



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM  
HELD ON 14 MAY 2025**

**1. Opening**

The Public Forum commenced at 5.38pm.

**2. Presentations relating to listed Items on the Council Agenda**

The following presenters were heard:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Item no</b>	<b>Item description</b>	<b>For/Against</b>
1	Will Raymont	9.13	Post Exhibition Report – Draft Solid Fuel Heater Policy – Second Round of Community Feedback	Against
2	Maria Taylor	9.11	Fencing Standards for Rural Subdivisions	For
3	Prof Steve Garlick, Owner and Manager of Possumwood Wildlife Veterinary Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre	9.11	Fencing Standards for Rural Subdivisions	For
4	Margot Sachse, President of Jerrabomberra Resident's Association	9.3	Review of Mount Jerrabomberra Plan of Management (2021)	For

Having declared an interest in Item 9.1, Crs Broadbent, Preston and Winchester left the Chamber and Cr Wilson left the audio-visual Zoom link.

5	Margot Sachse, President of Jerrabomberra Resident's Association	9.1	Council Submission DA 2023.0635 – Construction of a registered club premises (Vikings)	For
6	Robert Wilson	9.1	Council Submission DA 2023.0635 – Construction of a registered club premises (Vikings)	For
7	Anna Murton	9.1	Council Submission DA 2023.0635 – Construction of a registered club premises (Vikings)	For
8	Nicholas Cavallo from Knight Frank Town Planning – via Zoom	9.1	Council Submission DA 2023.0635 – Construction of a registered club premises (Vikings)	Against

The following written presentations were received:

	Name	Item no	Item description	For/Against
1	Clean Air Canberra	9.13	Post Exhibition Report - Draft Solid Fuel Heater Policy - Second Round of Community Feedback	Against
2	Australian Air Quality Group	9.13	Post Exhibition Report - Draft Solid Fuel Heater Policy - Second Round of Community Feedback	Against

### 3. Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

### 4. 'Questions on Notice' from the Public

Responses to the following 'Questions on Notice' received up to Wednesday 7 May 2025 were provided and tabled at the meeting (see attached for responses):

Nos	Received from	In relation to
1-10	Matt Smith	Special Rates Variation and IPART Instrument.

### 5. Presentations by Invitation from the General Manager

There were no presentations.

### 6. Closure

As there were no further matters, the Public Forum closed at 6.04pm.



## ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM HELD ON 14 May 2025

### ‘Questions on Notice’ from the Public

Responses to the following ‘Questions on Notice’ received up to Wednesday 7 May 2025 were provided and tabled at the meeting.

### Questions submitted by: Matt Smith

1. On 15 February 2025 Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (Council) Governing Body Members (including media organisations and local community groups) were sent the below email relevantaty reproduced below in italics (15 FEBRUARY 2025 EMAIL).

*Greetings Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (**Council**) Governing Body Members,*

*Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)*

*Reliance by Council on the authority of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument to impose a Special Variation, then, disregarding the same authorities "specific reporting conditions" required to impose a Special Variation is outright disrespectful, demonstrating Council's clear contempt to transparency, accountability and community trust.*

*When IPART's formal contact is directly with Council General Manager (with respect to the submission), it is reasonable to suggest that on or shortly after 13 June 2023, Council were well informed of the "specific reporting conditions" imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument, the language in the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument is unambiguous, providing the Council General Manager suitable time to ensure sufficient resources and systems are in place to satisfy the "specific reporting conditions" to be included in Council's Annual Reports, from Year 2023-2024 to Year 2025-2026 (inclusive).*

*For reference, a copy of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument issued can be obtained via the below link.*

*[https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/cm9\\_documents/Instrument-2023-24-Queanbeyan-Palerang-Regional-Council-Special-Rate-Variation.PDF](https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/cm9_documents/Instrument-2023-24-Queanbeyan-Palerang-Regional-Council-Special-Rate-Variation.PDF)*

#### *Omissions*

*Council's Official Newsletter "QPRC news" issue August 2023, with reference to the "Rate Variation" directs the reader to "[qprc.nsw.gov.au/SRV2023](https://qprc.nsw.gov.au/SRV2023)", the article that appears is titled "IPART approves QPRC's rate variation" published 15 June 2023, conveniently the article elects to omit to inform the reader of the "specific reporting conditions" are imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument.*

*The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 27 November 2024, Agenda Item 9.17 Annual Report 2023-24, the information document omitted to inform the reader of the "specific reporting conditions" imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument.*

*Similarly, the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 18 December 2024, Agenda Item 9.15 Annual Report 2024, the information document omitted to inform the reader of the "specific reporting conditions" imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument.*

Council's Annual Report 2023-2024 at page 84, under the heading "Statutory Disclosures", then under sub heading "Special Rate Variation" omits to include any details of those "specific reporting conditions" imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument, nor are those details included anywhere within the document.

