



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM
HELD ON 14 JULY 2021**

1. Opening

The Public Forum commenced at 5.34pm.

2. Presentations relating to listed Items on the Council Agenda

The following written presentations were received:

No	Name	Agenda item	Item description	For/Against
1	Mr Wade Buscombe	8.3	Construction of a Centre-based Child Care Facility (Preschool) - 3-23 Hoover Road, Queanbeyan West	Against
2	Ms Chelsea Newman	8.1	Boundary Adjustment, Extension of Existing Carpark and Removal of Three Native Trees - 91-93 Ellerton Drive, Queanbeyan East	Against

The following presenters were heard:

No	Name	Agenda item	Item description	For/Against
1	Mr John Myhill – via Zoom	8.1	DA.2020.1676 Boundary Adjustment, Extension of Existing Carpark and Removal of Three Native Trees - 91-93 Ellerton Drive, Queanbeyan East	For
2	Mr Tobi Edmonds – via Zoom	8.3	DA.2020.1151 Construction of a Centre-based Child Care Facility (Preschool) - 3-23 Hoover Road, Queanbeyan West	For
3	Mr Tim Bowcock	8.4	Bungendore Contributions Plan (Section 7.11) for Car Parking Facilities	Against
4	Mr James Marquez	8.2	DA.2021.1253 - Change of Use from a Shop to a Dwelling House and Alterations/Additions - 2/34A Morton Street Queanbeyan	For

3. Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

4. 'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to 7 July 2021 were provided and tabled at the meeting (see attached for responses):

Nos	Received from	In relation to:
1-20	Save Bungendore Park	Bungendore Education Precinct, Sports Hub and Car Park
21	Amelia Stafford	CCTV for Googong Community
22-24	Katrina Willis	Bungendore Land Sales
25	Katrina Willis	Climate Action Plans
26-27	Ms Katrina Willis	Integrated Transport Strategy
28-29	Ms Katrina Willis	Axis Youth Centre
30-31	Ms Katrina Willis	Support for Rail Trails
32	Ms Katrina Willis	Community Grants and Donations Program
33-34	Ms Katrina Willis	Regional Grants Funding
35-36	Ms Katrina Willis	Managing Biodiversity

5. Presentations by Invitation from the CEO/General Manager

There were no presentations.

6. Closure

As there were no further matters, the Public Forum closed at 5.48pm.



ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM HELD ON 14 July 2021

'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to *Wednesday 7 July 2021* were provided and tabled at the meeting.

Questions submitted by: Save Bungendore Park Inc

- 1. Has Council noted that the location of the proposed swimming pool at the Bungendore Sport Hub is on the Halfway Creek floodplain and is in close proximity to the Bungendore Sewage Treatment Plant? Will this present health risks to users of the proposed pool, noting that both facilities are potentially subject to flooding? On what basis has Council reached that conclusion?**

Response: Natural and Built Character

The location of the proposed Aquatic Centre is approximately 400m south of the STP, on land that flood modelling indicates will be above the 1 in 100 year flood level. The design of the facility will allow for draining the pool deck and floor levels of facilities will be designed to be above this level to cover greater flood events.

- 2. Has Council had any discussion with the NSW Department of Health or any other government department in relation to flooding issues, and particularly the proximity of the proposed new Bungendore pool to the Bungendore Sewage Treatment Plant? What was the substance of those discussions?**

Response: Natural and Built Character

Referral of the application to NSW Department of Health was not required as part of the approval process. Council reviewed and considered health guidelines during the study period and engaged consultants to undertake Odour Modelling and assessment. Nothing has been identified to prohibit the Aquatic Centre being constructed at this location.

- 3. Did the CEO, Mr Tegart, say in an interview on ABC Radio on 25 February, that Council had received a traffic report which considered the proposed closure of Majara Street, Bungendore?**

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Council staff received a copy of the initial traffic assessment on 18 February 2021 for review, prior to a workshop with councillors. The workshop was run by the Department of Education, with their traffic consultant also in attendance.

4. **Was Mr Tegart referring to the study prepared by GHD entitled “Queanbeyan [sic] Traffic Assessment – Final Traffic Impact Assessment”, dated February 2021? Has Council seen this February GHD study? If so, did the study consider the proposed closure of Majara St? What conclusions did it reach?**

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Yes, the report referred to in Question 3 was prepared by GHD on behalf of the Department of Education. The report is the property of the Department of Education. Council was provided with a copy in confidence to assist with decision making. The Department of Education has advised that the report will be made available during the development application phase.

