

**PUBLIC FORUM
QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
26 April 2018**



Questions – Sue Ball-Guymer – Queanbeyan Residents and Ratepayers Association

Queanbeyan Head Office and Smart Hub

It was reported in the media that the QPRC had paid \$700,000 for the design of the proposed new headquarters based on the requirements of the NSW Police, which was expected to be the prime tenant. Now that the NSW Police will not be moving into the proposed new headquarters, questions need to be asked regarding the basis for approving the expenditure of ratepayers' funds on a project which did not appear to have a guaranteed tenant.

1. What was the justification for approving the expenditure of \$700,000 on the design of the proposed new headquarters without the intended tenant having been 'locked in'?

Response - CEO

Council had entered into a Heads of Agreement with a potential major tenant. Progression of a concept design was included in the Heads of Agreement. The expenditure was on the entire building and public domain precinct.

The design continues to be used in any future design for council's head office and potential tenancies.

2. When was this expenditure approved?

Response - CEO

A tender evaluation report was submitted to Council on 26 April 2017, recommending that tenderer 2 (Cox Architecture) be appointed as the successful contractor with a total project budget of \$700,000.

3. Who approved this expenditure?

Response - CEO

Council was under Administration at the time of the report. The Administrator assumed the role of the elected Council and resolved to award to contract to Cox Architecture.

4. What avenues are open to the QPRC to recover this unnecessary expenditure?

Response - CEO

Council has negotiated an equivalent contribution that has been subsequently assigned to the smart parking in Queanbeyan as reported to Council on 28 March 2018.

5. What attempts have been made to recover the funds from the NSW Police?

Response - CEO

See question 4.

Questions – Andrew McCarron

Lanyon Drive and Tomsitt Drive Roundabout

I write to you today in the context of an article in the Queanbeyan Age written by Elliot Williams entitled “Tenders called for upgrade of Lanyon and Tomsitt Drives” dated 12 April 2018. I wish to share my concern over the decision of the council to replace the roundabout at Tomsitt Drive and Lanyon Drive with a set of traffic lights.

As reflected in the comments section of the facebook posted article, many readers have commented that they do not think the installation of traffic lights will solve the morning traffic congestion issues. I share this view.

As background, it should be noted that a large part of the traffic congestion is the addition of many cars using the Edwin Land Parkway to access Canberra through Jerrabomberra. This will only continue to increase as residents acquire land through additional stages of Googong estate.

Outside of morning peak periods, there is very little delay at the intersection. The use of traffic lights outside of peak periods will only delay traffic flows unnecessarily. During peak traffic periods, the installation of traffic lights will not solve the problem.

6. With this context, my question is, has the QPRC council considered other alternatives to traffic lights, e.g. dedicated slip lanes or preventing westbound traffic approaching the roundabout from Karabar side turning left?

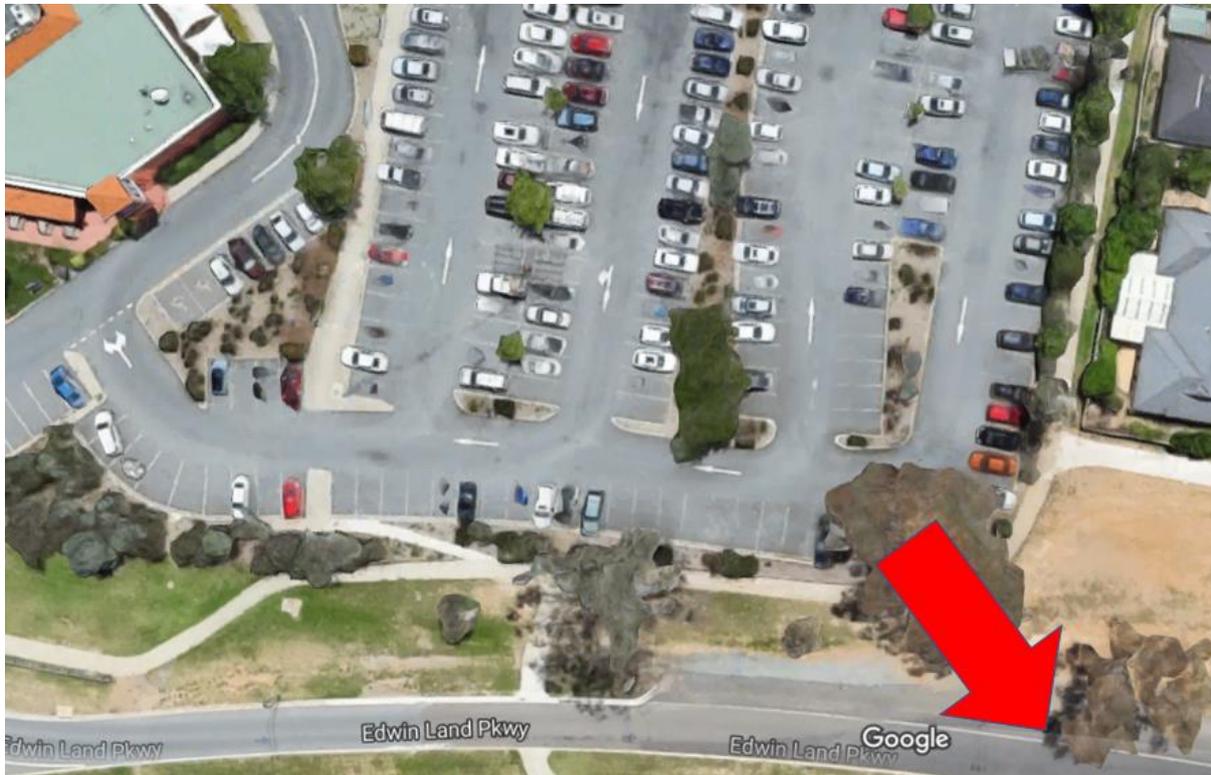
Response – Community Connections

This project is being undertaken by the NSW Roads and Maritime Services. Funding is provided by both the NSW and Federal Government. Council has been involved in discussions and options workshops, however the RMS is the decision-making authority in regards to this project. The RMS conducted community consultation on the project in July 2017 with drop-in sessions held at the Jerrabomberra Shopping Centre.

Council's Googong and Tralee Traffic Study (2031) identified this intersection as one that would need to be upgraded due to population growth in Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra Googong and Tralee.

The RMS has developed a fact sheet on the project, which outlines the benefits and reasons for the design. It can be found on the RMS website by searching for the Lanyon Tomsitt Intersection upgrade. Options were thoroughly analysed to determine the most appropriate solution.

Jerrabomberra local shopping centre now serves Jerrabomberra and Goongong townships. It is at capacity, and during peak periods there are significant delays to traffic exiting the centre. The creation of a second exit would solve many of these concerns. A second exit appears to be a quick and cost-effective measure for reducing the peak hour traffic congestion on Limestone Drive.



7. Could the council please comment on the potential of adding a second exit as depicted below?

Response – Community Connections

The carpark at the Jerrabomberra Shopping Centre is privately-owned and therefore the addition of an extra exit/entry would be the responsibility of the owner. The owner would need to submit a development application to Council. Any design would need the approval of Council, Icon Water and Actew AGL due to the close proximity of major services.