#### Annual Report 2023-2024

*In the context that the Annual Report is one of the key documents of accountability between Council and its community for a respective year, the unanimous decision by the Council Governing Body to endorse the Annual Report 2023-2024 as recorded by Council Resolution 570/24 is remarkable, when the Annual Report 2023-2024 is in contravention of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument with respect to the "specific reporting conditions", including in contravention of Council's Strategic Pillar No 5. Capability: Contemporary civic leadership and governance that is open, transparent and accountable.*

#### Motion to Rescind a Resolution

*With respect to Council's Resolution 570/24 (adoption of Annual Report 2023-2024), will 3 Members of Council's Governing Body demonstrate the courage and conviction to jointly sign and submit a notice of motion, prior to the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 26 February 2025 (noting prescribed time limits apply) to; (a) rescind Council Resolution 570/24, (b) notify the NSW Office of Local Government of the decision, and (c) direct the Council to comply with the "specific reporting conditions" imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument and update the Annual Report 2023-2024.*

#### Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Documents

*Following, thoughtful consideration may need to be given by the Council Governing Body with respect to the 2024-2025 IPR documents adopted by Council and currently in use, to satisfy themselves, they meet the objectives imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument.*

*Similarly, thoughtful consideration may need to be given by the Council Governing Body with respect to the 2025-2026 IPR documents to be considered shortly for adoption, to satisfy themselves, they meet the objectives imposed by the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument.*

#### Redress

*Council's contravention of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument cannot be considered an isolated matter, many other examples exist, illustrating a total disrespect to the community, including underlying systemic issues in; (a) leadership, (b) governance and (c) fiscal management; to name a few.*

*A defining moment arises for Council's Governing Body, that is, to; (a) do nothing and ignore this email, (b) illustrate clear leadership, by any 3 Members demonstrating the courage and conviction to submit a jointly signed notice of motion to rescind Council Resolution 570/24 prior to the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 26 February 2025 (noting prescribed time limits apply) and (c) unanimously illustrate unwavering leadership to adopt the motion to rescind Council Resolution 570/24 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 26 February 2025.*

*Thank you to Council Governing Body Members taking suitable time to read and consider the above matter that relevantly concerns all the community.*

*Please note, as this is a public interest matter, some relevant local community groups and media outlets are copied in.*

**Can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members transmitted (in any format) or communicated (in any format) the contents of the 15 FEBRUARY 2025 EMAIL to the Council General Manager and/or Council Director Corporate Services and/or Council Chief Information Officer?**

- 2. With respect to the contents of 15 FEBRUARY 2025 EMAIL, can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members requested a formal response from Council?**

3. With respect to the contents of 15 FEBRUARY 2025 EMAIL, can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members requested any assistance from Council?
4. With respect to Questions 1 to 3, can Council confirm what information and assistance was provided to each of those Council Governing Body Members?
5. On 1 March 2025 Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (Council) Governing Body Members (including media organisations and local community groups) were sent the below email relevantaty reproduced below in italics (1 MARCH 2025 EMAIL).

*Greetings Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (**Council**) Governing Body Members,*

*In the circumstance the previous below email was uncomfortable, the purpose cannot be refuted, each Governing Body Member has in effect, impermissibly contravened the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument in respect to Council's Resolution 570/24 (adoption of Annual Report 2023-2024).*

*Overwhelming the language of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument is unambiguous, the construction of the phrase in clause 2 that relevantly states " ... The percentage increase set out in clause 1 is subject to the following conditions ...", provides the levying of the Special Variation, 18% for the period from Year 2023-2024 to Year 2025-2026 (inclusive), is only permissible by association to adherence to the stipulated "specific reporting conditions" from Year 2023-2024 to Year 2027-2028 (inclusive). When Council levied the Special Variation, Council in effect agreed to adhere to those conditions.*

*In the context of the 13 June 2023 IPART Instrument, can any Governing Body Member articulate to the community the measures achieved against each of those "specific reporting conditions"? or would it be correct to suggest that managerial perfection on the part of Council failed, raising broader concerns?*

*Suely, the Mayor on behalf of the Governing Body Members is able to issue a media release to inform the community!*

*A final opportunity arises for any 3 Governing Body Members demonstrating the courage and conviction to submit a jointly signed notice of motion to rescind Council Resolution 570/24 prior to the Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 12 March 2025, who will be those 3 Governing Body Members to stand up for the community and hold the Council accountable? Then, **the unanswered question** will be, how will the other Governing Body Members vote?*

*Thank you to Council Governing Body Members taking suitable time to read and consider the above matter that relevantly concerns all the community.*

*Please note, as this is a public interest matter, some relevant local community groups and media outlets are copied in.*

**Can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members transmitted (in any format) or communicated (in any format) the contents of the 1 MARCH 2025 EMAIL to the Council General Manager and/or Council Director Corporate Services and/or Council Chief Information Officer?**

6. With respect to the contents of 1 MARCH 2025 EMAIL, can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members requested a formal response from Council?
7. With respect to the contents of 1 MARCH 2025 EMAIL, can Council confirm how many (by number) Council Governing Body Members requested any assistance from Council?
8. With respect to Questions 5 to 7, can Council confirm what information and assistance was provided to each of those Council Governing Body Members?

- 9. In the situation that Council has knowingly contravened the 13 June 2023 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Instrument with respect to Council's Annual Report 2023-2024, can Council confirm if they have self-reported the contravention to the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG)? and the date it was reported?**
- 10. Can the Council confirm if the OLG has contacted the Council in relation to the specific matters raised in 15 FEBRUARY 2025 EMAIL and 1 MARCH EMAIL? and the date(s)?**

In response to questions 1-10 above:

It was not necessary for Councillors to forward the 15 February and 1 March 2025 emails or seek further information in regard to the emails as the matter was already in hand. The General Manager takes responsibility for actioning requests such as this, and for reporting to Council as required.

Council has acknowledged that the specific reporting conditions of the IPART instrument, as prescribed in the SRV approval, was incomplete in the 2023/24 Annual Report. Council has not self-reported to IPART and the OLG, and there has been no correspondence from the OLG on this matter.

Council has committed to providing a report to an upcoming Council meeting regarding the missing Annual Report content, as well as updating the Annual Reports for the relevant periods. The report to Council will also be presented to the June meeting of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) for consideration and review.