5. **Has Council seen any later traffic study prepared by GHD in relation to the proposed Bungendore High School? What conclusions did this study reach in relation to traffic volumes on Turallo Terrace, Butmaroo Street and Ellendon Street as part of the Bungendore High School proposal? Can Council release this study?**

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Council has been briefed on the traffic model that has been prepared by DoE. Council has not been provided with the traffic report which will be part of the State Significant development application (DA) for the school. Council will make comment on the report as part of the DA process.

6. **Mr Tegart stated at the Council’s Community Meeting in Bungendore on 4 May that “we have yet to receive an updated traffic plan.” Has Council now received an updated traffic plan? Can this be released?**

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

See response to Q5

7. **Did Council give all notices required under Section 38B(1)(b)(i) of the Roads Act 1993 in relation to resolution 007/21 passed at its meeting on 28 April?**

Response: Organisational Capability

Yes

8. **Did Council notify the owner of Lot 10, DP758183, of the proposed closure of Majara Street?**

Response: Organisational Capability

Yes

9. **Is there a public road which will provide lawful and reasonably practicable vehicular access to Lot 10, DP758183, following the closure of Majara Street as resolved pursuant to resolution 007/21?**

Response: Organisational Capability

It is Council’s intention to ensure that legal access continues to be provided for all existing lots following the proposed closure of Majara Street and Council will continue to work with DoE to achieve this.

10. Are the actions set out in Council resolution 007/21 lawful? Has Council complied with the requirements of the Roads Act 1993?

Response: Organisational Capability

Yes

11. Has Council formalised resolution 007/21 by publication of notice in the Government Gazette, as resolved in paragraph 2? If not, why is this being delayed? When does Council propose to do this? Does any sunset date apply to the resolution if it is not gazetted by a particular time?

Response: Organisational Capability

Council has not yet completed all the formalities including the publication in the Government Gazette and will complete this once the outstanding matter with respect to access to Lot 10 DP758183 is finalised.

No sunset date applies to the resolution.

12. Did Councillors meet with representatives or consultants of the Department of Education on 3 March? What was discussed at this meeting? What concerns did Councillors express in relation to the proposed Bungendore High School? Did Councillors express a view on the adequacy (or otherwise) of the GHD report entitled “Queanbeyan [sic] Traffic Assessment – Final Traffic Impact Assessment”, dated February 2021?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

A workshop was held with the Department of Education, GHD, councillors and Council staff to discuss the traffic impact assessment. The views expressed by councillors in workshops are not public. Following the workshop, the Department of Education and GHD made some amendments to the report. The amended report was presented to Council as a closed attachment on 28 April 2021.

13. Did Councillors ask for a traffic report suitable for being made publicly available? Why did Councillors consider that any previous report was not suitable for being made publicly available? Does Council now hold a report which is suitable for being made publicly available?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

See responses to Q6 and Q12.

14. Is Council aware that there is widespread and growing community opposition to the proposal to build the Bungendore High School on Bungendore Park?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Council has heard from members of the community in support of the proposed site as well as those against the proposed site. Council considered the views of the community who lodged submissions in relation to the proposed Majara Street road closure. The Bungendore High School is a state significant development proposed by Government.

15. Is Council aware of any proposal to vary the dedication or seek Ministerial consent to any dealing with Lot 701/1027107 in Bungendore? If so, what is proposed? When is it expected any such measure will be taken?

Response: Natural and Built Character

Council is not in the process of seeking any variation to the dedication or dealings with Lot 701 DP 1027107. If a variation to the dedication is required to facilitate the schools construction then it will be a matter for the Department of Education and Crown Lands to resolve. The land is crown land and questions of this nature should be referred to the NSW Government.

16. Is Council satisfied that any such proposal (or a proposal relating to Bungendore Common) is consistent with the management plans for that land required under Section 36 of the Local Government Act? If there is no such management plan, is it appropriate to proceed with such proposal in the absence of a management plan?

