

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 7.1
Title: Questions with Notice
Department: Governance

26 August 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting

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7.1 Questions with Notice

The following question was submitted by Councillor Pilon:

Entrance Surf Life Saving Club

Can Council please have our Grants Officer consider applying for Round 3 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund from the NSW Government which is currently open until Friday 27th September to fund a substantial building required to store equipment utilised by the Entrance Surf Life Saving Club?

Response provide by the Director Connected Communities and the Executive Manager Innovation and Futures:

The Entrance Boatshed was demolished in June 2019 due to structural issues. The ageing boatshed was used to store life-saving equipment for the Entrance Surf Club and Council's Lifeguard Team. Council staff are working with the Surf Club to put in a temporary storage structure ready for the patrol season commencement in September 2019, whilst a long term solution is proposed. Staff are currently exploring future project opportunities both at the site of the former boatshed and the site of the Entrance Surf Club. Staff will need to complete significant due diligence in the project development phase due to the heritage significance of the current Surf Club building, limited space, coastal planning and erosion requirements and to provide direct access onto the beach for the lifesaving equipment. At this stage Council does not have the required information, design or costings to be able to apply successfully under the Stronger Country Communities Grant, however will identify this as a possible future funding source once the project scope is more developed during 2019/2020

The following question was submitted by Councillor Sundstrom:

Cochrone Lagoon Vegetation

There appears to be another episode of illegal removal of vegetation on the shore of Cochrone Lagoon in Macmasters Beach. I note that there have been plantings made by

staff in other similar situations recently. Is the Macmasters Beach problem spot on the list for planting of suitable species in the near future?

Response provided by the Director Environment and Planning:

Staff have not received any recent complaints of alleged clearing on the shore of Cochrone Lagoon at MacMasters Beach. When last inspected in December 2018 staff did not detect any tree or reed clearing. Staff will investigate the site and provide a further report. This area has not been identified for any tree planting program.

The following question was submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

Speeding cars in Kanwal

How is council progressing with responding to the recent resolution on speeding cars in Kanwal, what steps are council currently undertaking or planning to undertake to assess and respond to the issue of speeding cars in Kanwal?

Response provided by the Acting Director Roads Transport Drainage and Waste:

Following Council's resolution, Council Officers are undertaking traffic surveys in accordance with the roads identified within the Council resolution.

Traffic surveys are undertaken to gather data on the volume and speed of vehicles. The results of these traffic surveys are invaluable in assisting Council determine the most appropriate course of action to address any identified issues. Along with the results of the traffic surveys, Council Officers will utilise vehicle/pedestrian crash history data, on-site inspections and observations and the condition of the road in the investigation and assessment of this matter.

The carrying out of traffic surveys requires the installation of traffic data collection devices at various locations within each road which captures data on a 24/7 basis. It is anticipated that the devices will be in place at each location for a period of time between 10-14 days. Traffic surveys will commence in mid-September 2019 and are anticipated to take three (3) months to complete given the number of streets to be surveyed.

Additionally, Council Officers will be liaising with residents to gather further information on speed and safety concerns. In this regard an online questionnaire has been designed to collect information from property owners and residents residing in the roads identified within the Council resolution. In early September, a letter will be delivered to all properties in the identified area advising of the traffic surveys being carried out and also providing information on how to access the online questionnaire as well as inviting written submissions to be provided. The receipt of questionnaire responses and written submissions will also provide further valuable information to assist Council Officers in the assessment of this matter. A

period of twenty-eight (28) days will be given to allow for the receipt of the questionnaires and written submissions.

Following completion of the traffic surveys, closure of the property owner/resident questionnaires and submissions and a technical review by Council Officers, a public meeting will be held to discuss the review findings and determine a course of action. It is anticipated that this public meeting will be held later this year.

The following question was submitted by Councillor MacGregor:

5G Technology

How is council responding to community concern about the implementation and roll out of the 5G network across the Central Coast?

