

Topic: Traffic and road planning

Issue: *The JRA supports the construction of Dunns Creek Road from the Monaro Hwy to Old Cooma Road to be completed before the 7th year of the Googong town development.*

Agree/Disagree/Abstain

Nice to have, possibly not yet due to funding priorities

Comments

Our State Liberal-National Govt colleagues have started a massive roads project for our electorate, the likes of which have never been seen before. Once these projects deliver an assessment can then be made on further priorities, such as this proposal, which has some merit in its own right.

In the short term it would be a good idea and add some convenience but there are a few hurdles, such as getting the ACT's agreement and part funding. There are also other priority projects than need completing before this could be attempted.

Question 1: Would you act & vote in a manner to help ensure Dunns Creek Road is developed as priority infrastructure project? "Priority project" Not yet. At this stage there are roads in the electorate that are causing accidents and killing people. They need attention first. We will look at this very positively for its merits once other current road projects have started.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this? Our lead candidate, Mark Schweikert, was the former Chair of the Palerang Traffic Committee (QCC didn't have a Councillor Chair for its Traffic Committee) and thus brings a greater understanding of our roads and their management than most. He has good working relationships with the NSW RMS and Police on road issues as well as an excellent working relationship with the Local State MP John Barilaro, and can use these to achieve road safety and infrastructure outcomes for our community.

Issue 2:

Jerrabomberra residents are concerned that construction of the EDE will result in the ELP being used as a Queanbeyan by-pass, effectively cutting the suburb in two with a dangerously busy road

Agree/Disagree/Abstain

Quite possibly and a legitimate concern

Comments

Too early to tell however, Jerrabomberra residents will be amongst the major users of the new road so traffic management will need to be applied to lessen the impact.

Question 1: Do you support the construction of the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE)?

Yes. It is part of a broader sustainable traffic strategy for the Queanbeyan area that's well overdue.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

Our understanding is that this was agreed by the previous Queanbeyan Councillors and that it is all but a 'done deal'. So we will be ensuring that the project remains on time, on budget with the least amount of disruption to the community with constant feedback on progress. The contractor will need to satisfy value for money tests and a rigorous acceptance program to ensure the council and community gets what it paid for.

Issue 3: <i>We strongly believe that the EDE will not solve Queanbeyan's or Jerrabomberra's traffic problems, and is more likely to make them worse.</i>	Agree/Disagree/Abstain Agree/Disagree.	Comments The modelling is fairly comprehensive about the need. The EDE will of course not be the silver bullet to all the traffic issues currently being faced, but a start has to be made somewhere.
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Question 1: what is your plan for a sustainable traffic solution for Queanbeyan?

The area's traffic will only increase. This needs to be monitored and solutions applied where bottlenecks and black spots develop. Any integrated strategic traffic plan for the future must also include heavy vehicle routes and road upgrades, and will need constant adjustment. It will also have to take into account new and infill developments (and vice versa). Public transport growth will also need to be identified and encouraged. It will need the buy in and input of the RMS, local Police and residents. Basically a new approach.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

Through the full realisation of the role of the QPRC Traffic Committee, greater monitoring of traffic patterns to baseline the current situation for later comparison and more information to the community about traffic patterns, issues and plans.

Question 3: If the EDE proceeds, what measures will you support to mitigate the impact on traffic through Jerrabomberra?

There are numerous ways this could be achieved. A different road surface that produces less noise is one option to consider as are tree plantings and decorative sound walls which can double as art. Different speed limits designed around safety and noise reduction could be applied as well as traffic calming measures where people interact with the road. New pedestrian management points may need to be created as well as fenced off areas to stop children crossing in the wrong spots. As traffic increases then the Dunns Creek proposal can come into play.

Issue 4: <i>The JRA supports the development of a major district sporting centre and community facility. Including an indoor aquatic centre, athletics facilities and additional sports fields etc. to be developed in the Poplars area, Jerrabomberra Valley for the benefit of all in the Queanbeyan and Palerang Region.</i>	Agree/Disagree/Abstain Agree.	Comments Through Federal and State Coalition Govt grants and co-funding, new indoor sports facilities are being built in Queanbeyan which all in the electorate will be able to access. There are also advanced plans for a large complex at Bungendore, again for the use by all residents in the electorate. When these reach their capacity and/or capability then this proposal would need to be shovel ready in order to help us get the grant funding to make it happen (these are usually state wide and competitive programs). Sporting facilities are very important for community health and wellbeing and can help prepare our children for adult lives.
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Question 1: How would you help achieve this?

Through grant funding from the State and Federal governments and identifying and establishing the need. The land will need to be zoned for that use early, thus the rewrite of the next LEP document will be the community's first chance to establishing the foundations for the facility. Happy to work with the community and guide them through the process and have Council apply for Grant funding to help achieve it.

Topic: Ensuring engagement and representation

Issue 5:	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
<i>The JRA is concerned about the reduced representation with the merged Council, the expanded Council having only 11 Councillors.</i>	Disagree	Too many councillors will mean endless arguments and voting blocks. The progress of the electorate and management of the council would suffer greatly.

Question 1: How do you intend to engage and be inclusive of all QPRC residents and in particular of Jerrabomberra residents?

By being available, getting out and talking to people on the ground and not losing sight of why we were elected. Ensure attendance at Council briefing sessions on issues and asking questions. Invites to resident's association meetings would be a big help.

We believe that a council should be managed by the people, not a council that manages the people. Can't do that without being engaged.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

See above

Topic: Priorities and recurrent expenditure

Issue 6:	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
<i>The JRA appreciates the scale of implementing and maintaining infrastructure and facilities covered by QPRC. With budget limitations priorities need to be set to ensure adequate and equitable services are provided to all residents.</i>	Totally Agree	Infrastructure is a key policy area for the Liberal Council team. Innovative ways of tackling some of these upcoming infrastructure issues will be required and not the usual sitting on hands and saying no to everything some Queanbeyan and Palerang Councillors have been famous for. A proactive approach is required.

Question 1: How would you ensure the priorities are focused across all areas of the region? What areas in Jerrabomberra do you see as priorities?

Community safety is a key priority area and the first task of the Council. Second is the maintenance of essential infrastructure such as roads, water quality, sewage, waste collection and disposal. Once the core council functions are achieved then other priorities can be identified such as support for small businesses (particularly those serving the community), additional sporting facilities, tourism, libraries etc.

One area that Jerrabomberra needs urgent attention is the number of street lights that are not working. This is not only a safety issue for cars and pedestrians but also a value for money issue as Council pays a set rate for the provision of lighting. Lights not working mean the community is being over charged for a service.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?