Response: Natural and Built Character

Plans of Management for Community Lands are regulated under the Local Government Act 1993. Plans of Management for Crown Land were regulated under Crown Lands Act 1989 and not all crown reserves were subject to a Plan of Management. The new Crown Lands Management Act 2016 and Regulation 2018, guides councils on developing plans of management for Crown Reserves vested in Council. No Plan of Management under the new Crown Lands legislation has been prepared to date. If there is a relevant Plan of Management in place and a variation is required to facilitate the school's construction then it will be a matter for the Department of Education and Crown Lands to resolve.

17. Council resolution 377 from June 1979 records that Bungendore Common was entrusted to the care and control of Council as a "recreational asset to be used by the people of the town and district". Is Council aware of any proposal to sell, license or lease any part of this land? Is this permitted under the terms on which the land was taken over by Council? Is this in accordance with the arrangements reached with the Trustees of Bungendore Common?

Response: Natural and Built Character

The new Crown Lands Management Act 2016 dissolved all Crown Land Trusts created under the former acts, and appointed Crown Land Managers. Council is the Crown Land Manager for both Bungendore Park and the Bungendore Common (assuming this references the public land either side of Turallo Creek), however the land is still Crown Land. Part of the land at both Bungendore Park (the school site) and Bungendore Common (the school's agricultural plot) are proposed to be used for school purposes. As to how the use of the Crown Land by the school will be facilitated is a matter for the Department of Education and Crown Lands to resolve.

18. We understand Council is in negotiations to purchase a site for a new Council office in Bungendore. At what stage are these negotiations? Will Council be required to complete the purchase, even if the proposed sale of the Palerang Council Building does not proceed?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Contracts have exchanged on the purchase of a site suitable for a new Bungendore office and community facility. The sale of the land will proceed even if the sale of the existing Council building does not.

19. When does Council anticipate that the State Government will lodge the State Significant Development Application for the proposed Bungendore High School?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

It is understood the State Significant Development Application will be lodged later in 2021. However, this question would be best directed to the Department of Education.

20. What is Council's understanding of why the SSSDA and the Bungendore High School project are so far behind schedule?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Council does not have that information. This question would be best directed to the Department of Education.

Questions submitted by: Amelia Stafford

Googong Smart City grants have already facilitated the installation of smart poles, fibre deployment and the ability to fit recording systems in the community to support CCTV surveillance systems. This Googong Community petition is to request Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council utilise this existing infrastructure as a priority to provide CCTV surveillance in suitable public locations to facilitate a safer community and deter antisocial behaviour.

21. When will the Googong Community have CCTV installed, utilising the infrastructure available from the Smart Cities grant.

Response: Community Connections/Community Choice

Currently, the focus has been to resource the provision for CCTV – such as laying of fibre, conduit in light poles etc. This work was done by the developer PEET with co-funding from a Federal government smart cities grant. No decision has been made to install CCTV cameras. To do so will require consideration of ongoing resourcing, purpose and need for CCTV installation.

Questions submitted by: Katrina Willis

Bungendore land sales

22. Can the council advise the process for selling its Bungendore assets to the NSW Department of Education?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

A response to this question will be provided to the public forum on 28 July 2021.

23. What is the timing of the sale process?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

A response to this question will be provided to the public forum on 28 July 2021.

24. Has the development application for the new school been approved?

Response: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

No. Council has not received any advice to date that the State Significant development application for the Bungendore High School has been lodged. It is understood that it will be lodged later in 2021. However, this question would be best directed to the Department of Education.

Climate action plans

25. Can the council advise whether it has developed a climate adaptation plan for QPRC? If not, when will it develop such a plan?

Response: Natural and Built Character

Council has a number of climate change adaptation actions within the QPRC Community Climate Change Action Plan, ranging from reviewing the capacity of drains to cope with flooding, to providing more versatile shade structures. Some actions have come from the former *Queanbeyan Draft Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2015* and the *Climate Change Risk Assessment Report 2011*.

Council is currently developing an Urban Forest and Cooling Strategy which aims to ensure climate change adaptation through green vegetation, green infrastructure and cooling mechanisms.

At this stage Council has no short-term plan to develop a new standalone climate change adaptation strategy/plan for QPRC.

