

**Minutes of Quarterly General Meeting of Queanbeyan Business Council
Held at Queanbeyan Racing Club
Tuesday, 15th November 2005 – 12 noon**

1. **Introduction Apologies & Welcome** – President Ian McNamee welcomed attendees – (41 registered – details on minutes register)
 - Apologies: Executive Members Maurice McCormack, Rod Studholme, Daryl Evans, Hugh Percy, Craig Harris, Ross Barrett, Matthew Mason-Cox, Jeremy Wyatt, Graham Wise plus Bob Winnel, Bill Brown, Les Boardman, Nerida Dean and Marion Donaldson

Ian discussed broad activities undertaken over the past three months. He also reported on a meeting with Canberra Business Council held on 20th October. This meeting had explored a number of opportunities for mutual support on issues ranging from land development, water to tourism including joint media releases where appropriate and QBC representation on CBC Task Forces.

The Executive Structure had been examined and found to work well – despite early concerns at its size. The majority of Executive members had worked hard on behalf of the Business Council. The only change for next year would be dedicated representation for individual industry sectors.

Ian thanked Queanbeyan Racing Club for its hospitality and invited QRC Chairman Neil Head to talk to the Meeting. Mr. Head gave a run down on Club developments and invited QBC Members to take advantage of the Club's new facilities when planning future events.

2. **Proposed Visitor Information Centre Operation** - President Ian McNamee advised that Queanbeyan City Council General Manager had been meeting with QBC and BEC Executive members with the proposal the QBC take over the management of Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centre on a contractual basis. This proposal will be put to Queanbeyan City Council at its meeting of 16th November and full details are available on the Business Paper for that meeting. If approved by Council, and subject to Contracts being signed, this would provide a 'home' for QBC and would enable QBC to appoint a full time CEO. This would provide a 'one stop shop' for all business, tourism and economic development services in Queanbeyan. Ian made the point that, unlike in larger centres, QBC represents all business sectors in the City. In answer to questions from attendees, Ian stated that the service would be an enhanced version of existing services by allowing a pro-active approach to Tourism development. No comment was raised against the proposal and there was consensus of support for the project should it be approved by Council.

2. **Treasurer's report.** Presented by Simon Mitchell-Taverner on behalf of Treasurer Graham Wise. Copy attached to minutes register.

Summary:

- Reconciled bank Balance at 31 October 2005 is \$49,284.45
- Balance Sheet – Total Equity at 31 October 2005 \$50,346.79
- P&L – 1 July to 31 October 2005 – (\$624.59)
- New Members, October 2005 – 2 Applications received.

3. **Correspondence report.** Simon Mitchell-Taverner reported on items of correspondence since the previous Executive meeting held on 11th October 2005. A summary is attached to the minutes register. Inwards correspondence was received from Member for Monaro Mr. Steve Whan MP, Premier Hon. Morris Iemma, Minister for Tourism Hon. Sandra Nori MP, Chief Minister ACT Mr. Jon Stanhope, NRMA, QCC and NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Roads.

4. **Group Reports:**

Group 1:

Water Supply Issue:

Remains a major Issue for Queanbeyan. Whilst correspondence had been received from NSW Government Ministers and ACT Chief Minister there was still no sign of a water agreement under the Regional Management Framework. A further meeting will be arranged with Member for Monaro Steve Whan MP following supportive statements in his correspondence. Suggestion from the floor concerning restraint of trade will be followed up. **Group 1 to action**

- ❖ **Roads** – A similar situation was occurring with regard to Main Road development – including Edwin Land Parkway. Group 1 is pursuing this and will hold further meetings with Federal and State local Members. **Group 1 to action**

- ❖ **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 with Monaro Highway upgraded to number two. GHD have completed their audit.

Group 2:

- ❖ **Cultural Centre** – Bill Baker reported on meetings with Queanbeyan City Council through his membership of the Cultural Centre Steering Committee. He advised that QBC was still giving conditional support based upon the figures that had been presented to QBC (construction and operating) although costs have escalated to \$7 million and there may be a loss of 6

to 8 car parking spaces. QBC will continue to monitor the progress of this development through representation on the Steering Committee. Bill will represent QBC at a public meeting to be held on 15th November at 7 pm. **Bill Baker to action**

- ❖ **Winter Waste Fest** – Bill Baker advised of this proposal which would be elaborated upon by guest speaker Gerry Gillespie. Ania Lian will prepare a submission for the next Executive Meeting. The proposed week-long festival has potential spin-offs for tourism, recycling and education. **Ania Lian to Action**
 - ❖ **Membership Packs** – These have been developed and are available for distribution. **Jan Browne to Action**
 - ❖ **General Election** – It was resolved that General Elections would take place at an AGM in February. The new Executive would be of similar size but would have representation from specific industry segments. **Group 2 to Action**
5. **Keynote Speaker Mr. Gerry Gillespie, Chair of Zero-Waste Australia** was introduced by Frank Bresnik. Mr. Gillespie spoke of changing attitude to waste management and its importance in both revenue opportunities and cost savings. He referred to the Highly Successful Queanbeyan 'City to Soil' Project and distributed booklets on this project. More copies are available for interested members. He also made reference to the proposed Winter Waste Fest which he is assisting together with Executive Members Frank Bresnik and Ania Lian. This Festival would be run along similar lines to an event originating in Ashburton NZ, and could be run co-operatively with Ashburton including a winner exchange visit.
6. **Questions to speaker.** A number of questions were put to Mr. Gillespie particularly concerning the Winter Waste Festival which appeared to have good support.
7. **General Matters:**
Summing up– President Ian McNamee thanked attendees and all those who assisted in setting up the meeting. In particular he thanked Queanbeyan Racing Club for providing the venue and lunch – together with entry to the race meeting (first race started at 1.20 pm).

Meeting closed at 1.45 pm followed by networking, lunch and entry to the race meeting.