

**PUBLIC FORUM
QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
24 January 2017**



Questions – Sue Ball-Guymer

Queanbeyan Head Office and Smart Hub

We understand that the water and sewer funds of the former Palerang and Queanbeyan City Councils have not yet been merged.

- 1. From which funds will the capital contribution of \$11M be paid?**

Response – Finance

The funds would be drawn from the Queanbeyan water and sewer funds.

- 2. What return on this investment will the funds receive?**

Response – Finance

The Queanbeyan water and sewer funds are making a contribution to the Queanbeyan Head Office. As it is a contribution there are no plans for a return or rent to be paid.

- 3. Will the funds receive a proportion of the rental received from the proposed tenant?**

Response – Finance

It is proposed that the rental funds will firstly be used to repay the loan required to construct the building. At this stage, there are no plans for the Queanbeyan water and sewer funds to receive a proportion of the rental income from the proposed tenant.

- 4. As a result of this capital contribution, what additional borrowings will be required to fund the new Queanbeyan STP?**

Response – Finance

Currently there are no additional borrowings as a result of the capital contributions than what has been proposed in the Draft Resourcing Strategy

We previously asked on 13 December how many full-time equivalent staff located in Headquarters are involved in sewer related work. While the response helpfully described the nature of staff involved in water, sewer and waste related work, the question related to the actual number of staff involved – i.e. the number of full-time equivalent staff who are located in the Queanbeyan Head Office. So the question remains:

- 5. How many full-time equivalent staff, located in headquarters are involved in this work?**

Response – Community Connections

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.

6. What proportion of the time of these full-time equivalent staff is devoted to activities formerly dealt with by the Palerang Council?

Response – Community Connections

The new head office is for Queanbeyan-Palerang. Water and sewer staff work on all related assets across the local government area.

You advised that the water and sewer funds are run as ‘businesses.’

7. What formal steps have been taken to establish these businesses?

Response – Community Connections

The Local Government Act 1993 requires water and sewer activities to be maintained as separate funds.

The water utility is wholly operated and owned by Council. The NSW Office of Water requires each utility to develop Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan, which comprises strategic business plans which establish the future operating and capital programs for the water utility and the basis of long term financial plan for the utility.

The local government annual reporting and financial reporting arrangement also require separate of water and sewer operations from general accounts and include a return on assets to be reported. In that context, the NSW Government identifies water and sewer operations as a business of Council.

Questions – Katrina Willis

Ellerton Drive Extension – noise monitoring

8. How many noise monitors will be used to record noise levels during construction and operation of the Ellerton Drive Extension?

Response – Community Connections

During construction, 9 attended noise monitoring will be undertaken within 8 noise catchment areas to record the noise levels generated by the construction works. Noise monitoring will be conducted monthly at each monitoring location. An Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) applies to the construction of the project and required a minimum of 9 noise monitoring locations to be established.

Noise monitoring of operational noise occurs within 2-12 months of the new road opening and is separate to noise monitoring for the construction phase. Noise monitoring locations for operational road noise will be confirmed at the time of recording the operational noise as they are subject to obtaining permission from the property owners to place noise monitoring equipment at the property.

9. What is the URL for the publication of data from the noise monitoring equipment?

Response – Community Connections

The monitoring data required by the EPL will be published on WBHO's website. A link will be provided under the Project webpage <http://www.wbho.com.au/wbho-deliver-ellerton-drive-extension/>.

10. Why is monitoring going to cease when construction work finishes?

Response – Community Connections

See question 8

11. How will noise levels arising from the operation of the EDE be monitored?

Response – Community Connections

See question 8

Ellerton Drive Extension – risk management

12. In the event that a property owner commences litigation arising from the road construction or operation, who bears the costs of: 1) legal action; 2) an award of damages?

Response – Community Connections

Any litigation would need to be investigated and defended by Council in conjunction with its insurers for potential claim on Council's policies.

Ellerton Drive Extension – road safety

The EDE has been designed to carry B-double trucks.

