

QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 29 AUGUST 2008

Melbourne Cup Day – Let’s show what we have got! For many years, Queanbeyan put on a spectacular shopping opportunity for our ACT friends on Canberra Day. This was well patronised until Canberra’s retailers opened all day. Nevertheless, this is still a better than normal day for retailers in Queanbeyan.

Melbourne Cup Day could be even better. It is a festive day for all, yet not a public holiday in NSW. Spring will have arrived, with *Queanbeyan in Bloom* Festival about to start. Our City will be at its radiant best with all systems operating.

So we thought – Why Not?

Why not celebrate with a CBD Market Day and encourage our regional friends to celebrate Cup Day in Queanbeyan?

Queanbeyan City Council, through its CBD LIFT Committee, Queanbeyan Business Council and the Visitor Information Centre are considering putting a lot of effort and some real dollars into an inaugural event, but we need retailers’ ideas and support.

Simon Mitchell-Taverner from QBC, Margaret Nicholls from QCC and Elke Hawke from Riverside Plaza have been talking to CBD retailers throughout this week and inviting them to a brainstorming meeting at Riverside Plaza .

We know it is early, however light refreshments will be provided, and the meeting will be over in time for people to get to work.

If you are in business in the CBD and we have somehow missed you, or if you are just interested in helping out as a member of the public, please contact Simon Mitchell-Taverner on 6299 7152.

Queanbeyan’s Future Water Supply - Queanbeyan Business Council has written to NSW Planning Minister Hon. Frank Sartor MP regarding ACT Government’s plans to pipe water from the Murrumbidgee catchment through NSW to Googong Dam, thus securing ACT’s water supply into the future. As the pipeline will pass through NSW, the QBC understands that the NSW Planning Minister will have an approval power over this project.

The business council supports measures to secure the region’s water supplies, but remains deeply concerned over the ongoing lack of certainty regarding the security of Queanbeyan’s water supply for future growth – an issue that remains unresolved after years of discussions, and which has increasing importance given that Queanbeyan is to provide 10,000 of the

25,000 new dwellings proposed over 25 years within the NSW Sydney to Canberra Corridor Strategy, released recently by Minister Sartor's department.

Accordingly, the QBC has written to Minister Sartor requesting that any approval he grants for the proposed pipeline be conditional on the securing of water for Queanbeyan's new release areas – thus providing certainty for Queanbeyan's growth as both part of the national capital region, and as the southern anchor of the Sydney to Canberra Corridor.

Olympic Feeling – As our Beijing Olympic team comes home and our Paralympic Team enjoys the world stage, it was good to see at least one local shopfront enter the spirit. We had lots of feedback from visitors to the VIC enthusing about the green and gold mannequin display in Nouveau Riche's Monaro Street window. Beautifully done!