

**PUBLIC FORUM
QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
11 July 2018**



Questions – Paul Hubbard

Proposed Queanbeyan Memorial Park

In my previous question answered on the 13 June you stated:

In 2007, due to further threatened species, Council resolved to amend the area that could be used for a cemetery. This was followed by a further tightening of federal legislation protecting Native Vegetation which resulted in Council resolving in 2009 to seek a new cemetery site. To follow the earlier recommendations would have required removing this bushland and this action was not supported by the council or community.

1. Can I see the 2007 document that talks to further threatened species?

Response – Natural and Built Character

On 7 February 2007, Council resolved 070/07 *“The Queanbeyan Cemetery Native Vegetation Plan be amended in accordance with the attached Concept Plan and be advertised for public comment in accordance with the Local Government Act.”*

The document can be viewed at <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Proposed-Memorial-Park>

2. Can I see the 2009 document that resulted in council decision making about the tightening of federal legislation preventing Native Vegetation?

Response – Natural and Built Character

Council made its decision in 2009 based on an open council report drawing Council’s attention to the requirements of the Native Vegetation Act 2003, Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 and consultation with experts in Threatened Species for NSW NPWS.

Council 270/09 **RESOLVED** *“that no further action be taken on Resolution No. 070/07 of 7 February 2007 until the necessary actions for finding a new cemetery for the City are completed as committed to in the Community Strategic Plan 2009-2019 and a decision is made, and a workshop be held to canvas ideas and provide information for Councillors.”*

3. Can I see the documentation where Council alleged to resolve to amend the area that could be used for a cemetery?

Response – Natural and Built Character

See question 1

Your answer below is without merit:

You stated:

Canberra's future cemetery was considered as a means of relieving pressure on Queanbeyan's Cemetery and has formed part of the cross-border discussions. However, Council still has a strategic planning role to ensure cemetery options for Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra and Googong residents within their local area. There is a strong community will to be buried in their home town and not be buried in another state or territory.

The existing lawn cemetery is less than 2 kilometres from land behind the ESA training facility and the Alexander Maconochie Centre where a new Cemetery and Crematorium could be negotiated with the ACT Government.

4. Has QPRC identified any possible cross border sites?

Response – Natural and Built Character

No.

It is clear from your answer to my questions that "Council still has a strategic planning role to ensure cemetery options for Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra and Googong residents within their local area" that the Old Cooma Road site was a convenient block of empty land.

5. Has PEET, the Googong developer, been asked to incorporate a Cemetery on the outskirts of their development?

Response – Natural and Built Character

Yes, discussions were held but no viable sites were identified.

6. If not, why not?

Response – Natural and Built Character

See question 5

I have also repeatedly asked about land across the road from the existing Lawn Cemetery but have been told that as this land is zoned E2 and the larger block is classified as Nature Reserve, there is nothing they (QPRC) can do.

7. Can you show me evidence of QPRC asking about the use of Lot 828275? A new cemetery could easily be accommodated in the top few acres and, if a protected species was identified there, it could be built around and preserved. I do not believe that you have ever approached the NSW Government.

Response – Natural and Built Character

The E2 Land between Lanyon Drive and the Railway line was investigated as a site for the cemetery during the 1990s and rejected on both Geotechnical and Environmental grounds at that time. It was later zoned E2 to protect the threatened species that are well documented on this site. The site is managed by NSW NPWS.

8. **Why hasn't Lot 727523 on the southern side of Hoover Rd been looked at for a Cemetery Extension. It was never landfill and meets all of your selection criteria, except that QPRC has designated it as Queanbeyan Nature Reserve. Anything special could be worked into the plan to make a very nice compromise of reserve and cemetery. Why haven't you done this?**

Response – Natural and Built Character

This site was previously used as a dog off leash area, however is now protected due to the existence of some threatened species that exist on the adjoining E2 lands. Council manage this land in consultation with NSW NPWS.

Questions – Giles Doolan

Captains Flat RFS shed

9. On 23 May 2018 QPRC General meeting the councillors voted to contact the Local Member John Barilaro for additional funding for the Captains Flat Rural Fire Brigade Station. Could you please let me know as President of the Brigade know if this approach for funding has been completed, as the local members staff have not received this as yet. Could you be so kind as to action this as the local member has funding available and has promised to fund to completion in a meeting held with the Brigade executive?

Response – Community Connections

Council has sent a letter to the Deputy Premier seeking additional funding for the Captains Flat Rural Fire Brigade Station.

Questions – Ken McLeod

Bungendore water supply

10. Is Bungendore's water fluoridated, and if not why not?

Response – Community Connections

Yes.

Questions – Sandra Young

Queanbeyan water and sewer funds

11. What was the amount in:

- Queanbeyan Water Fund, and
 - Queanbeyan Water Fund - Developer Contributions, and
 - Queanbeyan Sewer Fund, and
 - Queanbeyan Sewer Fund - Developer Contributions,
- prior to the election of the Amalgamated Councils, e.g. in the administration phase of the QPRC?

Response – Finance

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's 2016–17 Financial Statements showed:

Queanbeyan Water fund held

- \$5.9m developer contributions
- \$6.8m surplus restricted funds

Queanbeyan Sewer Fund held

- \$13.4m developer contributions
- \$34.4m surplus restricted funds

12. What is the present amount of money in the Queanbeyan water and sewer funds - 1 -4 above?

Response – Finance

Reserves are not fully reconciled until the process of compiling financial statements is undertaken and expenditure is committed.

As at the third quarter 2017-18 budget review, Council expects the reserve balances to be:

Queanbeyan Water Fund held

- \$5.9 million developer contributions
- \$8 million reserve

Queanbeyan Sewer Fund held

- \$6.5m developer contributions
- \$42m reserve

13. If over \$11 million is proposed to be transferred to the new Queanbeyan administrative building, and another \$8m transferred for development works at the Tralee development (total \$19m) what plan is in place to repay those funds?

Response – Finance

The Queanbeyan Head Office and Smart Hub will be funded by loan, with no capital contribution from water and sewer funds. Part of the \$8m contribution to South Jerra infrastructure (subject to receipt of NSW Government grant) is expected to be recovered from developer contributions. The Financial Plan forecasts the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment Plant to draw \$33m from reserves.

14. Does this transfer of funds require State Government approval?

Response – Finance

No.

15. If State Government approval is required has this been granted?

Response – Finance

See question 14.

16. If State Government approval has not been granted has Council applied for such approval and, if not, when will an application be made?

Response – Finance

See question 14.

17. If over \$11 million is proposed to be transferred to the new Queanbeyan administrative building, and another \$8m transferred for development works at the Tralee development, how will Queanbeyan water and sewer fund an emergency and/or if it later needs this money for an upgraded sewage treatment plant?

Response – Finance

All proposed expenditure within the Delivery Program meets the required benchmarks that allows sufficient reserves for emergencies.

18. Will these proposals to transfer funds from the Water and Sewer Funds affect the current rating/charging structure for those Funds and the General Fund?

Response – Finance

The independent Aither review of water and sewer charging undertaken on the Queanbeyan Water and Sewer Funds indicated with the current expenditure levels, charges will not need to increase above the CPI or Local Government Rate Pegging amount. All proposed expenditures are within the tolerances of the Aither review.

19. Will rates in any, or all, funds be increased?

Response – Finance

Council resolved in May 2018 to service borrowing for the Queanbeyan Head Office and Smart Hub through merger savings, service review savings, lease income and building operation savings.

20. Will the QPRC need to get another long-term loan to provide basic ratepayer services?

Response – Finance

No – operation and maintenance of Council's water and sewer assets will be funded by user charges.