construction and post construction phase of the levee.

2. Chaffey Dam

Chaffey dam is the main water supply dam for Tamworth. When the dam is below capacity it also provides flood mitigation for the Peel River. The expansion of the dam has been identified as a key element for the future development of Tamworth. The proposal is to lift the dam wall increasing the storage capacity of the dam from 62GL To 100 GL. In addition to this additional works are proposed to improve dam safety for extreme flood events.

The study tour will include presentations of the proposed works, a review of costs and benefits for the proposed actions and the current program for the works.

3. Woolomin Flood Plain

Woolomin is a small village located on the Peel River directly down stream from Chaffey Dam. The village has been the subject of an ongoing flood study and is also part of the early warning system for flood events or dam failures.

The study tour would review the process undertaken for the flood modeling and identify aspects that could be improved for future flood studies. In particular the use of high resolution aerial photography in conjunction with site specific field survey to provide model accuracy.

4. Flood Event 29 November 2008

Tamworth suffered moderate flooding in an event on 29 November 2008. The area was declared a Natural Disaster on that same day by the Minister.

The event was unique with flooding recorded in excess of 0.01 AEP for some catchments. The response time for some catchments, particularly within the Cockburn system were very short and much quicker than previous floods. The flood caused catastrophic failure of the road system between Limbri and Weabonga with the disaster response elevated to a Regional level to allow the department of Commerce to mobilise resources from across the State.

The study tour would include presentations from technical staff relating to rainfall data, stream flow rates and resulting flooding. The Limbri Weabonga Road will be visited to show the extent of the damage and method of repair. The presentation will address issues that could result in improved outcomes for the next event.

4. CONFERENCE CATERING

Whether it's a gourmet BBQ, breakfast for 50, a banquet dinner for 3,000 or a concert for 5,000, Tamworth's award winning caterers will create a memorable meal perfectly suited to your event and tailored to your clientele's budget.

With Michelin Star Chefs, Culinary Olympians and multi-award winning food experts and caterers on offer, the talent available in Tamworth will satisfy and impress the appetite of visiting delegates.

Fresh seasonal produce sourced from around the region and interstate coupled with a comprehensive range of local wines, our team can create a true local flavour to add to the experience of your event.

Our venues ensure we can deliver fantastic events and can be transformed to a country theme, accompanied by world class performers to entertain delegates. The prices for dinner and theming will vary dependant on final ideas and budgets.

4.1 Conference Dinner

There are a number of fabulous venues in Tamworth that would host a classy conference dinner or cocktail party. A fabulous cocktail reception could be hosted in the stunning and airy Tamworth Regional Art Gallery and Library Complex.

There are a number of venues able to accommodate a conference dinner, some with inhouse catering and others in Tamworth's fabulous venues with outside catering.

We are happy to liaise with management of venues and design a menu to showcase the New England North West region. Guests can taste the flavours unique to this area.

5. TRANSPORTATION

Tamworth is accessible by air, by train and by coach.

Tamworth Regional Airport is a ten minute drive from the city centre. Qantaslink flights depart up to five times daily from Sydney. In just over 45 minutes, flying high over the Hunter Valley and Liverpool Ranges or the coast, view the wonderful Peel Valley from the air.

Qantaslink has a Conference Reservation System designed to make group bookings for your conference easier. Should the demand be sufficient, we can arrange for extra flights to take place for the Floodplain Management Conference, to ensure delegates have sufficient air services over the conference period.

Buses can be arranged to transport delegates to the conference venue or motel accommodation. Tourism Tamworth has existing relationships with large and small bus coach companies and is able to arrange quotes to suit delegate transportation requirements.

State Rail Authority operate a daily service to and from Tamworth City.

Tamworth has an abundance of Taxi services which operate 24 hours 7 days per week.

6. CONFERENCE FEES

It is the aim of Tamworth Regional Council and Tourism Tamworth to ensure conference rates are kept inline with rates set for 2009 Albury Conference. Without additional knowledge of the host region requirements we cannot put more specifics to this at this time.

7. ACCOMMODATION

Tamworth's accommodation and conference facilities are first-class and provide sufficient options which will meet the needs of delegates. Tamworth is serviced by more than 40 motels ranging from five-star to caravan/camping sites. There are over 3,000 beds available within the city's accommodation sector, with more than 90 percent of venues holding a star rating of three-three and half star or above. Some of Tamworth's motels and their facilities are outlined below. Tourism Tamworth is able to block book accommodation providers on behalf of the Flood Management Conference Delegates.

8. PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Tourism Tamworth is a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) and as such have the experience, skills and infrastructure to coordinate and deliver all aspects of a professional conference. Our professional conference management systems will allow Tourism Tamworth to greatly assist with your conference by managing everything to do with an event from the initial stages to a post event analysis or just providing support and accommodation booking services. We can do as little or as much as you require. Our PCO system can take care of registration, accommodation, transport, catering, ticketing, tabling/seating, speakers, venue bookings, and much more, making your job a whole lot easier!

Registrations - Tourism Tamworth has the capacity to assist with delegate registrations through our Ticketing and Reservation Services.

Event Support - Tourism Tamworth can provide marketing and promotional support to events that have the capacity to attract visitors to the Tamworth region.

Buses - Tamworth has existing relationships with large and small coach companies that would be able to quote on hire for day trips and activities as well as transport to specific events.

Hire of Equipment - A number of equipment hire companies are located in Tamworth such as; A1 Hire or Coates Hire. Costs can be sourced on the provision of exact requirements.

Public Address Systems - All venues featured within this proposal have PA Systems that are adequate for your functions.

Risk Management - Tourism Tamworth only recommends activities and venues that have adequate risk management procedures.

Satchels & Promotional Packs for Delegates - Tourism Tamworth are able to produce promotional packs including information such as the Touring Guide; Accommodation & Attractions Booklet; Town Map and example touring itineraries and are able to post this information to your delegates as a pre-promotional activity prior to the conference.

Volunteers - Tourism Tamworth Ltd has a pool of 60 volunteers that assist in providing Visitor Information within the Centre daily. This team of volunteers are able to assist with the coordination of delegate registrations, touring opportunities and other activities throughout the conference.

9. TOURING TAMWORTH AND DISTRICT

9.1 THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN TAMWORTH

Tamworth and the surrounding region offer delegates and their partners a variety of options on things to see and do;

Golf - Play the Greg Norman designed Longyard Golf Course and indulge in 18 holes. The very first golf course established in Tamworth is the Tamworth Golf Club; its tree lined avenues between holes, manicured fairways and numerous bunkers offer an alternative course to the competitive.

Tennis - Grab some mates and lob to the Tamworth Tennis Club. The facilities are well maintained and after the game you can reward yourself with a cold beverage of the brewery kind!

Gone Fishing - Arc-En-Ceil Trout Farm at Hanging Rock (1 hour from Tamworth) just up the hill from picturesque Nundle gives you the opportunity to take a break and you're guaranteed to catch a few! Try the rainbow trout smoked in their exquisite trout pates and other trout products...an excellent addition to any picnic!

Back To Nature - There are a number of great bush walking trails in and around Tamworth. From the Oxley Lookout begin the Kamilaroi Walking Track and lose yourself in the hills of Tamworth and the views across the valley....quite the challenge.

Food and Wine - Indulge in the fruits of the region with a visit to one of Tamworth's nine vineyards. Tourism Tamworth recommends taking a trip to Blickling Estate (Banalasta - 35 mins from CBD) to sample the flavours from the soil at the top of the Great Dividing Range, local wines, the eucalyptus plantation and lavender products or explore the lavender farm and pick up a natural beauty treat. Or visit Kitty Crawford Estate, just a short drive on the Dungowan Road to discover the Ironbark Creek Winery cellar door with the original architectural heritage buildings, picture postcard perfect...you might even enjoy a glass of wine.

Berry Farm - Koolkuna Berry Farm (1.5 hours from CBD, in the hills of Niangala) is a local producer of berry products, ice creams, jams and spreads and even liqueurs – a trip to the farm will give you the opportunity to create your own 'blend' to take away with you... a unique keepsake to be enjoyed at your leisure!

Spot A Star - At the Big Golden Guitar you'll find the Galaxy of Stars Wax Museum housing life sized wax figurines of some of Australia's well known country music artists.

Country Pubs / Wine Bars - Tamworth is home to a great variety of pubs with great history, including the Tamworth Hotel, Longyard Hotel, Joe Maguires plus many more. Alternatively check out the refurbished ANZ bank building and grab and Irish beer at The Vault restaurant and bar.

[The Country Music Capital Tour](#) - Walk a Country Mile is an award winning exhibition located at the Tamworth Visitor Information Centre and pays homage to the artists that have shaped Australian country music, the successes and the history – a must do when you're in Australia's Country Music Capital.

