

**Minutes of Quarterly General Meeting of Queanbeyan Business Council
Held at Queanbeyan Tigers Club
Tuesday, 9th August 2005 – 4 pm**

1. **Introduction Apologies & Welcome** – President Ian McNamee welcomed attendees – estimated in excess of 100 people, 71 registered – details on minutes register)
 - Apologies: Mayor Frank Pangallo MBE, Executive Members Maurice McCormack and Steve Jamieson plus Bob Winnel, Julia Williams, Bruce & Fran Morrison, and Bill Johnson
2. **Keynote Speaker Mr. John Mackay AM, CEO of ActewAGL** was introduced by Hugh Percy. Mr. Mackay spoke of the wide range of ActewAGL and TransACT services with particular reference to regional interests including Queanbeyan. This included comments on future water options. Mr Mackay stated that the ActewAGL water report would be available by October to December this year. He also spoke of the organisation as an employer that cared for its employees. ActewAGL is a member of QBC and also a strong supporter of many Queanbeyan groups including the Queanbeyan Tigers Club.
3. **Questions to speaker** facilitated by Hugh Percy. A number of questions were put to Mr. Mackay from the floor and were answered by him or by members of his team. This included an assurance that a lot of work will be done to ensure there is no degradation resulting from the proposed Angle Crossing option (if adopted).
4. **Treasurer's report.** Presented by Treasurer Graham Wise seconded Bill Baker and adopted unanimously. Copy attached to minutes register. **Summary:**
 - Reconciled bank Balance at 31 July 2005 is \$40,380.94
 - Balance Sheet – Total Equity at 30 June 2005 \$47,326.35
 - P&L – 1 July to 31 July 2005 - \$1,272.73
 - Audit – Anthony Curtis & Co are currently auditing.
 - New Members, July 2005 – 3 Applications received.
5. **Correspondence report.** Simon Mitchell-Taverner reported on inwards and outwards items of correspondence since the previous quarterly meeting held on 10th May 2005. A summary is attached to the minutes register.
6. **Group Reports:**

Group 1:

Water Supply Issue:

Current constraint on Queanbeyan's growth arising from uncertainty over the supply of water to any new housing or industrial developments. This situation is the subject of a water

agreement currently being negotiated by Commonwealth / NSW / ACT.

Current Situation:

- Although no information is available regarding the content of the proposed agreement, it is understood that both NSW and Commonwealth have finalised their positions.
- ACT were to have considered the agreement in June, however it was reported in the Canberra Times that this consideration has been deferred.

Next Steps:

- No time frame for finalisation has been given, however the QBC understand that the ACT Chief Minister's Department has given the issue a high priority.
- Overall, the QBC Exec would like to acknowledge the work of Federal member Mr Gary Nairn, NSW member Mr Steve Whan, and the Mayor of Queanbeyan Cr Frank Pangallo for their vigorous and untiring pursuit of a water agreement allowing Queanbeyan to grow as an equal part of the region.

Autonomous Water Issue:

The QBC are looking at establishing a project to examine the impact of water restrictions upon local business, and if this impact can be alleviated by establishing a degree of self sufficiency through localised treatment systems, of which there are many types available.

Questions to be answered include: available technologies, suitability, licensing and implementation requirements, cost effectiveness, etc...

Current Situation:

Project has yet to be scoped, however discussions have been held with a local group of scientists examining water autonomy, and the QBC would wish to work with them on this.

Next Steps:

- To enable to project to be scoped, a survey will be sent to QBC members seeking information on the water needs of their business, and the business impact of water restrictions.
- The QBC representative on the project is Ms Ania Lian of Critical Pedagogy based in Jerrabomberra, who will be speaking further with local business when the survey is issued.

- The exec would like to acknowledge the considerable time and effort put in by Ania in initiating and setting up the project.
- ❖ **Roads** – Loyd Perin reported on his talks with Mr Hardgrave's office concerning duplication of Lanyon Drive. Whilst ACT Government would allocate funds in the coming financial year, this construction is not on RTA's budget until 2008/2009. He has spoken with Steve Whan MP's office
- ❖ **NRMA/Roads** – Ian McNamee reported on meetings of the Southern NSW & ACT Better Roads Panel, of which he is a Member representing QBC. He advised that the Kings Highway was identified as the number one priority and that GHD have been appointed consultants who will undertake research on behalf of NRMA.

