



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM  
HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**1. Opening**

The Public Forum commenced at 5.31pm

**2. Presentations relating to listed Items on the Council Agenda**

There were no presentations.

**3. Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

**4. 'Questions on Notice' from the Public**

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to 3 September 2019 were provided and tabled at the meeting (see attached for responses):

<b>Received from</b>	<b>In relation to:</b>
Katrina Willis	Two questions regarding a panel for Rates Harmonisation.
Katrina Willis	One question regarding public consultation for the 2020-21 Operational Plan.
Katrina Willis	Two questions regarding a solar panel system at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre and Letchworth Community Centre.
Katrina Willis	Three questions regarding the Queanbeyan Water and Sewer fund.
Sandra Young	Three questions regarding the new Queanbeyan Headquarters.

**5. Presentations by Invitation from the CEO/General Manager**

There were no presentations.

**6. Closure**

As there were no further matters, the Public Forum closed at 5.32pm.



## ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM HELD ON 11 September 2019

### 4 'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to *Wednesday 4 September 2019* were provided and tabled at the meeting

### Questions submitted by: Katrina Willis

1. **With respect to council's decision on 28 August 2019 (287/19) concerning rate harmonisation, can the council explain how it intends to select people to form a panel to recommend options for a new rating structure for the local government area to take effect from 1 July 2020?**

#### **Response – Organisation Capability**

Council will seek expressions of interest in the coming months from community and business representatives.

2. **When does the council expect to appoint the panel?**

#### **Response – Organisation Capability**

Recruitment and appointment of the Panel will occur once Council considers its policy and model options.

3. **As the council proposes to include consideration of a new rating structure as part of the operational plan for 2020-21, will it commit to providing a longer period for public consideration of the proposed changes than currently is provided for providing feedback on the draft operational plan?**

#### **Response – Organisation Capability**

Yes. This will be considered further by Council during the development of the 2020-21 Operational Plan and Revenue Policy, however it is worth noting that the 2019-20 Operational Plan and Revenue Policy were on exhibition from 26 April until 3 June which was in excess of the statutory period of 28 days.

4. **Why did the council decide not to proceed with installing a 75 kWh solar panel system at the Queanbeyan aquatic centre, as set out in the draft operational plan for 2019-20?**

#### **Response – Natural and Built Character**

As highlighted in the report to Council on 26 June, the project was recommended for removal as it required structural work, trenching and cabling which have extended the return on investment to a point where it no longer delivers value.

5. **What was the estimated savings from this decision, after accounting for a decision to install a smaller system at the Letchworth community centre which now houses QBN FM (not foreshadowed in the draft operational plan 2019-20)?**

#### **Response – Natural and Built Character**

Operations of the QBN FM Community Radio consumed \$12,000 worth of energy in its first year at this site, January 2018 to January 2019.

A 13 kW system essentially uses all the roof space. The cost to install a 15kW system is around \$13,500. The expected savings would be around \$4,600 pa. Considering the reduced use of energy and the Energy Saving Scheme Rebate of \$7,194, the project return on investment will be 2.9 years representing a very attractive economic benefit.

Power use will still be considerably higher than the power generated.

**6. Will the savings be re-directed to other renewable energy or energy efficiency projects?**

**Response – Natural and Built Character**

Energy savings are not calculated for reinvestment into the program. Council allocates funds for energy efficiency projects and unspent funds are reserved for future projects. The reserve held sufficient funds this year to cover the following projects:

- Miller St solar power \$13,349
- Upgrade lighting at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre \$18,290
- Upgrade lighting at Braidwood library \$9,000

No new funding was requested for Energy Efficiency projects in 2019/2020 budget.

**7. What is the current balance of the Queanbeyan water and sewer funds?**

**Response – Organisational Capability**

As at Council's last reporting period (30 June 2019) the balance of Water and Sewer funds were:

- Water Fund: \$31.1m
- Sewer Fund: \$69.0m

**8. What is the current estimated value of the dividends from the funds operation that is earmarked to service debt?**

**Response – Organisational Capability**

In Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan there is the provision of dividends commencing from 2022. The value varies year on year but the initial estimated dividends are:

- 2022: \$1.26m
- 2023: \$1.29m
- 2024: \$1.32m

The dividends are derived in accord with the Office of Local Government accounting guidelines, examples of which are illustrated on the Special Purpose Financial Statements for water and sewer business activities.

**9. What is the projected value of the dividends from the funds operation that is earmarked to service debt out to final years 2024-25 and 2029-30?**

**Response – Organisational Capability**

The total value of dividends in Council's LTFP through to 2025 is \$5.22m. The total value of dividends in Council's LTFP through to 2030 is \$12.48m

**Questions submitted by: Sandra Young**

**10. What is the current estimated cost for building the HOSH (or proposed new Queanbeyan Council Administrative Headquarters Office building site)?**

**Response – Community Connections**

Council is currently working with the architect to finalise the scope and concept design of the project which includes new public domain spaces and better connectivity between The Q and

Bicentennial Hall. The cost of the construction will be further refined as this design is progressed. An estimate will be available when the concept is placed on public exhibition.

**11. What is the timeframe for completion?**

**Response – Community Connections**

Council is aiming to complete the design and development approval process by early 2020 to allow for tendering to occur in mid-2020. It is estimated that construction could take up to two years to complete.

**12. What is the breakdown (loans/cash/reserves/other) for funding this project?**

**Response – Community Connections**

The construction of the head office and smart hub will be funded by a mixture of debt, asset sales, grants, developer contributions and merger savings, the specific values of which will be determined once the scope and project estimate are finalised.