Integrated transport strategy

26. How much funding has been committed to implement the integrated transport strategy since it was adopted?

Response: Community Connections

Refer to Council's annual Operational Plan and Annual Report on the website at: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Budgets-and-Planning>

27. What measures have been implemented?

Response: Community Connections

- Construct Ellerton Drive Extension - completed
- Conduct a study to investigate options for improving the amenity and pedestrian movement in Queanbeyan CBD – draft concept design completed.
- Support the ACT in the duplication of Pialligo Avenue - ongoing
- Ensure the alignment adopted by QPRC for the proposed Dunn's Creek Road is preserved, together with a link to Monaro Highway in ACT - ongoing
- Duplicate Old Cooma Road from Googong to Ellerton Drive extension - completed
- Support a master plan for upgrading the main streets of Braidwood and Bungendore - ongoing
- Lanyon Drive / Tompsitt Drive roundabout be replaced by signals - completed
- Continue to review need for intersection improvements - ongoing
- A Kings Highway route strategy is being developed by RMS - ongoing
- Upgrade Nerriga Road – 50% complete

- Continue to review blackspot crash locations and seek blackspot funding - ongoing
- In consultation with RMS, continue to update Council traffic studies and recommendations as new data becomes available including any increase in public transport usage - ongoing
- Develop program for maintenance of Council roads - completed
- Develop plan to assist access for future red rapid service extension along Canberra Avenue to Queanbeyan - ongoing
- Develop options to reduce trucks using Monaro Street - completed
- Establish corridors for future bypasses of Braidwood and Bungendore - ongoing
- Develop a program to upgrade safety blackspots on regional road network - ongoing
- Facilitate upgrade of the standard of the State highway network - ongoing
- Develop a strategy to manage truck movements through Queanbeyan - ongoing
- Integrate freight movements in ACT and NSW heavy vehicle route plans - ongoing
- Review parking supply and demand and restrictions in Queanbeyan CBD and surrounds, as well as other key centres in Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Bungendore - commenced
- Identify surface car parks in Queanbeyan CBD for future multi-use development - completed
- Examine options to introduce new information technology to improve parking access and efficiency in Queanbeyan CBD - commenced
- Resolve barriers to extend ACTION Red Rapid service to Queanbeyan interchange, including planning for future bus priority - ongoing
- Resolve barriers to integrate ACT and Queanbeyan fare structure and subsidies - ongoing
- Investigate new bus services and park and ride facilities to service Googong and Jerrabomberra directly into the ACT - ongoing
- Review public transport connections to regional train stations - ongoing
- Inform community of existing public transport services (e.g. many residents don't realise that they can use the many school bus services that run throughout the region) - ongoing
- Seek to implement a real time information system for public transport (already in ACT) - ongoing
- Integration of community and point to point transport services into the public transport network - Transport for NSW
- Develop a strategy for bus and coach passenger shelters for region - ongoing
- Develop a strategy for integrated bus routes between ACT and NSW - ongoing
- Seek to implement a commuter rail strategy for travel between Bungendore and Kingston (ACT), with consideration of a potential new rail station at the Australian Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) - ongoing
- Identify a connected and accessible path hierarchy and way finding strategy for active travel - ongoing
- Support increased provision of end of trip facilities, especially at bus interchange and rail stations
- Prioritise people and pedestrian movement within Queanbeyan CBD, building on the current CBD masterplan work - ongoing
- Introduce lower speed limits in high pedestrian activity areas such as Queanbeyan CBD – proposed for CBD Upgrade.
- Implement a program to promote active transport use and facilitate community participation - ongoing
- Implement improved cross-border linkages for active travel - ongoing
- Improve amenity and pedestrian facilities in Queanbeyan CBD and the townships of Braidwood, Bungendore and Captains Flat - ongoing
- Construct on-road cycling and off road shared path facilities along Ellerton Drive Extension to improve connectivity across Queanbeyan River and local neighbourhoods – completed
- Construct on-road cycling and off road shared path facilities along Old Cooma Road to improve connectivity between Googong and Queanbeyan - completed

Axis Youth Centre

28. Does the council intend to sell the Axis Youth Centre?

Response: Community Choice

Council staff are considering options for the future use of the Axis Youth Centre building which will be presented to Council for consideration and decision. Currently the Axis Youth Centre continues to be available for all user groups and still operates a drop in Centre for Youth

29. Can the centre be retained and refurbished for community use, given the scarcity of low-cost venues for community groups to meet in Queanbeyan?

Response: Community Choice

Retaining the building for community use is one of the options that will be presented.