[Glorious Coffee](#) - The Coffee Bean Roasting House (7 minutes from CBD) in Tamworth allows you to see and smell first hand how coffee beans are roasted, blended and packaged. Have a cappuccino or coffee of your choice while you are there. Also there are many great cafes located along the stunning Peel Street.

[Lindsay Butler Studios](#) - One of country music busiest recording studios and is available for you to take a sneak peak at. Conveniently located on the highway it's just a hop, skip and jump away. Call and book a group in and you might find a special performance is provided just for you!

[Australian Country Music Hall Of Fame](#) - Pay tribute and take in the ACMF (within the CBD) and celebrate the journey of the music genre up to now and a great showcase of our history.

[Art](#) - Tamworth Regional Art Gallery is located in Tamworth's main street and is of such a quality that it is included in the touring route of many of the major exhibitions. There's always something amazing to check out at the gallery!

[Weswal Gallery](#) - At the top of town you'll find this quaint gallery and café, offering you a bite to eat as you soak up the atmosphere. Also a great view from the top of the town.

[Calala Cottage](#) - Step back into the past at Calala Cottage, one of Tamworth's original buildings. Its history extends back to the 1800's and it's all waiting for you to explore.

[Motorcycle Museum](#) - Start your engines – you've never seen so many masterpieces collected together as you will at Tamworth's Motorcycle Museum. Part of the Quality Hotel Powerhouse, this museum offers bikes from all eras and all styles... it will excite even the non-motorbike enthusiasts.

[Retail](#) - There are a great range of retail outlets in the city including the award winning Aussie Bush Leather, Blowes Menswear, locally owned exclusive boutiques for quality ladies clothing and shoes, Bunnings, Barbeques Galore as well as an array of major department stores and chains stores.

Delegates might choose to take some time out for themselves and have a wander through the streets of the city along the Tamworth Heritage Walk or Drive which showcases some of the architecture of yester-year including churches, Conservatorium of Music, schools, museums and other unique buildings. Or if you feel like relaxing and doing very little, grab a coffee and head to one of the many beautiful parks which surround Tamworth's CBD.

9.2 1/2 DAY TOURS

Arts and Culture
Business and Economic Opportunities
History and Heritage
Get back to Nature

There are many attractions in and around Tamworth which may appeal to conference delegates, partners or family members.



Nundle, an old gold mining town, is located 45 minutes East of Tamworth. The drive takes you past rich farming lands, picturesque picnic areas and some of the best fishing spots in NSW. Nundle, Woolomin and Hanging Rock are quaint country villages; while there you can visit Chaffey Dam (outside Woolomin), hike through the scenic surrounds such as Bowling Alley Point or Hanging Rock, or visit one of the oldest working woollen mills based in Nundle. Enjoy lunch at the historic Peel Inn, browse through the gorgeous boutiques and finish off your day with a visit Tourism Nundle and check out the recently relocated world class Gem collection.



Bendemeer is situated 42km North East of Tamworth on the New England Highway heading towards Armidale and hugs the banks of the trout-infested McDonald River in the Moonbi Ranges. Bendemeer is beautiful any time of the year - from the Macdonald River flowing through its tiny, but fiercely beating heart alive with arts, gardens, heritage and spirit.

Before you climb the Moonbi Ranges, call in at the twin villages of **Kootingal** and Moonbi; these towns are at the foot of those majestic hills. The locals will welcome you to their community. On the way, why not turn right at **Nemingha** (pronounced Nem-in-gar) for a country drive to Dungowan, Woolomin or Niangala, where visitors can taste the delicious berries and produce from Koolkuna Berries.



Manilla is an historic country town based along the Manilla and Namoi rivers. It is situated 44 km North of Tamworth on the Fossickers Way. Manilla has a population of 2110 people and is 363m above sea-level on the North West Slopes of NSW. It lies between two magnificent lakes – Lake Keepit to the South West and Split Rock Dam to the North; both dams offer excellent fishing and are great recreational areas for water sports.

This small community has gained international recognition as one of the best paragliding, sky sailing and hang-gliding sites in the world and hosted the World Paragliding Championships in March 2007!



After stopping at Manilla, continue North to [Barraba](#), 90kms North of Tamworth, located in the heart of the Nandewar Ranges. The 1510 metre high Extinct Volcano, Mount Kaputar lies to the West, and the Geological and Fossicking area of the Peel Fault to the East.

Barraba is part of the popular 'Fossickers Way' touring route, which is home to gold and precious stones and, visitors are welcome to take part in a little fossicking of their own!

Barraba also provides an excellent base for bird watching in the Region where you may be lucky enough to spot an endangered Regent Honeyeater.
