

AMENDED REPORT



Item No: 7.1
Title: Questions With Notice
Department: Councillor

22 July 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting

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Lisa Matthews, Councillor

7.1 Questions With Notice

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jilly Pilon;

Funding from State Government's Coastal and Estuary Grant

Can you please advise if Central Coast Council recently applied for any funding from the \$80+ million available from the State Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants? If not, can you please explain why?

Response provided by Executive Manager Innovation and Futures;

Council has applied for funding through the NSW State Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants for Wamberal Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment Investigation and Design project.

As this application is under consideration for funding by the Department; project details are provided in Attachment 3 of the Grant Funding update as at 30 June 2019 report to OM 22 July 2019.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jilly Pilon;

Grants Officer Position

Can you also please advise if we still have a full time Grants Officer applying for all applicable funds?

Response provided by Executive Manager Innovation and Futures;

Council employs a full-time Chief External Funding Coordinator. Responsibilities for that position include the investigation of suitable funding opportunities for priority projects and the coordination of external funding applications developed by Unit Managers.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jeff Sundstrom;

90 Degree Parking in Copacabana

There have been a few (vehicular) near misses and some minor accidents at Copacabana recently. There are a few 90 degree parking spaces in front of the shops and across the road. People are reversing out of these spots and are unsighted as far as on-coming traffic is concerned. Has it ever been considered to have those spots designated as "rear to kerb" parking only? What was the result of any such considerations? If not can we look at the pros and cons of such an idea?

Response provided by Director Roads Transport and Drainage;

Council Officers will investigate the suggestion to implement rear to kerb restrictions in the parallel parking adjacent to the shops and foreshore in Del Monte Place, Copacabana. This investigation will include consultation with shop/business owners and representatives of the Copacabana Community Association. Any changes to the existing parking signage would also require referral to the Local Traffic Committee for consideration and recommendation.

It is anticipated that this investigation, including consultation, may take up to three (3) months to finalise. The outcome of the investigation will be provided to the Councillor via the Councillor Request system.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jillian Hogan;

2018-19 Operational Plan Projected Expenditure

The 2018-2019 Operational Plan promised to deliver \$761.3M in essential services and capital works, while this year the forecast is \$792M – which is a 4% increase. What was our FTE change between June 2018 and June 2019, and will we expect our workforce to increase in line with projected expenditure?

Response provided by Executive Manager People and Culture;

The variance between 18/19 and 19/20 FTE is an increase of 4.89%.

Part of the overall operational plan and budgeting process for 20/21 requires the organisation to consider workforce planning needs. This essentially allows Council to determine what the business is going to need in terms of the size and type of workforce required to achieve its objectives.

It determines what mix of experience, knowledge, and skills are required, and it sequences steps to get the right number of right people in the right place at the right time. This is an annual activity and looks at a projection over the next 3-5 years.

It should be noted that the workforce planning exercise is based on known programs of work and does not cater for an deviation that may occur through the introduction of additional programs or initiatives put forward as part of any Council resolution

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jillian Hogan;

Lake Munmorah Regional Park Project

Could staff please provide an update on how the Lake Munmorah Regional Park Project is progressing?

Response provided by the Director Environment and Planning;

The response to this question includes confidential information and will be provided to Councillors separately.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Kyle MacGregor;

Glyphosate Chemical Usage and Potential Trial of Alternative Weed Control Measures

Given that Blacktown Council and other organisations have committed to trying utilising alternative substances and methods to control weeds within their LGA or businesses would Central Coast Council considering conducting a trial similar to the five month trial that Blacktown City Council is currently trialling an organic alternative or alternative method to the use of Glyphosate chemicals?

Response provided by Director Environment and Planning;

At this stage there is no change to Council's approach to the safe use of herbicides containing glyphosate, in accordance with directions on the label, for the purpose of weed control within the Central Coast Local Government Area.

The health and safety of Council workers and the community are taken very seriously and Council ensures responsible practices are in place for the safe use of herbicides whilst protecting the environment.

Council considers the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to be the appropriate statutory body regulating chemicals registered for use in Australia.

The APVMA has recently concluded that products containing glyphosate pose no risk to humans and are safe to use as per the label instructions.

It is also our understanding that the APVMA will continue to monitor any new information, reports or studies that indicate that their position should be revised.

Council requires all of its employees and contractors who undertake herbicide treatments to have a current Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control (ACDC) Certification, thereby establishing a recognised level of competency required to ensure that they use and apply the products in accordance with label instructions and the manufacturer's specifications.

Some arguments that glyphosates are carcinogenic are based on reports by the International Agency for Research on Cancer that found that exposure to glyphosate to be a probable carcinogenic activity. The same report by this institute also placed in the same risk category drinking hot drinks, frying food, hairdressing, eating red meat and shift work that disrupts your circadian rhythms.

If the issue continues to escalate, future messaging may include this and that Council's position is based on the advice of industry regulators and broader scientific opinion rather than outcomes of isolated jury decisions.

Council regularly trials alternates, including recent trials of steam and foam products, but to date nothing compares to the efficiency of glyphosate.

Council will continue to use glyphosates until a more efficient method of vegetation control is found.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Kyle MacGregor;

Designs for Upgrade of Narara Skate Park

Is Council currently considering designs or submissions for the upgrade of Narara Skate Park from local residents, users of the facility and other stakeholders? In the event that we are how can stakeholders contact council to submit their designs and ideas for the skatepark and if we are not when is it likely that the community will be able to have some input over the design of any upgrade of this facility?

Response provided by Director Environment and Planning;

Council will be engaging an external consultant to undertake a feasibility study and concept design for the Narara Skate Park which will include undertaking community engagement activities and community submissions.

It is anticipated that the initial community engagement will inform the proposed concept design aimed to be undertaken in November 2019.

Once timeframes are confirmed, information on the formal consultation period will be communicated through Council's usual print and social media channels.

Until such time as the consultant is engaged, Council will not be taking submissions to reduce the risk of duplications.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Louise Greenaway;

Jack Grant Avenue and Sparks Road Level Bank

What are the dimensions of the levy bank in the vicinity of Jack Grant Ave and Sparks Rd Warnervale, what was purpose of its construction and is that purpose being fulfilled?

Response provided by Director Roads Transport Drainage and Waste;

The berm's dimensions are 12.5m wide (at base) by 1.8m high at the eastern (Jack Grant Ave) end, reducing to 5m wide by 0.65m high at its western end. The berm was installed to control stormwater flows in the area. The berm is acting as designed.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Lisa Matthews;

Wilfred Barrett Drive

Given two major accidents this month on Wilfred Barrett Drive, what is Council doing to ensure we don't continue to see similar accidents on this road? Has Council identified Wilfred Barrett Drive as a Black Spot road funding priority?

Response provided by the Director Roads Transport Drainage and Waste;

Wilfred Barrett Drive is a State Road under the care and control of Transport for NSW. The identification of any safety improvements is the responsibility of Transport for NSW. Council is aware that Transport for NSW has identified future improvements for Wilfred Barrett Drive . Council officers are currently obtaining details of these projects and once received will be provided to all Councillors through Councillor Support system.

Attachments

Nil.