

Item 6.9 South Western Wireless

Summary

South Western Wireless approached the former Queanbeyan City Council with an unsolicited bid for a proposal to install wireless services in the Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra urban area. They are seeking access to Council land to install the required infrastructure and facilities at no charge to the Council. This would provide benefits to the community via free wi-fi in the Queanbeyan CBD as well as enhanced or alternative access to high-speed internet services within the Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra areas.

Recommendation

That:

- ~~1. Approve the use of Council owned land by South Western Wireless to install infrastructure required to deliver wireless services in Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra~~
- ~~2. Approve the provision of wireless service by South Western Wireless pending satisfying any Development Application requirements.~~
1. ***Council authorise the General Manager to enter negotiations with South Western Wireless to install infrastructure on Council owned land to deliver wireless services in Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra; with the potential to provide the benefit of FREE wireless to the Queanbeyan CBD.***
2. ***A recommendation comes back to Council in due course.***

Background

The former Queanbeyan City Council received a formal application from South Western Wireless (SWW) in April 2016 to implement wireless services across Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra for a six month trial period. The proposal is attached.

SWW is proposing:

- a) To implement wireless service across the Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra jurisdiction to provide a service to residents and business where there is currently poor connectivity or no connectivity accessed through customer plans.
- b) To implement free wireless service in the CBD of Queanbeyan (as identified by QPRC).
- c) To implement free service for some Not for Profit organisations (identified by QPRC) including web hosting, email hosting, data storage and backup, file storage, chat and messaging, disaster recovery and application processing.

Item 6.9 South Western Wireless

- i. To use the free Wi-Fi in the CBD to provide a distribution channel for QPRC to disseminate information to the public
- ii. To improve quality of life and livability, making it easier to attract and retain businesses and talent
- iii. To provide a platform the QPRC can leverage to implement intelligent sensor based innovations in utilities, public safety, environmental monitoring and real time decision making. For example, smart parking, wireless sensor networks to monitor traffic and automated meter reading infrastructure.
- iv. To allow further leveraging of the Wi-Fi service by QPRC to improve its own corporate connectivity service and reduce its direct financial costs. For example; it is estimated that by leveraging the services just in Queanbeyan has a potential savings of \$60,000 – \$80,000 in year 1 by removing copper dependences and routing network service. Additionally, QPRC staff (across many different sections) will be able to leverage the use of Wi-Fi in the field to conduct and report their job function/activities and consequently improving productivity and customer service.*
- v. To deploy location based services with geo-spatial capabilities which can contribute to better long term planning decisions
- vi. To leverage location analytics so tourist/visitors can receive 'push' information regarding their surroundings to help them better understand Queanbeyan and its environment.
- vii. To create opportunities for the development of a business model using this technology layer to help revitalise local commerce and added revenue streams for businesses. For example, local traders can have the ability to publish targeted offers and deals to citizens directly or through social networks

Implications

Legal

The facility will be required to meet any Development Application requirements and meet any plans of management related to the proposed sites. In respect of any risk of any implications that may arise if by providing SWW access to council land / facilities at a lesser cost or neutral cost (contra) in exchange for free Wi-Fi and other services that benefit the community, the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* Council Charter provide surety:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions