



**QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL INC
MEDIA RELEASE**

**QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL SEEKS COMMITMENTS FROM
FEDERAL CANDIDATES**

Queanbeyan Business Council has provided an issues paper to Candidates for the up-coming Federal Election. Believing the most pressing issues for business development to be water supply, road congestion, land releases and overall Regional cooperation.

- **Water Supply** – Queanbeyan Business Council would seek Federal Government to commit to federal intervention for the direct provision to Queanbeyan from the Commonwealths' Googong Dam should either:
 - **Water be denied** by ACT Government
 - **Water be tied to unreasonable conditions**
 - **Water supply remain unresolved** once NSW statutory rezoning issues have been addressed
- **Roads funding** – Traffic within the Queanbeyan CBD is a significant brake on development and economic activity, and a permanent bypass or bypasses are needed. There have been a range of studies undertaken dating back over thirty years, and yet no firm solution exists. Similarly, road connections between Queanbeyan and the ACT are inadequate and inhibit regional development. Commonwealth intervention is required to work with NSW (and if necessary the ACT) to achieve the required funding and approvals. QBC seeks firm commitments from candidates regarding a Commonwealth leadership role in finalising the Queanbeyan Bypasses.
- **Land Release for Residential Development and Employment** – The supply of greenfields land in Queanbeyan has been constrained for several years. This was addressed by the NSW Department of Planning by the endorsement in April of a Residential and Economic Strategy. The Queanbeyan Business Council seeks the support of the Federal Government for this Strategy.
- **Regional Cooperation** – Commitment by successful candidate to play a leadership role in improving overall Regional dialogue between the various levels of government operating within the

Canberra Region. QBC has been advised the earlier Canberra Regional Forum was changed in 2006 because it was deemed too unwieldy. The new ACT Ministers Forum only deals with ACT matters - not cross border issues. Queanbeyan Business Council is committed to facilitating a bottom up approach by involving other like-minded organisations and departmental officers from various levels of government. However, given the competitive nature of future development between ACT Government and NSW local government areas, many problems are insoluble without political support and/or arbitration.

Other issues of concern to members include:

- **Small Business policies** – we seek clarification of candidate's positions regarding:
 - **Small Business Assistance** – start-up and entrepreneurship
 - **Cutting Government red tape**
 - **Employment and Training incentives** – including the Queanbeyan Region Australian Technical College and other initiatives to address the current skills shortage.

- Support for **Regional Tourism**

- **Sports funding** – QBC supports Queanbeyan City Council's call for a grant towards the establishment of a regional sporting complex at Hoover Road or other site. Similarly a grant towards a new aquatic centre at Jerrabomberra.

Ends.

5 October 2007

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