

13. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

13.1 Questions Without Notice

1. Councillor Glynn noted that there was an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday 11 March 2014 regarding a new facebook style application that encourages increased communication with ratepayers and residents.

Councillor Glynn noted that Housenet.com.au is an application that connects residents with each other improving service to ratepayers and social cohesion. Content can be modified by authorised users.

Councillor Glynn asked the General Manager if he could arrange for a presentation of this application at a future briefing evening.

The General Manager advised that he will investigate the application and present the matter at a future briefing evening.

2. Councillor Dobson asked the Director Planning and Environment if she could be provided with an update in relation to a previous request for a report regarding downsizing/sell off/auction of community owned parks and open spaces deemed underutilised within the Local Government Area.

The Director Planning and Environment advised that he is currently considering the draft open space review report and it is scheduled to be presented to Councillors prior to the end of the financial year.

3. Councillor Dobson asked the General Manager if she could be provided with responses to the following questions:

- who was the Planning Minister in 2007?
- who was the Housing Minister in 2007?
- what year was the Riverside Hotel lease put out to auction?
- what was the price?
- for how many years was the lease given?
- why didn't the Department of Housing in the new concept plan for Airds purchase the lease?
- was the length of the lease dated far beyond the redevelopment?
- does the present holder of the lease also hold a business interest inside the Airds Shopping Village?
- the proposed cutting on Campbellfield Road through to Riverside Drive does this place this company on both sides of new cross roads in the new concept plan for Airds Bradbury?
- in the taking of the present location of Kevin Wheatley Reserve and the Smiths Creek area for development does this put the Ruse Hotel and shops within a three minute drive of the Airds CBD?
- are the Airds Hotel, Ruse Hotel and shops owned by the same company?

- is this company going to purchase Airds Shopping Village when the Campbellfield Road extension is approved?
- is or was since, 2007 the Airds Village Shopping Centre put on the market for approximately \$6m?
- is this the current price tag its real value or its value after the Campbellfield Road extension puts the shopping centre on new cross roads in the CBD of Airds?
- is Kevin Wheatley prime real estate and what is the independent value?
- what would the independent market pay for real estate in Airds sold as a Greenfields development?
- will the hotels be the only ones in the long term to profit from the extension of Campbellfield Road, cut through Kevin Wheatley at huge long term costs to both Smiths Creek its integrated sensitive environment, pond, swampy land, koalas and other wildlife including the loss of the significant community asset Kevin Wheatley?
- with our population to almost double in the next 50-60 years, what is the long term cost both socially and in dollar value to the community owned assets with the decimation of Smiths Creek, the reserves and parks in Airds and Bradbury?
- what are the holistic costs for the extension of Campbellfield and College Roads?
- has the company or companies who own the hotels in Airds and Ruse donated major funds to the ALP and/or any other political party that sit in this Chamber?
- are we going to get another plan for a hotel and shops in Badgally Reserve, Badgally Road, Blairmount with the Claymore redevelopment?

The General Manager advised that he will investigate the issues raised by Councillor Dobson and will provide a response as requested.

4. Councillor Thompson asked the Acting Director City Works if he could be provided with an update in regard to a previous request with a report on shared zones.

This issue was reported to Council at the City Works Committee Meeting 14 May - Item 1.1 Traffic Committee - CTC-13/13 - 2013 where it was resolved that further investigations outlining possible options for changes in the shared zone prior to a further report to Council. The Acting Director City Works indicated that he will investigate the status of this request.

5. Councillor Thompson noted that in the past there have been issues with white ant infestations at a number of Council facilities and asked the Acting Director City Works if he could be provided with information regarding what Council has in place to prevent such occurrences.

The Acting Director City Works advised that there is a schedule in place for regular pest control services at community facilities and that he will discuss the details with Councillor Thompson.

6. Councillor Thompson asked the Acting Director City Works if he could be provided with an update regarding the upgrading of shower facilities at Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre.

The Acting Director City Works advised that the upgrading of the shower facilities at Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre is not proposed for the current financial year, however may be considered in the next budget.

7. Councillor Greiss referred to the recent opening of the Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre splash park and noted that irrespective of the gloomy weather the event was very successful and the facility has been well planned and received. Councillor Greiss passed on his congratulations to all staff involved in the design, construction and opening of the facility.
8. Councillor Rowell asked the Acting Director City Works if he could be provided with an update with regard to:
 - replacing the causeway at Wedderburn with a bridge
 - access via Blackburn Road to Appin Road
 - has any Government funding been provided in the past for any improvements for Wedderburn and if so have they been expended?
 - could Council inform the residents of any future work to be carried out

The Acting Director City Works advised that he will investigate the issues raised and provide a response to Councillor Rowell.