

**QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING
QUEANBEYAN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2007 12.30 PM**

Present: Ian McNamee, Michael Doherty, Ken Ineson, John Walker, Craig Harris, Ian McGinn, Simon Mitchell-Taverner

- 1. Apologies:** Ross Barrett
- 2. Update from Chair** - Ian McNamee noted that it was appropriate to look at activities over the next 6 months, particularly in view of recent land releases. Discussion around the table centred on slow responses from QCC staff on a number of fronts due to staff work overload, frequent staff changes and a culture described as 'hard to crack'. QBC lobbying could assist in moving things along a little quicker.
- 3. Priority objectives for balance of 2007** – Ian McNamee advised that a meeting between himself and Vice President Bill Baker on the one hand and Mayor and QCC General Manager on the other had been called for Thursday, 23 August 2007 at 3 pm. This would centre on future VIC operations, however QBC had insisted that other agenda items be added, including the proposed Development Board.

Resolved that President include at Thursday's meeting a request for a regular monthly meeting with Mayor, GM and appropriate senior Council staff with a standing agenda. Aspects to be covered to include residential growth, commercial and industrial growth, roads & transport, parking, promotion, visitor services and joint lobbying activities.

ACTION: IMcN

Further discussion on Visitor Centre operations stressed the importance of all visitors – not simply tourists and that Queanbeyan deserved an on-going quality VIC. Other visitors included business people, potential large and small investors, potential new residents and developers. Closing the VIC at weekends was described by Craig Harris, Michael Doherty and Ken Ineson as 'false economy', whilst John Walker hoped to avoid the stigma "been to Queanbeyan but it was closed". Ian McGinn referred to the LGSA Tourism Conference he attended in Griffith in March 2007. This was attended by 6 Mayors, 4 Deputy Mayors, 4 General Managers, 28 Councillors and 14 Economic Development Officers and highlighted many best practice initiatives being undertaken by Councils around NSW. It was agreed that, whoever runs the VIC, it should operate for the benefit of the people of Queanbeyan. Noting that a role of local Government was to support services that are not commercially viable, it was considered that \$170,000 was a minor contribution from an overall QCC turnover exceeding \$45 million.

Resolved that this sub-committee support the continuation of a 7 day Visitor Information Centre as developed by QBC providing support services to businesses and residents in conjunction with BEC. This would accelerate following commencement of new residential developments.

Further resolved that, should Queanbeyan City Council move to take the VIC back, QBC should insist that no dilution of visitor services be contemplated, QBC maintain long-term occupancy of office and meeting room, and guarantees be put in place to avoid frictions between the VIC occupying organisations.

ACTION: IMcN

Further discussion on priorities centred around the upcoming Federal Election – and the Local Government elections in 2008.

Resolved that all Members be contacted by email with the Question “What matters would you like Queanbeyan Business Council to raise on your behalf with Candidates for the upcoming Federal Election” Replies to be requested by CoB Friday, 31 August.

ACTION: SMT

Further resolved that the City Map used at the combined Hellenic Club display be obtained for use at the VIC as previously agreed.

ACTION: SMT

4. **Proposed Development Board** – Covered in previous item
5. **Feedback from Canberra Times supplement** – Positive feedback received from all attendees. Ian McGinn has delivered 5000 copies to businesses with good response – particularly from Motels.
6. **General Business**

1. **‘What do you remember Queanbeyan By’** – This question was posed by John Walker with the thought that an item of Public Art be considered.

Resolved that the notion of an ‘Ideas Competition’ be raised with CBD LIFT Committee and with Queanbeyan Age.

ACTION: IMcG/JW

2. **Employment Database** – Simon Mitchell-Taverner tabled an MS Excel database of 160 leading Queanbeyan employers he had recently compiled using back up files from the development of “*Eyes on the Horizon*” between 2001 and 2003. This information was keyed into the BEC MS Access master business database at the time. The original Access database

should also be still available on the QCC hard drive. QCC's EDO Margaret Nicholls has been seeking similar information. Whilst this database is largely based on old information and is possibly quite incomplete, it could still be useful.

Resolved that this be further updated and given to QCC's EDO at next Tuesday's Executive meeting.

ACTION: SMT

Meeting Closed 1.40 pm