Mr McNamee also advised that he had written to the new Premier of NSW, Hon. Morris Iemma, congratulating him upon his accession and asking him to revisit the 1995 promise by former Premier Bob Carr to relieve traffic congestion in Monaro Street by constructing Edwin Land Parkway.

- ❖ **Edwin Land Parkway** – Hugh Percy reported that the consultant's draft report had been completed was expected to be ready for presentation to QBC Executive within the next two weeks following comment by stakeholders

Group 2:

- ❖ **Showgrounds** – Bill Baker reported on discussions regarding the multi purpose facility proposed for the Showgrounds. He also spoke about the State Government's suggestion that the Showground be used as the site for the new hospital.
- ❖ **Cultural Centre** – Bill Baker reported on meetings with Queanbeyan City Council regarding the proposed Cultural Centre. He advised that QBC had given conditional support based upon the figures that had been presented to QBC (construction and operating) and based on the information that there would be, at worst, no loss of car parking spaces in the Lowe Street car park. QBC should monitor the progress of this development and continue to have input.
- ❖ **Main Streets** – Col Maxwell reported on recent meetings with Council's CBD LIFT Committee. He urged Members to take advantage of the existing Main Streets Improvement Grants (dollar for dollar – maximum \$2,500). He also urged CBD operators to join QBC.

- ❖ **Australian Technical College** – Simon Mitchell-Taverner (on behalf Steve Jamieson) reported that the first 12 Australian Technical Colleges had been announced by the Commonwealth Government. Talks are currently underway between Commonwealth Government and NSW Department of Education towards a proposed DET/CRBEC submission for a Queanbeyan college.

7. General Matters:

- ❖ **Implementation Summit** – Craig Harris reported:

Issue:

- QBC Vice President Bill Baker and Secretary Craig Harris attended Canberra Business Council's 28th July Implementation summit, which aimed to identify how the ACT government's Canberra Plan (comprising the Spatial Plan, Social Plan, and Economic White Paper) is best implemented.
- QBC representation was to ensure that regionalism was considered as a theme, and that Queanbeyan was included in consideration.

Current Situation

- Areas examined included; infrastructure, workplace skills, the Canberra CBD & tourism.
- It was pleasing to see that a regional view was adopted in the CBC presentations, particularly in relation to infrastructure planning.
- The QBC would like to acknowledge the input of Queanbeyan City Councillor Whelan, who presented to the summit under the heading of Regionalism.

Next Steps

- A lot of publicity was generated in local media, in particular over the view expressed that the current Bush Capital image of the National Capital Region required updating.
- The acknowledgement of Queanbeyan as a vital part of the region was pleasing, and the QBC will seek to make submissions to any follow-on papers arising from the Summit.

8. **Summing up**– President Ian McNamee thanked attendees and all those who assisted in setting up the meeting. In particular he thanked Queanbeyan Tigers Club for providing the venue and light refreshments for the ensuing networking session.

Mr. McNamee also reported on the appointment of Mr. Murray Maxwell as membership officer until December 2005. Mr. McNamee advised that QBC would be looking with interest at the proposal to build a new Queanbeyan Hospital on the site of the current Showgrounds and had issued a press release in this respect.

9. **Questions from Floor** - Questions/comments on QBC position re Airport retail, Tourism, local (Canberra) autonomous water firm, Hospital relocation and relocation of bus stops in Monaro Street.

- Position re Airport retail yet to be established.
- QBC is aware of the local Autonomous water firm.
- QBC invited to play part in development of Visitor Centre's Tourism business plan.
- QBC reps will take the issue of bus stops to the CBD LIFT Committee.

10. **Motion from the floor** – Matthew Bridger moved a motion congratulating QBC on its achievements to date. This was carried by acclamation.

Meeting closed at 5.30 pm followed by networking with refreshments courtesy of Queanbeyan Tigers Club.