



DRAFT MINUTES

QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING QUEANBEYAN GOLF CLUB MONDAY, 28th AUGUST 2006 at 4 pm

Present: 42 attendees as per separate list attached to original minutes.

- 1. Apologies :** Hon. Gary Nairn MP, Cr. Frank Pangallo MBE, Col Maxwell, Michael Taarnby, Bob Winnel, Steve Jamieson, Paul Whalan, Glenda Snoxall, Kim Beaumont, Jeremy Wyatt, Warwick Smith.
- 2. Welcome by President:**
Ian McNamee welcomed guests in particular Guest Speaker Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP. Ian further advised that Executive Officer Geoffrey Bird, who has been on sick leave from the past five weeks, will not be returning to QBC. A Workers Compensation claim has been lodged on his behalf. Ian McGinn, who has been contracted to look after the position for the past few weeks has had his contract extended for a further two months.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes and matters arising from Executive meeting 1st August 2006 – MMC/LP**
- 4. Matters Arising from Minutes**
Chapters: Resolved that the existing Retail and Tourism Chapters be combined as a Committee of QBC. **Further resolved** that the existing Development Chapter and the new Industrial Chapter be combined as a Committee of QBC.

Action: IMcN and BB will each take responsibility for one of the above Committees.

5. Treasurer's Report

Tabled by Treasurer – detailed copy attached to original minutes.

Reconciled Bank Balance 30 th April 2006	\$132,450
Total Equity at 30 th April 2006	\$ 56,704
P&L for April 2006	\$ 5,093

Audit Report 2005/2006 is expected from Accountants in September.

Accepted GW/CH

6. Correspondence

Inwards:

- Canberra Small Business Services – Quarterly Tourism stats
- Chris Jackson – Qbn Swap Meet 2007 assistance
- QCC Graham Taylor confirm QCC Meeting
- ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Society – Charity Golf day 18 September
- Premier NSW Hon. Morris Iemma – Invite to Queanbeyan Planning Meeting 24th August
- Auswide Projects – survey for charity event
- QCC Stuart Warner – response to Management Plan Submission – Queanbeyan in Bloom
- Chamber of Women in Business – Request for attendance by QBC

Accepted SMT/BB

7. Visitor Centre report to QCC:

Simon Mitchell-Taverner advised that Queanbeyan Business Council members met with Queanbeyan City Councillors and senior staff on Tuesday, 15th August. The meeting was chaired by Mayor Frank Pangallo MBE assisted by QBC President Ian McNamee. It was a relaxed environment with QCC and QBC mingling around the table.

Amongst the issues raised :

Queanbeyan Visitor Centre operations - Very positive public reaction has been received to the improvements within the Centre. For the period February to July 2006, since QBC took over the operation of the Centre, 8500 people utilised VIC services compared with 7400 in 2005 – an increase of 14%.

Motel occupancy - March 2006 ABS figures show an encouraging 29.3% increase in Queanbeyan guest arrivals during the first three months of 2006 compared with 2005. ACT experienced a 4.1% fall over the same period. Average occupancy rate for Queanbeyan motels (52%) was, however, still much lower than ACT. QBC will be working with motels to increase occupancy rates, though it was noted that only 50% had so far joined as Members.

'Visit Queanbeyan' Website – QBC will continue to update the excellent www.visitqueanbeyan.com.au which was developed by Queanbeyan City Council and the VIC over the past few years. Rather than develop a new site, it was preferable to maintain the existing information site which could be transferred back to QCC at any time should the need arise.

VIC Building Audit – A safety audit of the building is being undertaken by QCC.

Roads – QBC and QCC found common ground on the need for an integrated road system, agreeing this to be the single most important infrastructure issue facing the City at the present time. Mayor Pangallo advised that verbal and written submissions had been presented to the NSW Cabinet meeting in Queanbeyan on 1st August 2006.

Entrances to Queanbeyan – Improvements to entrances, particularly Yass Road, are high on the agenda for both QCC and QBC. Council has allocated \$70,000 to upgrade the portion from the railway bridge to the Aurora Ave traffic lights. It was recommended that QCC approach State Rail regarding widening of the bridge itself.

Council Committees – QBC expressed interest in representation on appropriate Council Committees for 2007. QCC is currently reviewing Committees and advertising for Community representatives is expected in October 2006.

Other issues under discussion at the meeting of 15th August included the proposed CBD Master Plan, the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), City maps, the proposed indoor sporting facility and the upcoming 'Queanbeyan in Bloom' festival.

8. **Other Meetings**

National Party - Ian McNamee advised that two meetings had been held at VIC with leading National Party Members including Party Leader Andrew Stoner and Small Business Shadow minister Andrew Fraser.

A New Direction for NSW – State plan - Ian McNamee attended a meeting chaired by Minister Hon. Frank Sartor on behalf of QBC. Copies of the document were tabled and available for Members.

