

**PUBLIC FORUM
QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
14 February 2018**



Questions – Martin Butterfield

Clean Up Australia Day

We have been advised that Clean-Up Australia have directed that as a result of safety issues activities for Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD) can no longer be undertaken on roads with a speed limit greater than 50kph. As a result QPRC have indicated that it no longer supports the collection of rubbish by volunteers along any of its roads.

1. My first question is to ask how many OHAS incidents have been notified to QPRC in the past CUAD activities? If the answer to that questions is, as I expect, 'none' – or a very small number – will QPRC consider mounting a stand-alone campaign for local volunteers? If not, why not?

Response – Community Connections

Council is not aware of any incidents that have been reported during previous Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD) activities, however Council is the roads authority and must give approval for all activities or work that occurs on public roads.

The CUAD website contains the following information for volunteers and site organisers:

“Arterial Roads (including Highways) and Freeways cannot be registered for Clean Ups due to health and safety reasons.

Roadside Clean Ups should only be carried out on Municipal (Council) roads. These generally have a speed limit of less than 50KM.

If you wish to proceed to Clean Up a Municipal road, there are additional safety requirements that you will need to consider:

- *Children are not permitted to participate in any roadside activity*
- *You will need to demonstrate a 3 metre exclusion zone between volunteers and vehicles*
- *Additional signage to denote location and distance of activity (i.e. Clean Up Day site - next 2kms) may be required*
- *A temporary reduction of speed limit surrounding any activity*
- *Use of highly visible safety vests and any personal protective equipment for all volunteers*
- *Time limitations of activity may be required to avoid peak traffic times.*

Clean Up Australia advises that you contact your local council to confirm any specific safety regulations or requirements that may be needed before you conduct your Clean Up activity.”

For Council to give this approval, it must ensure that adequate safety precautions are provided that comply with the relevant Workplace Health and Safety and Traffic Control Regulations and that all volunteers are trained and inducted into these procedures.

As most of Council's roads are high speed roads, the risk of permitting this activity without the required precautions is too great and will not be accepted by Council.

Council does not have sufficient resources to ensure that the required precautions are applied at all CUAD sites that may be proposed on Council roads and accordingly will not be approving CUAD sites on any road.

- 2. The amount of litter along rural roads has continued to grow and itself presents very clear health and safety issues. What activities does QPRC intend to undertake to mitigate against such issues?**

Response – Portfolio responsible for response

Council routinely conducts litter collection runs along major rural roads and in urban areas. As part of the development of the QPRC Waste Strategy, this will be reviewed to assess the effectiveness of this program and how and where the collection program can be expanded and improved. Council will offer opportunities for residents to be engaged during the development of the QPRC Waste Strategy.

- 3. If residents undertake clean-up activities without QPRC support can the (non-recyclable) component of waste collected be exempted from fees at the QPRC Waste Management Facilities?**

Response – Portfolio responsible for response

Council is considering this matter at the Planning and Strategy Meeting on 14 February 2018.

Questions – Sandra Young

QPRC Water and Sewage Jobs

The QPRC has previously mentioned that:

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As previously stated, staff are directly and indirectly involved in the provision of water and sewer functions. Water, sewer and waste staff comprise 66 in the current organisation structure, some of whom are based at the depots and some who are office-based. With the construction of the head office, Council will be better placed to consolidate its staffing numbers into one building.

1. Where are these 66 QPRC water and sewage jobs located, and what are the approximate payroll costs for these 66 council employees?

Response – Community Connections

Water and sewer staff are located at Council depots and offices across the Local Government Area. The budgeted payroll (salaries and wages) costs for Council's water and sewer staff is a combined \$3.03m.

2. If the Icon Water venture succeeds, what then happens to these 66 water and sewage council jobs?

Response – Community Connections

The intent of the partnership between Icon Water and Council is to investigate the option to construct a best for region sewage treatment plant (STP) at the current Queanbeyan STP site. No operating arrangements between the parties have been contemplated.

3. Would the council then have to pay out some of these council workers if QPRC and Icon Water combine some QPRC and ACT water and sewage project, as some council workers jobs may then become redundant?

Response – Community Connections

See question 5

4. If a merger between QPRC and Icon Water for a sewage project occurs, who then will control the costs of sewage treatment for QPRC ratepayers?

Response – Community Connections

See question 5

5. Would not QPRC ratepayers not then have total control over the fees and workings of their water and sewage treatment?

Response – Community Connections

See question 5