



QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL INC MEDIA RELEASE

QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL SEEKS REVIEW OF CBD PARKING

Queanbeyan Business Council has written to the General Manager of Queanbeyan City Council requesting an urgent review of future parking needs within the City's CBD area.

Stressing the impact of two major developments in the south-west corner of the City, the new Performing Arts Centre and the new NSW State Office Block, QBC believes the recently established Morisset Street Car Park is inappropriately placed to handle the extra demand.

In its letter, QBC stated that the construction of a multilevel car park in the vicinity of the new constructions is a priority. The following points were raised in relation to funding of such a project:

- Council has received significant funds from Developer Section 94 revenue over many years to be used for future parking needs.
- Council was reminded that it was a beneficiary some years ago of CBD land owned by the private sector and provided to Council free-of-charge for future parking needs.
- The cost of building a multi-story car park will almost certainly require the introduction of paid parking - at least for longer-term parking. QBC does not see this as an impediment to business growth, and cites current arrangements at Woden and Tuggeranong as examples.

QBC gave conditional support to the construction of the Performing Arts Centre. One condition was that no parking spaces would be lost in the precinct as a result of the construction. It is now understood that there will be fewer spaces in the precinct – but that the shortfall will be made up in other parking areas. QBC believes this is not a satisfactory result for business operators in the vicinity.

Whilst temporary Showground parking has been, in QBC's view, a reasonable short-term solution during the construction of these two major facilities, it would be a very poor longer-term solution.

The flow-on effects of Parking at the new NSW State Office Block are of great concern. A senior official from Premiers Department has advised QBC there would be 350 staff and 101 staff car parks (for pool cars only) at the facility. In addition, there will be 8 visitor car parks.

In stating that the majority of staff would be relocating from other locations within Queanbeyan CBD, additional parking for staff and visitors would be provided from other Queanbeyan parking areas, including the adjacent car park (used by VIC visitors).

These statements do not, in QBC's view, take into consideration:

1. Other tenants will replace state Government employees vacating existing office space around the CBD. There will be a significant net increase in parking needs for workers and their visitors/clients.
2. The existing VIC car park is already operating to capacity with many visitors unable to find suitable parking. Those with caravans or mobile homes are even more disadvantaged.

QBC understands that parking is to be included in the soon to be commissioned CBD Master Plan and seek assurances from Council that these issues, including visitor parking, will be incorporated in the tender brief.

Ends.

5 October 2007

For further information, Contact Mr. Ian McNamee. President ,Queanbeyan Business Council 02 6297 5555.