

**QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL  
DRAFT MINUTES  
TOURISM RETAIL SUB COMMITTEE MEETING  
QUEANBEYAN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2008 12.30 PM**

**Present:** Jeremy Wyatt, Rod Studholme, Jan Browne, Peter Newham, Jan Smith, Fran Hesketh, Steve Jamieson, Simon Mitchell-Taverner

**Apologies:** Bill Baker, Col Maxwell, Leanne Brewer,

1. **Welcome from Chair** – Jeremy Wyatt welcomed attendees in the absence of President Bill Baker. In particular Tracey Lamont from the Kings Highway to Discovery Project.
2. **Matters arising Minutes of Meeting 21 May:** Minutes adopted JB/RS
  - a. **Queanbeyan Age ‘nothing to do’ comments** – Simon Mitchell-Taverner advised that Tourist Officer Sandra Bryce had provided details to Queanbeyan Age for a positive story or series of stories.
3. **Kings Highway to Discovery project** – Simon Mitchell-Taverner advised that a website would soon be launched for this Federally Funded project promoting travel via the King’s Highway via Braidwood and Bungendore. Further information will be provided when available.
4. **VIC six month report to QCC (SMT)** – Simon Mitchell-Taverner reported on the staff report to Council (excerpt Attachment a to these Minutes). Staff recommended, and Council apparently resolved) that QCC Officers discuss a new set of performance measures to supersede the existing measures that have been in operation since the License Agreement commenced. The meeting disagreed with QCC staff assertion that the existing indicators lacked measurability and believed these performance measures remain appropriate. Many of the measures incorporated in QCC staff recommendation were already part of the VIC Accreditation process due for renewal next year, whilst others required the VIC to undertake additional roles to those agreed to, and previously undertaken by QCC when operating the VIC.

**Resolved LB/PN** that QBC write to QCC requesting a workshop.

**ACTION: SMT**

5. **Queanbeyan Conferencing issues** – QBC member Allan Carpenter spoke of problems facing the Conference industry in Queanbeyan including the Council operated Conference Centre and smaller privately owned facilities such as his Comfort Inn Airport, other motel operators and licensed clubs. This was partly due to the number of Conference facilities being included in new Government and Commercial buildings, and also to additional facilities recently

developed by Council. It was noted by Members that, whilst Council had budgeted to operate the Conference Centre at a loss, and provided subsidised rates to community groups, this was not an option for commercial businesses.

**Resolved** that Mr. Carpenter negotiate with Conference Centre management to seek more information and mutually beneficial solutions which could result in economies of scale for Council and private operators. Mr. Carpenter was invited to report back to this committee.

**ACTION: AC**

**6. Membership renewals-** Simon Mitchell-Taverner advised that Membership renewals were sent out on Friday, 6 June reflecting the new rates.

**7. Canberra Times Supplement -** Simon Mitchell-Taverner advised he has submitted copy and photographs for the VIC to Canberra Times and Bill Baker has submitted copy on behalf of QBC plus file photograph of the handover between Ian McNamee and Bill Baker. Simon also tabled copy of QBC's advertisement for approval.

**Resolved** Advertisement approved.

Ian McNamee had arranged for a Canberra Times photographer to be at the VIC at 12.30 on 18 June (immediately prior to this Meeting).

**ACTION: SMT**

**8. General Business –**

**a. VIC Brochure –** Canberra Times will start work on this as soon as the Queanbeyan Supplement is launched. It is still due for release in September.

**b. Sports Precinct –** Jan Browne advised that, whilst no budget had been included in the original Council Management Plan, lobbying by the Sports Advisory Group had been successful in securing an additional \$548,000.

**c. Fyshwick Epicentre DFO –** Peter Newham again noted that this 22,000 sq m facility will be open for operation on 15 August and that it would have close to 100% occupancy. He believed this would have an undoubted impact on retail in the Region. The accompanying 25,000 sq m Bulky Goods facility will open in March 2009.

**Meeting Closed 1.40 pm**

**Next Committee Meeting –** Wednesday, 23 July, 12.30 pm at VIC

**Next Executive Meeting –** Tuesday, 24 June at 12.30 pm at Australian Technical College, 88 Bayldon Road.