Response provided by the Chief Information Officer:

To date, Council has received 15 development applications for new telecommunications towers, generally within or near to the rail corridor, at various locations across the Central Coast. Each of the applications has been advertised and consultation undertaken in accordance with Council's Development Control Plan. In addition to the submissions related to the development applications, I am aware that three community members that have raised health concerns with Council regarding the roll out of the 5G network on the Central Coast.

A Councillor briefing session regarding 5G technology and health concerns was held with Elected Members on 5 August 2019. Council's Chief Executive Officer, the Mayor and the elected Federal Member of Robertson were also briefed.

In addition to Council's internal updates, the LGNSW Conference, scheduled for October 2019, includes a topic to discuss "That Local Government NSW call on the Federal Government to consult with Local Government and communities about the rollout of the next generation 5G networks particularly in the placement of enabling infrastructure."

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) are Australia's primary authority on radiation protection and nuclear safety. ARPANSA advise that 5G technology is set within acceptable exposure levels and that there are no adverse health effects from very low Radio Frequency (RF) electro-magnetic exposures to populations or individuals.

The following question was submitted by Councillor McLachlan at the Ordinary Meeting of 12 August 2019:

Management of Vegetation regrowth – Tuggerah Lakes

May Councillors be given an update on current policy re mowing of lakefront reserves, and management of regrowth of Casuarina.

I am receiving resident concerns regarding the planting out of reserves, and affectations of view corridors to the waterfront.

In previous plantings of the reclaimed reserves at Tuggerah Parade The Entrance, the waterfront area become completely obscured by regrowth. Can Councillors be advised of current management Plans for the reserves.

Response provided by the Director Environment and Planning:

Coastal Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) was planted in foreshore areas at Killarney Vale following a land reclamation project at the site in the 1990's. Coastal Swamp Oak is found naturally along the east coast of Australia from central Queensland to southern New South Wales and was already present on the foreshores of Killarney Vale prior to the land reclamation project. *Casuarina glauca* is a single species of plant, with no known sub-species. Although some of the *Casuarina glauca* closest to the lake in the reclaimed areas at Killarney Vale are derived from Queensland stock, the same species is found naturally on the foreshores of the Tuggerah Lakes. Although some of the plants may have been derived from Queensland genetic stock, this does not mean they are considered introduced species, nor does it warrant their removal.

Coastal Swamp Oak is generally present in Coastal Swamp Oak Forest ecological communities which provide diverse habitat values for a wide range of fauna. Most fauna species that form a part of the Coastal Swamp Oak Forest also inhabit adjacent wetlands, grasslands, woodlands and forests. Many fauna species are dependent on Coastal Swamp Oak such as the Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) which is listed as vulnerable in NSW and use the Coastal Swamp Oak as a source of food.

Over storey species are not generally planted on the foreshores of the Tuggerah Lakes estuary. Planting has been limited to low growing saltmarsh species in key locations and bush regeneration has also (weed control) been undertaken within saltmarsh and existing foreshore bushland. Some natural regeneration of Coastal Swamp Oak has occurred.

Council staff only mow designated high usage, lake front reserves. The frequency of mowing is every three weeks in the high growth period and every five weeks in the low growth period. Areas of these reserves that are impacted by Endangered Ecological Communities are not mown although emergent Coastal Swamp Oak that may occur in these designated high usage mown areas of the reserve will be maintained as part of the regular mowing cycle in order to maintain recreational function.

Removal of higher storey species from foreshore areas for the purposes of maintaining view corridors is not a practice employed by Council staff.

The following question was submitted by Councillor McLachlan at the Ordinary Meeting of 12 August 2019:

Wrack - Alternate commercial and remedial use for Coal Ash Dams

Has Council ever considered alternate commercial use for harvested Wrack. In the economic development committee meeting the subject was raised regarding EPA tip fees, and the alternate use as mulch cover for the Coal Ash Dams, reducing the effects of wind blown coal ash pollution.