Defence HQJOC Bungendore – Jeremy Wyatt will attend a meeting on Thursday, 31st August on behalf of QBC.

Action: JW

9. **Free QBC Seminar in National OH&S month**

Ian McGinn reported that QBC Member Safety Key Solutions will conduct a free seminar on Compliance Requirements for OH&S at the VIC on Wednesday 11th October. This service to Members is part of national OH&S Month in October and NSW OH&S Week 16th to 20th October.

Action: GS/IMcG

10. Local media proposals

Ian McGinn advised that an agreement had been reached for QBC to include a Weekly Column in Queanbeyan Age

Action: IMcG

11. QRacing Schedule

Neil Head on behalf of QBC member QRacing advised that three race meetings will be held at Queanbeyan Race Course in September:

- Saturday 2nd September including wine tasting
- Sunday, 17th September Jerrabomberra Cup
- Saturday, 30th September Defence Force Cup.

Neil also reminded Members of the success of **Takeover Target** who has already won the Australian and UK legs for the title 'World's Fastest Sprinter' and is to compete for the final two legs in Japan in September and Hong Kong in December.

12. Request for Sponsorship of Capital Region Expo

A report has been emailed to all Executive and copies were tabled for the Meeting. No comment has been received to date.

Resolved that this proposal be referred to the next Executive Meeting.

Action: SMT

13. Queanbeyan in Bloom Update

- Claire Marlow (QCC) showed artwork of street sails and window display posters for use during the festival.
- Queanbeyan in Bloom will be launched at the VIC on Friday, 1st September.
- Oz Japan Festival will be launched on Thursday, 6th September.
- Claire will distribute a list of events.
- Claire Marlow also reminded members of QCC Community Arts Grants worth between \$750 and \$1,500, and an upcoming Small Business Planning seminar aimed at home based businesses.

Action: CM

14. Address by Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP

President Ian McNamee introduced Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP – a Patron of QBC who has been the local NSW Member since 2003.

Steve Whan stated his aim as "making sure Queanbeyan gets its fair share" and listed his priorities as Health, Education, Boosting the CBD and road links.

Health – A new Ambulance is now in operation, whilst work has started on the new hospital. The new facility will have 60 beds (currently 37) and be completed during 2008. Mr. Whan noted that NSW Government currently provides \$60 million per annum to ACT for health services, and the new facility would reduce this.

Education – Noting current skills shortages, Mr. Whan advised that a \$2 million Trade school will be located at Queanbeyan High School allowing Year 11 and 12 students to complete their first year apprenticeship whilst also completing Year 12. In addition, Queanbeyan TAFE will be expanded. Mr. Whan expressed his support for an Australian Technical College in Queanbeyan. In answer to a question from QBC Member Matthew Mason-Cox, Mr. Whan believed a new proposal was being assessed that could lead to a resolution of existing issues.

Boosting CBD – Mr. Whan believed that, whilst roads were part of the issue, people activity was the primary solution to the CBD's malaise. The new State office Block would, he believed, help create significantly increased people movement by day, particularly if existing landlords marketed their empty office facilities effectively. In answer to question from Fiona Harrison, Mr. Whan stated that most of the 400 occupants of the new Office Block were relocating.

Roads – Mr Whan believed that the priority road needs for Queanbeyan were those linking to the ACT - Lanyon Drive duplication, Canberra Avenue and Pialligo Avenue. He is in close contact with RTA and ACT Government regarding these roads. He stated the Northern Bypass (the current Upgrade is a temporary measure) is his next priority. Total cost is estimated at \$93 million, but the project could be staged. In answer to a question by Ian McNamee, Mr. Whan undertook to get an estimate for the Canberra Ave – Yass Rd portion. He also believed Edwin Land Parkway is also important, but only as far as Cooma Rd. He noted that QCC had already applied for Roads to Recovery funding for this portion.

On other matters, Mr. Whan advised that the Queanbeyan Land Release Enquiry is not yet with the Minister, but hoped to have the report "next week". He also discussed the current state of the Cross Border Agreements, and developing relationships with ACT Government. He also offered to write to State Rail Authority regarding QBC suggestion of widening of Yass Road railway bridge.

In answer questions from Craig Harris, Mr. Whan agreed there was frustration felt by QCC's exclusion from the Cross Border agreement process.

In thanking Mr. Whan for his “forthright comments”, Ian McNamee suggested that Edwin Land Parkway would “make up its own mind” particularly once expected future development to the south of the City received approval.

15. General Business

Nil

16. Informal networking - Ian McNamee thanked Queanbeyan Golf Club for hosting and catering for this meeting.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 26th September, Queanbeyan Leagues Club, 12.30 pm.

Meeting closed 5.45 pm.