Support for rail trails

30. Why did council agree to contribute \$50,000 to the Monaro Rail Trail project which runs through part of the local government area at the same time that it has refused to support the Molonglo Rail Trail which is entirely within the local government area?

Response: Community Choice

At the Council meeting 17 Dec 2017, Council resolved "That Council give consideration to any rail trail feasibility study as and when it is completed and received"

The \$50,000 funding for the Monaro Rail Trail is to enable detailed planning for the Monaro Rail Trail for the 27km section between Tralee/Hume and Williamsdale.

The planning will cover trail head design, trail surface type, need for and design of road crossings, need for fencing, need for stock crossings on farmland, location and design of toilet facilities and assessment of biosecurity and environment issues. This planning will advance the MRT proposal to a point closer to "shovel ready" and will give QPRC more information to allow further discussion of any issues.

31. Given the council's new found enthusiasm for rail trails, will the council now reinstate the Molonglo Rail Trail as a project endorsed in the QPRC economic development strategy? If not, why not?

Response: Community Choice

At the Council meeting 17 December 2017, Council resolved "*That Council give consideration to any rail trail feasibility study as and when it is completed and received*"

Community Grants and Donations program

- 32. At the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 30 June 2021, Councillors decided on savings to the 2021/22 Operational Plan that resulted in removal of QPRC Annual Community Grants and Donations Program Category A funds of \$25,000 from QPRC's 2021/22 operational budget while Category B funds of \$35,000 were retained in the 2021/22 budget. What was the rationale for removing Category A community grants while retaining Category B ones?**

Response: Community Choice

Council resolved to deduct \$25,000 from Category A as a saving mechanism for the 21/22 Operational Plan. Category B grants provide financial assistance to community not-for-profit or charitable organisations that wish to hire a Council facility but who are unable to meet the cost of hire. This grant is non-monetary.

Regional grants funding

- 33. How many community groups, and from what locations, were on the shortlist that staff recommended for council endorsement in the most recent round of regional grants funding?**

Response: Community Choice

Eligible community groups from across the LGA can apply directly to the grant fund. QPRC normally applies for grants for assets it owns and supplies Letters of Support on request from Community Groups

The recent Stronger Country Communities grant criteria requested eligible applications be prioritised and had an emphasis and focus on women's inclusion in sport as part of the eligibility criteria.

Council adopted recommendations from the QPRC Sports Council, which is made up of sporting clubs and associations using a council owned or managed facility. They attend from all over the LGA, including Bungendore and Braidwood areas. The sports council meet quarterly and also hold an annual strategic workshop where they review all the improvements/upgrades needed, or desired, for each field, venue and sporting code. They then democratically identify the top 5 priority projects and a list of others in order of need. It is that list that informs council. In addition we have numerous community groups from across all corners of the LGA that put forward request throughout the year for projects and staff evaluate these and recommend projects to council this is how Nerriga toilets were funded and now the Araluen camp ground amenities were listed and funded recently. Ten projects were recommended to Council as potential priority list projects for Stronger Country Communities Funding. Seven of the projects recommended for council endorsement were located in Queanbeyan area, two were in Braidwood and one was in Bungendore. The final priority list of projects submitted to the Stronger Country Community fund were from Queanbeyan.

- 34. Why did groups outside of Queanbeyan miss out on council endorsement?**

Response: Community Choice

See response to Q33

Managing biodiversity

35. Does the council have a strategy or plan for protecting and restoring land across QPRC identified as being of conservation value, separate from plans of management for particular sites?

Response: Natural and Built Character

Council has no short term plans to prepare a Council wide Biodiversity Conservation Plan. Council's present focus is on reviewing and preparing Draft Plans of Management for Natural Areas managed by Council and for those Crown Land sites that have recently been handed to Council for management. As part of the process of preparing plans of management for natural areas, there will be sites that will have site-specific plans written for them. These site-specific plans will contain a greater level of detail as these sites have critically endangered and/or endangered native species or endangered ecological communities (EECs) that require additional and specific management. Eg. the grassland at Hoover Road Reserve next to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Queanbeyan Nature Reserve. All sites have been mapped and are part of our annual weed control program.

In relation to private land Council's core role regarding the management of biodiversity is contained within legislation such as the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

36. If so, can you provide a link to the document? If not, how does council manage land of conservation value?

Response: Natural and Built Character

See response to Q35.