In one week this month there have been three serious road traffic accidents in NSW which have involved B-double trucks:

- At Urunga near Coffs Harbour a B-double crashed in the early hours after crossing the median strip, causing a fire (11 January 2018)
- At Cooranbong near Newcastle a truck driver died after a three-vehicle collision involving a B-double, a fuel tanker and a passenger vehicle, which sparked a bushfire (15 January 2018)
- On the Newell Highway, 20km north of Dubbo, two people died and eight others were injured when a B-double truck reportedly hit a queue of cars stopped for roadworks (16 January 2018)

13. Given that the lighting has been removed from much of the EDE in the final design changes, and that there will be no dividing safety fence along the steep section of the road, how have the council and RMS provided for the safety of road users and residents?

Response – Community Connections

The road has been designed using Australian & RMS Design Guidelines. This incorporates a thorough Roads Safety Audit at both the design and construction stages. Council has incorporated recommendations from the design audit completed to date.

Ellerton Drive Extension – draw down of council loan

Council has previously stated that it intends to use NSW and Australian government grants before drawing down its loan funds for the construction of the EDE.

14. Why is council now proposing to draw down its entire loan funding by the end of the financial year 2018-19? (Refer responses to Public Forum questions on 13 December 2017).

Response – Community Connections

Council has been receiving developer contributions for the EDE for some time now and already has funds reserved for the construction of the EDE. Council will borrow for the difference between the funds already reserved and the amount of \$36m during the 2018-19 financial year to utilise in that year and subsequent years until the project concludes.

15. Has the council drawn down any of its loan funding yet? If so, how much?

Response – Community Connections

Council has not taken the loan at this time.

16. When does council expect the first repayment of this loan to be made?

Response – Community Connections

Repayments will commence in the quarter following the take up of the loan.

Ellerton Drive Extension – funding deed

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by RMS and QPRC for delivery of the EDE states that the funding deed must be in place by 1 January 2018.

17. Has the funding deed been prepared?

Response – Community Connections

The funding deed was signed by Council on 10 July 2017 and RMS on 31 July 2017.

18. Has the funding deed been signed? If so, when?

Response – Community Connections

See question 17.

19. Will the council publish the funding deed on the QPRC website?

Response – Community Connections

Council does not intend to publish the funding deed on the Council website.

Ellerton Drive Extension – Monaro Street

Council resolved at its 27 September 2017 meeting to seek NSW Government support for measures to reduce heavy vehicle traffic to Monaro St, Queanbeyan.

20. What steps has council taken to implement the resolution?

Response – Community Connections

A notice of motion submitted to the 27 September 2017 Council meeting was amended prior to deliberation. The adopted resolution did not address heavy vehicles in Monaro St and was:

That Council prepare a document summarising the Googong and Tralee Traffic Study for Councillors and the public, including the predicted effects on heavy vehicle traffic in the region.

21. Will council be waiting 22 months before it starts discussions with RMS, as suggested by Mayor Tim Overall in remarks reported to *The Queanbeyan Age* online (13 December 2017)?

Response – Community Connections

Discussions have commenced with the RMS.

Old Cooma Rd duplication – reassignment of developer contribution

22. When does council expect to make a decision about how the \$30 million developer contribution to the duplicating Old Cooma Rd is going to be reassigned to benefit the QPRC community?

Response – Community Connections

This will be considered by Council at the next review of the Googong Local Planning Agreement.

Integrated transport strategy

The draft integrated transport strategy identifies the benefits of park and ride facilities and the necessity of placing them in locations that will attract patrons (pg 35).

Among the sites identified for such a facility in the corner of Edwin Land Parkway and Old Cooma Rd.

23. Does the council own this land?

Response – Community Connections

Council owns part of this land.

24. Has this site already been earmarked for an emergency services hub, comprising of the SES, ambulance, fire and police services?

Response – Community Connections

No

25. If so, how would this be compatible with a park and ride facility?

Response – Community Connections

See question 24.