

Jerrabomberra Residents' Association Questionnaire

Responses from the Community Voice Group

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Topic: Traffic and road planning

Issue1:

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.

Question 1: Would you act & vote in a manner to help ensure Dunns Creek Road is developed as a priority infrastructure project?

Our position on any project would depend on several factors, not least of which would be how it fitted into the relevant strategic plan(s). It is our understanding that Dunns Creek Road is indeed part of the Queanbeyan Road Network Strategy 2031, but it is very much in its infancy as a project. Our experience with such infrastructure projects is that it would be practically impossible to complete such a project in the timeframe suggested. Given the design, land acquisition and cross border issues that would need to be addressed, it would even be optimistic to imagine that it could be completed within 10 years.

The process of seeking the necessary funding, which would invariably involve higher levels of government, would also be expected to cover several election cycles and would generally be dependent on all other aspects of the project first being in place.

Regardless of these factors, the priority that can be applied to any project at any point in time will invariably depend on what other competing demands there are on council resources.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

This question presumably relates primarily to supporting the Dunns Creek Road project.

We are, nonetheless, committed to sound strategic planning. To this end, all areas of council operations, in the present case that includes all preliminary works associated with the project, need to be aligned with an identified strategic plan or direction that feeds into the QPRC Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP is at the core of the Integrated Planning & Reporting system that must underpin any request for funding from higher levels of government.

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

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

Having not been involved in the development of, or planning for, the Ellerton Drive extension, taking a position on this matter at this point in time might be somewhat premature. From the material that has been provided to candidates, however, the

EDE is just one part of a much larger traffic management plan that would need to be considered in its entirety to determine the impact of changing any one part.

It is nonetheless clear, as residents of the region who travel to and through Queanbeyan on a regular basis, that there are congestion issues in the Queanbeyan CBD that will not improve without the provision of some alternate route(s) for traffic that do(es) not actually need to travel to or through the centre of the city. To comment any further on the matter would require much broader consideration of the Queanbeyan Road Network Strategy and any other relevant strategic plans that are in place.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

As noted above, our commitment is to sound strategic planning, and this can only be achieved through a directed approach to planning in general. Council's role in this area is to be focused in its approach, to ensure that both strategic and tactical planning exercises are directed towards clearly identified objectives.

Any planning will also need to embrace regional, not just local transport requirements. Again, based on information provided to candidates by council, it would appear that an Integrated Transport Strategy is currently being developed. The extent to which this might impact any review of current local transport strategies would therefore also need to be considered.

One issue that is often not addressed in these activities is communicating the results effectively to the broader community. This, however, is a bit of a two-way street in that these are invariably large and complex studies, the understanding of which demands some effort on the part of the reader. Without all of the relevant information in hand, it is often difficult to appreciate the context of decisions and this can lead to misunderstanding and rejection by the community.

Issue 3:

We strongly believe that the EDE will not solve Queanbeyan's or Jerrabomberra's traffic problems, and is more likely to make them worse.

Question 1: What is your plan for a sustainable traffic solution for Queanbeyan?

Our view is that sound strategic planning should underpin all council activities. The issues that may come into play in the present case are discussed in our response to earlier questions above.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

The basis for all of our efforts in council is sound planning, effective service delivery and clear communication.

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

As already noted, the basis for all of our efforts in council is sound planning, effective service delivery and clear communication.

Any concerns that are raised by the community need to be addressed and the results of any associated deliberations on the part of the Council communicated clearly.

Topic: Infrastructure and investment in community

Issue 4:

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.

Question 1: How would you help achieve this?

Support for any major project would depend on how it fitted into the QPRC Community Strategic Plan and the results of any other relevant local or regional strategic planning exercises. Clearly, some planning for this project is already in place, but any more specific comment would depend on a more thorough briefing on how this project fits in with the aspirations of the broader Queanbeyan-Palerang population.

Topic: Ensuring engagement and representation

Issue 5:

The JRA is concerned about the reduced representation with the merged Council, the expanded Council having only 11 Councillors.

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

This is a matter that will need to be addressed by the new Council as a whole. We will follow exactly the same course as we have since we entered Council. It's a huge challenge, and it won't be any easier in this new, even more diverse council area.

The simple fact is that there will be reduced representation for everyone. The bigger problem for anyone from the former Palerang area will be dealing with a reduction from nine representatives residing in the area to, most likely, no more than three. In the former Palerang LGA, we are also dealing with an area of over 5,000km², not just the 172km² of the former Queanbeyan Council area.

The problem is a problem across the entire LGA, not any area in particular although the former Palerang area will clearly be most impacted by this change. The solution will depend on the commitment of the new Council, not just individual candidates, to addressing the issue.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

As noted above, any solution must involve the whole Council and must recognise the different means of communication and engagement that might be necessary in different parts of the new LGA. As already noted, this issue is one that representatives on the former Palerang Council have had to manage from the outset. The task involves being engaged as broadly as possible in community activities and working together, collaboratively, with other councillors who might have a more intimate understanding of, or different perspective on issues that impact different parts of the LGA.

Topic: Priorities and recurrent expenditure

Issue 6:

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.

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?

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the basis for all council activities. It reflects the aspirations of residents throughout the LGA and is required, under legislation, to be considered when preparing a Council's Delivery Program [covering the term of the elected body] and [annual] Operational Plans.

It is clear that transport issues, while perhaps impacting different communities at different levels, are important to almost all sectors of the broader Queanbeyan-Palerang community. Ultimately, all infrastructure projects must find a place in the CSP if they are to proceed. In compiling its Delivery Program, Council will be required to consider the various needs that exist throughout the LGA, as articulated in the CSP, and to balance these against both each other and the various sources of funding that might be available.

What is perhaps more important than being able to identify any specific priorities is a commitment to work together within Council to identify the priorities of respective communities and to agree on an equitable application of available resources.

Question 2: How would you help achieve this?

As has been discussed above, effective and equitable service delivery depends on several factors, not least of which is sound planning. Council is obliged to follow the State's Integrated Planning & Reporting procedures for local government, but both elected representatives and the community must embrace these procedures, the CSP in particular, for them to be effective.

A well-developed CSP will also be a fundamental requirement for any provision of targeted funding from higher levels of government, and in this context its importance cannot be overemphasised.