Would it be possible for staff to contact the Energy companies who operate the Coal Ash Dam sites, to discuss any possibility to use harvested Wrack as mulch cover to limit dust pollution on surrounding communities.

Response provided by the Director Environment and Planning:

Council's existing wrack processing operation at the Buttonderry Waste Management Facility has demonstrated that the wrack collected from Tuggerah Lakes can be utilised in high quality soil products.

The seaweed and seagrass wrack products produced at this facility have long been used in agriculture to enhance soil quality and improve plant growth and productivity. As these products are not landfilled, they do not attract the EPA Waste Levy.

Whilst the NSW EPA provides a resource recovery exemption or accompanying resource recovery order for mulch, risk management measures must minimise the potential for the land application of mulch to cause the introduction, presence, spread or increase of any weed, disease or pest (EPA, 2016[a](#),[b](#)).

Other than foreshore stabilisation in local shoreline environments surrounding Tuggerah Lakes, wrack collected from Tuggerah Lakes is generally not acceptable for direct reuse as broad scale mulch as it requires extensive processing to achieve a beneficially reusable product.

The product produced following treatment at the Buttonderry Waste Management Facility meets Australian Standards criteria for application at other sites.

Council has contacted Vales Point Power Environmental Management section regarding the potential use of wrack at their Ash Dam site.

The representative has advised that it is not currently feasible due to their operations. The environmental representative will contact Council if in the future if there is an opportunity for the use of wrack at their facility.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Vincent at the Ordinary Meeting of 8 July 2019:

Carters Road, Lake Munmorah

Carters Road at Lake Munmorah is heavily congested in the mornings and afternoons as there are two primary schools, two high schools and local residents that utilise the local government road and parking areas. Carters Road also has one entry and exit point onto the Pacific Highway, which exacerbates the current congestion and resulting safety issues. Could staff please provide an update on the Carters Road parking and intersection upgrades, which were passed as an amendment in the Central Coast Councils 2018/19 annual operational budget.

Response provided by the Director Environment and Planning and the Acting Director Roads Transport Drainage and Waste:

New roads linking Carters Road to Tall Timbers Road and Chain Valley Bay Road have been identified as possible connecting roads, as part of the Draft Lake Munmorah Structure Plan. A strategic traffic study is currently being completed to further inform planning for the Carters Road precinct within the Lake Munmorah Structure Plan.

The feasibility of providing new road links is being investigated by this study.

The construction costs associated with the new road links would likely be significant and subject to land acquisitions, future development and potential grant funding. – FOR REVIEW BY E&P

Interim works on Carters Road are currently being developed by Council and include widening of the road pavement and installation of kerb and gutter and footpath to the eastern side of Carters Road, opposite St Brigid's Catholic College. Additionally, concept plans are being developed to provide a new car park on the existing grassed area at the frontage to Lake Munmorah High School and improvements to line marking and signage within Carters Road. The aim of these interim works is to provide additional car parking opportunities, improved pedestrian access and improved traffic flow. The undertaking of these improvements are dependent upon costings and budget availability. As these projects progress, the Ward Councillors will be advised through the Councillor Support system.

Council Officers are also liaising with Transport for NSW (formerly Roads and Maritime Services) in relation to improvements to the operations of the School Crossing Supervisor

and phasing of the traffic signals at the intersection of Carters Road and the Pacific Highway.

A consultation meeting was recently held between Council Officers and the Principals of all schools located within Carters Road regarding the proposed improvement works and to discuss further opportunities to improve safety and relieve congestion in the area during school pick-up and drop-off hours and during special event times. This meeting provided an opportunity for Council Officers to present the current improvement proposals, discuss further improvement considerations and determine support for the proposed improvement works. The School Principals were supportive of the initiatives put forward by Council and expressed a desire to work together to improve safety and traffic movements in Carters Road.

Attachments

Nil.