

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 5.1
Title: Questions with Notice
Department: Governance

11 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/00041-003 - D13703521

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Executive: Dr Liz Develin, Director Governance

5.1 Questions with Notice

The following question was submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

Further question in response to QON 204/18 consultancy fees September 2017-2018

Does council have data available to compare the spend on consultants as identified in QON 204/18 to an equivalent period for the former Gosford and Wyong councils in the year prior to amalgamation i.e May 2014-2015?

Response provided by the Director, Finance:

This question requires additional resources to provide an appropriate response. As a result, it is not possible to provide a response for this Ordinary Meeting and it is proposed to provide the response for inclusion in the Business Paper for the Ordinary Meeting being held on 9 December 2019.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Smith:

Biodiversity Offsets

Could staff please advise regarding the current status of biodiversity offsets for the Rail Maintenance Facility at Kangy Angy and the Pacific Highway upgrade works at Lisarow?

Response provided by the Director, Environment and Planning

Two major State Government infrastructure projects are seeking biodiversity credits from Council natural reserves:

- The New Intercity Fleet Maintenance Facility Project Kangy Angy (NIF) and
- The Pacific Highway upgrade at Lisarow.

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The Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report includes a management plan that sets out proposed annual management actions and the cost of those actions over a 20 year period. The total costs are called the Total Fund Deposit.

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust will assess Council's applications against relevant legal and technical requirements and agree on the terms of the agreement.

The Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement will be prepared by BCT and will be brought to a Council meeting for endorsement to sign.

The steps in the process are provided in this table. The two proposed agreements are at different stages, with the application to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust having been submitted for the Pacific Highway Project and the Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report being currently reviewed by Council staff for the NIF.

	NIF Facility	Pacific Highway
Reserves shortlisted	Complete	Complete
Final reserve selection	Complete	Complete
Number of reserves	11	1
Field data collection	Complete	Complete
Management action plan and Total fund deposit	Complete	Complete
Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report	Drafted (being reviewed by Council staff)	Finalised
Formal offer for credits	Not received	Yes
Council accept offer	Not received	Yes (Purchase, Sale and Purchase Deed for Biodiversity Credits signed by CEO 24/9/19)
Application submitted to Biodiversity Conservation Trust	Expected end 2019	Yes
BCT accepts application	Not Commenced	Not Commenced
Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement prepared	Not Commenced	Not Commenced
Council endorse proceeding with BSA	Not Commenced	Not Commenced
BSA submitted and credits created	Not Commenced	Not Commenced
Credits transferred to TfNSW	Not Commenced	Not Commenced

The following question was submitted by Councillor Hogan:

Bins Emptied

Could staff please provide data from the waste contractors on the number of residents who have reported that their bin has not been emptied in the last financial year?

Response provided by Director Roads, Transport and Drainage and Waste:

This is a complex question requiring research and resources to provide an appropriate response. As a result it is not possible to provide a response for this Council meeting and it is proposed to provide the response for inclusion in the Business Paper for the meeting of 25 November 2019.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Hogan:

Banners

Could staff please identify locations where banners can be placed legally in the Budgewoi Ward to advertise events and sporting registrations?

Response provided by Director Environment and Planning:

This is a complex question requiring research and resources to provide an appropriate response. As a result it is not possible to provide a response for this Council meeting and it is proposed to provide the response for inclusion in the Business Paper for the meeting of 25 November 2019.

The following question was submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

Paternity and Maternity Leave provisions for Staff

What are the current paternity and maternity leave provisions for council staff and how do these compare to the paternity and maternity leave provisions of the former councils prior to the forced amalgamation of Gosford and Wyong Councils?

Response provided by Executive Manager People and Culture:

The parental leave provisions for Central Coast Council offer 18 weeks full pay. For the purposes of paternity leave, supporting partners are entitled to 2 weeks paid leave; five (5) days paid leave taken from the employee's sick leave entitlement and five (5) days paid leave

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granted by Council that does not transact from the employee's accrued leave. A summary of the provisions in the former organisations is provided below.

	Central Coast Council	Former Wyong Council	Former Gosford Council
Parental Leave	18 weeks at full pay (also available as 36 weeks at half pay)	Pre 31 December 2012 – 18 weeks at full pay (also available as 36 weeks at half pay) Post 1 January 2013 – 9 weeks at full pay (also available as 18 weeks at half pay)	18 weeks at full pay (also available as 36 weeks at half pay)
Paternity Leave	2 weeks at full pay. Five (5) days paid leave taken from the employee's sick leave entitlement and five (5) days paid leave granted by Council that does not transact from the employee's accrued leave. This leave can also be taken at half pay at a maximum of 4 weeks.	Pre 31 December 2012 – 2 weeks at full pay provided by Council (also available as 4 weeks at half pay) Post 1 January 2013 – 2 weeks at full pay taken from the employee's sick leave entitlement (also available as 4 weeks at half pay)	2 weeks at full pay. Five (5) days paid leave taken from the employee's sick leave entitlement and five (5) days paid leave granted by Council that does not transact from the employee's accrued leave. This leave was also available at half pay at a maximum of 4 weeks.

The following question was submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

Public gatherings in Kibble Park

Are there currently any council policies or regulations that restrict public gatherings or meetings in Kibble Park?

Response provided by Director, Environment and Planning:

This is a complex question requiring research and resources to provide an appropriate response. As a result it is not possible to provide a response for this Council meeting and it is proposed to provide the response for inclusion in the Business Paper for the meeting of 25 November 2019.

Attachments

Nil

