

## **QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 25 April 2008**

**Queanbeyan commercial vacancies** –Queanbeyan Business Council, on behalf of the Interim Queanbeyan Development Board, is keen to establish the extent of commercial vacancies that will occur within Queanbeyan CBD as a result of NSW government departments relocating to the NSW State Office Block.

There is no doubt that the NSW Office Block will continue to be a boon to Queanbeyan's economy, however there will be extensive vacancies in locations around Queanbeyan CBD when staff re-locate.

QBC is writing to building owners and commercial real estate agencies to seek information about affected properties. This will be collated into a confidential database to enable the Interim Development Board to develop co-ordinated strategies towards re-filling vacant space.

QBC sees this as an important issue not only for property owners, but also those businesses that rely upon accessibility to local workers.

If this initiative is successful, QBC will ask real estate agencies to contribute to a broader Queanbeyan confidential vacancies database, including properties not subject to the NSW State Office Block such as industrial and warehouse properties. This will assist the Interim Development Board and its more formalised successor to market the City in an effective manner.

As previously mentioned in this column, the Queanbeyan Development Board has representatives from Queanbeyan City Council, Queanbeyan Business Council and Capital region BEC.

Contact Simon Mitchell-Taverner at QBC for more information on 6299 7152

**Home in Queanbeyan (HOME)** – QBC was honoured to be represented at the announcement of a \$400,000 donation by The Snow Foundation to this worthy community initiative. This is a further example of successful people with a Queanbeyan connection 'putting back' into their community.

HOME Patron, The Hon Sir William Deane, Co-Chair Fr Peter Day, Chair of the Snow Foundation Mr Terry Snow and other speakers gave inspiring addresses to a large group of government, business and community representatives.

HOME has identified a site in Rutledge Street to which the Anglican Church of Queanbeyan has agreed to give long-term access. This has enabled the HOME Board to develop concept plans for the construction of a home environment that will feature 24 hour supported accommodation for people who cannot live independently due to mental illness.

Supplementing HOME's own fundraising and a \$2 million contribution from the Federal Government, the Snow Foundation donation brings the tally in sight of the target figure of \$3.5 million that must be reached for work to start. More support in terms of cash and in-kind is still required, however, and QBC encourages its members and other businesses to assist where possible.

Visit Home in Queanbeyan's website [www.homeinqueanbeyan.org](http://www.homeinqueanbeyan.org) to learn more.

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