



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM
HELD ON 25 MARCH 2020**

1. Opening

The Public Forum commenced at 5.33pm.

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 18 March 2020 were provided and tabled at the meeting (see attached for responses):

Numbers	Received from	In relation to:
1 - 2	Ms Katrina Willis	Braidwood Water Supply
3	Ms Katrina Willis	Bushfire Impacts
4 - 6	Ms Katrina Willis	CBD Land Swap
7 - 8	Ms Katrina Willis	Sale of Karabar Community Centre
9 - 11	Ms Katrina Willis	Interest payment of Ellerton Drive Extension loan
12 - 13	Ms Katrina Willis	Native tree removal

5. Presentations by Invitation from the CEO/General Manager

There were no presentations.

6. Online submissions

The Mayor granted Councillors a period of five minutes to enable them to read the following online submission:

Name	Item no	Item description	For/Against/ Neutral
Mr Alan Longhurst	9.3	Outcomes of Public Exhibition of Sutton Planning Proposal - Lot 3 DP 1074706, 202 Goolabri Drive, Sutton	For

7. Closure

As there were no further matters, the Public Forum closed at 5.38pm.



ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM HELD ON 25 March 2020

4 'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to *Wednesday 18 March 2020* were provided and tabled at the meeting

Questions submitted by: Katrina Willis

Braidwood Water Supply

1. **How much did the council pay to cart potable water to Braidwood once carting commenced in 2020? Has the NSW government agreed to pay part of the cost? If so, how much?**

Response – Community Connections

A total of 3,107 kL of water was carted between 21 January and 10 February 2020. Direct cartage costs were \$58,870. The NSW Government provided \$52,966.70 in funding assistance, with Council covering the remaining \$5,903.30.

2. **Now that water carting is no longer required following recent rainfall, what steps is the council taking to secure the long-term future water supply for the growing town?**

Response – Community Connections

Council is currently investigating a number of options in regards to the long-term water supply of Braidwood. this.

Bushfire impacts

3. **Has the council assessed the extent of the damage that the recent bushfires caused to local roads? If so, is there an anticipated cost to repair the damage and a schedule for work? If not, when will the council have this information?**

Response – Community Connections

Council staff are currently assessing the fire and flood damaged local and regional roads with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) inspectors. Once assessed and approved, all costs associated with the fire and flood repairs will be funded through TfNSW from the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). The final repair cost and program will not be finalised until all roads have been inspected, which should be completed within the coming weeks.

CBD land swap

4. **Can the council provide an update on the proposed exchange of QPRC properties in Crawford and Rutledge streets for unspecified public works adjacent to the proposed new administration headquarters?**

Response – CEO Office

At its meeting on 18 December 2019, Council resolved to not progress with the heads of agreement, and make arrangements to call expressions of interest for those properties.

5. **Is there an estimated date for the exchange of land titles?**

Response – CEO Office

Subject to the progress of the expressions of interest and any subsequent negotiations, it is anticipated contracts for sale will be in place before completion of the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct.

6. **Has a valuation of the QPRC lots been undertaken? If so, by whom and when? Was the valuation based on the potential for redevelopment of the sites?**

Response – CEO Office

Independent valuations were conducted by HillPDA Consulting in 2017 and by SVS Property Group in 2019. The valuations were based on current property, with current structures and current uses.

Sale of Karabar community centre

7. **Has the council sold the Karabar community centre? If so, when will it cease to become available for hire?**

Response – CEO Office

A contract for the sale has been executed. The timing of transfer is yet to be finalised.

8. **Have arrangements been made to find new meeting rooms for all of the groups that use the Karabar centre on an ongoing basis?**

Response – Community Choice

Yes, arrangements are in place to relocate current users to alternate meeting rooms.

Interest payment on Ellerton Drive Extension loan

9. **Can the council advise why it considers it appropriate for NSW residents to further subsidise the cost of the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE) by refunding to council the cost of interest repayments that the Googong township developers were due to repay to QPRC?**

Response – Community Connections

In May 2019 Council applied to participate in the Low Cost Loan Initiative scheme offered by the Office of Local Government.

The Low Cost Loans Initiative (LCLI) assists councils with the cost of new infrastructure by funding 50% of the interest paid on borrowings related to infrastructure. This helps councils to bring forward the delivery of infrastructure that enables new housing supply.

Under the program:

- \$31million is available in for the program.
- The NSW Government will refund 50% of the cost of council's interest payments on loans for eligible infrastructure.

- Any council eligible to apply for the TCorp loan facility is eligible to apply for the LCLI.
- Loans may be taken out through TCorp or another financial institution of council's choice.
- The loans must be used for infrastructure that enables new housing supply.
- The council is responsible for repaying the loan funded by TCorp, or another financial institution of the council's choice, on their standard terms and prudential requirements.

The terms of the LCLI scheme are very specific and the EDE project satisfied these terms.

The refund of 50% of the interest applies to the interest on the full loan taken on the EDE. In addition to the Googong development, other developers in Queanbeyan as well as Council will benefit from the EDE subsidy as the Googong development is only funding about 67% of the loan for the EDE. Other developers as well as Council also fund this debt.

10. Who initiated this approach to the NSW Government and when?

Response – Community Connections

Council staff

11. Will the council be asking NSW residents to pay all of the interest payments that the Googong township developers were due to pay for the construction of the EDE?

Response – Community Connections

The terms of the LCLI scheme only permit 50% of the interest on approved projects to be refunded.

Native tree removal

12. Can the council advise why several mature gum trees were removed along Bungendore Rd between Atkinson St and Yass Rd?

Response – Natural and Built Character

The landscaping plan for the Bungendore Rd landscape upgrade was exhibited in January-February 2018. All of the Eucalypts along Bungendore Road Queanbeyan were assessed by qualified arborists following two incidences where trees fell, damaging property and placing drivers at risk. Following this report, Council has systematically removed the trees, based on worst condition/highest risk first then following onto poor health etc. This process has minimised the impact on birds nesting and visual impact on the community, while significantly reducing the risk to drivers and adjoining properties.

13. Will the trees be replaced? If so, with what species?

Response – Natural and Built Character

Yes, as trees are scheduled to be removed, landscapers are engaged to plant more trees than those removed and conduct other general landscaping to enhance the town entrance. The tree species chosen for this site include Pyrus Chanticleer and Malus ioensis Plena.