



Ordinary Meeting of Council

25 August 2021

**SUPPLEMENTARY UNDER
SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENTS**

**QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

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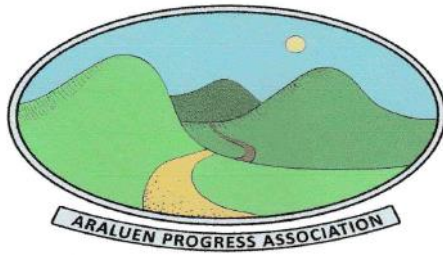
QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

25 AUGUST 2021

ITEM 9.13 REQUESTS TO COUNCIL FOR BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE
 RECOVERY FUND GRANTS

ATTACHMENT 1 LETTER FROM ARALUEN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION RE
 BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY FUND GRANT



Araluen Progress Association
PO Box 16
Braidwood, NSW 2622

email: araluen.progress@hotmail.com

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
PO Box 90
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

August 22nd 2021

Dear Councillors,

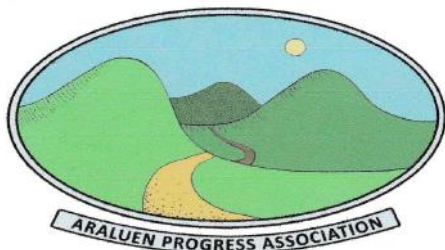
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Araluen Progress Association in response to communication that I had with Mr Derek Tooth from your office on 20th August 2021. Mr. Tooth advised that the Council resolved (at its August Planning & Strategy Meeting) to apply for \$100k to build footpaths in Araluen in the current Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants.

To say that I was shocked and perplexed by this proposal is an understatement as to the best of my knowledge I do not believe that there has been any consultation with the community of Araluen about their needs, or this proposal. As council would be aware the upkeep of the road verges, a Council responsibility, is not carried by Council but by a group of dedicated residents who volunteer their time to mow and maintain the main road including the Recreation reserve and campground. If footpaths were installed it would make this job a lot more difficult to manage and create more work for the volunteers.

The residents of Araluen have identified, through the Council led Resilience Planning workshop several other priorities that could be applied for under this grant. The main issue for the Araluen Valley during the Black Summer fires was having access to water during this emergency for the local volunteer Firefighters (Mozzies). Under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Funding (BLERF) there will be an upgrading of the amenities at the Araluen Campground which will include a new toilet, a water bore and solar pump. We believe that your application would better serve the Araluen community by including the items below to be added to this site which will also provide economic recovery by increasing tourists to Araluen.

- Stand Pipe for Water Bore at Campground for Quick Fill option for the Mozzies
- 2 x 25,000 Water Tanks at Campground
- 5 x Park Benches – Tables and Chairs (Wooden Design) at Campground

The community has been advocating with council for several years for the fence to be replaced at the Anglican/Church of England Cemetery due to termite damage which means that wildlife including wombats have free-range in the cemetery and have damaged graves including making their homes under tombstones. This is very upsetting for family members and descendants when they have spent a large amount of money on the recent graves and on restoration of older ones. The cemetery is in a very isolated part of the Valley where



you must cross two creek crossings. In times of flood these can be impassable leading the council to make adhoc repairs. There are often times, when two-wheel vehicles have not been able to drive along the road to either cemetery. There have also been times when Funeral hearses have not been able to cross and the casket of the deceased had to be transferred onto a council truck to take over for burial, much to the distress of the family. We have also had the tragedy of someone attempting to cross during flood which resulted in their death. If two small bridges or culverts could be installed over these crossings, it would mean that the residents that live along this road would have improved access during times of emergencies. There are similar access issues for the residents of the Roman Catholic Road.

We would ask Council to consider applying for funding to cover:


- New Steel Fencing (critter proof) for the Anglican/Church of England Cemetery
(If this is not possible then a wooden fence which is treated against Termite infestation)
- Improved Road Access to the Anglican/Church of England Cemetery road including bridge or culverts
- Improved Road Access to the Roman Catholic Cemetery Road

The Araluen Land Managers of the Araluen Recreation Reserve have also added their support to our request and have several improvements that they have identified for the community at the Recreation Reserve (see attached)

- A new Kitchen for the Shelter Shed
- 1 x 25,000 Water Tank
- Updated Playground Equipment
- Outdoor Gym Equipment
- New Electric Outdoor BBQ Facilities

If these items can be included in your application instead of Footpaths, we believe that the residents of Araluen would be better served.

Regards


Donna Harrison
Vice President
Araluen Progress Association

QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

25 AUGUST 2021

ITEM 9.13 REQUESTS TO COUNCIL FOR BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE
 RECOVERY FUND GRANTS

ATTACHMENT 2 LETTER FROM ARALUEN RECREATION RESERVE LAND
 MANAGER RE BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY
 FUND GRANT

Mr Derek Tooth
QPRC
144 Wallace St
Braidwood NSW 2622

Re: ARALUEN FUNDING PROPOSAL

Dear Mr Tooth

I am writing this letter of support to accompany the Araluen Progress Associations correspondence regarding potential projects that could be funded through the latest Black Summer funding.

I am the Chairperson of the Araluen Recreation Reserve Land Manager and the trust is disappointed that no community consultation has been had concerning QPRCs proposal to spend \$100,000 on footpaths in the Araluen Valley. Council assumed that foot paths could somehow help our bushfire recovery - This project has very little credibility and there are many other projects of significance that the community here in Araluen needs. I will mention some, that we, as the land manager have on our 'wish list'.

- Basic kitchen arrangement for shelter shed, stainless steel sink, benches and shelving. Our fridge is 40 years old, and we would like to update it as well.
- Playground Equipment – revamp
- Outdoor adult gym
- ½ basketball court
- Water tank for shed
- New BBQ facilities
- Investigate community bore

The Land Manager are volunteers that take their position seriously. We are continually striving to provide practical and innovative projects for the community with an emphasis on the future resilience and sustainability of the people of Araluen.

Recently we were successful in securing funding through the Crown Lands Improvement Fund to provide an off grid power system at the Recreation Ground. In the black summer bushfire grid power was down leaving the village and surrounds in black out at a critical time.

Araluen Valley now has power available in times of emergency, the system runs the hot water, the fridge and the pump for flushing toilets. Eventually we have plans to be a charging station for electric vehicles. We are thinking laterally, it's disappointed that there seems to be a widening disconnection with QPRC, which is a real shame. Open up the communication channels and have conversations with communities. Build working relationships and offer support to us, this community has suffered enormously in the last few years, we need support and confidence in Council to do the right thing.

Kind Regards
Cath Harrison

Chairperson
Araluen Recreation Reserve Land Manager

22nd August 2021