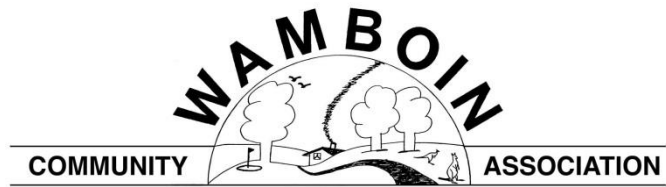


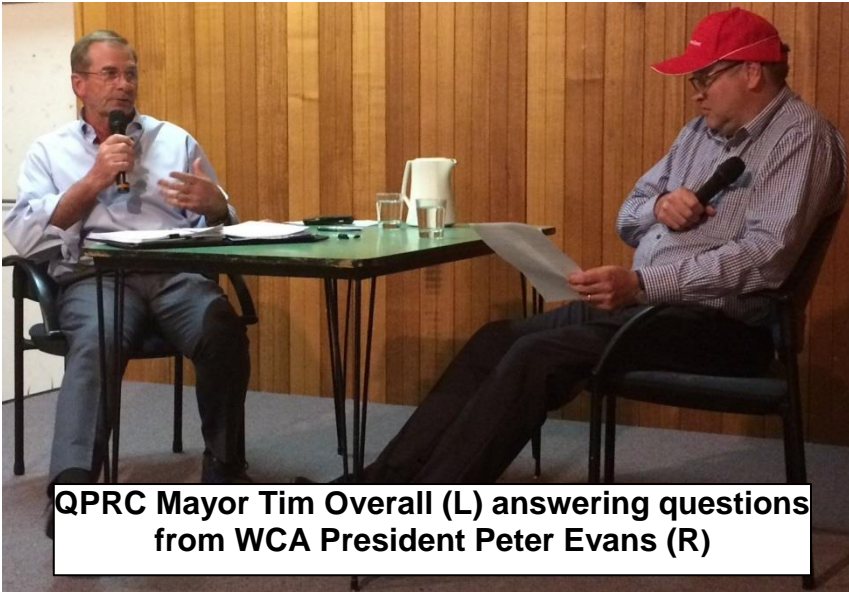
SPRING TALKS 2017 –

“THE QPRC TALK”



Queabeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor, Tim Overall, was the guest speaker at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) third and final Spring Talk – 2017 at the Wamboin Community Hall on Tuesday 21 November. In a break from the traditional “presentation and Q&A” format, WCA President, Peter Evans, asked the Mayor a series of questions, which are published here along with the Mayor's responses. The interview was followed by a Q&A session and light refreshments.

(Questions posed by the WCA President are preceded by “Q”, in bold italics.)



QPRC Mayor Tim Overall (L) answering questions from WCA President Peter Evans (R)

General

Q) What are your priorities, as Mayor, for Council for the next three years? What key outcomes (as different from activities) do you want to achieve by September 2020?

Mayor Overall referred the audience to the Group A Election Campaign Flyer “Your Vision, Our Commitment” as distributed by Australia Post to all letter boxes from 27 October 2017 (which many attendees said they had not received). He

said the flyer lists nine regional commitments for inclusion in Delivery Program and that commitments for inclusion in Delivery Program for Bungendore - Bywong – Wamboin are shown as (1) New sports complex and new Mick Sherd Oval facilities; (2) Town Centre improvements; (3) New Halfway Creek Bridge, Bungendore Road.

Budget

Q) What are the proposed Special Rate Variations for the next Delivery Plan?

“Council's next Delivery Program will cover the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021. In announcing the merger, the NSW Government announced a rate path freeze for a four-year period (up until 2020). The next Delivery Program will not contain a Special Rate Variation. The Long Term Financial Plan which makes up the draft Resourcing Strategy references the possibility of an increase in general rates of 1% above the rate peg limit set by the Independent and Pricing Regulatory Tribunal.”

Q) What items are in the proposed budget in the Wamboin area?

“The 2017-18 Operational Plan can be found at

<https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-business/Budgets-and-planning>.

Council has allocated:

- \$700,000 towards the Macs Reef Landfill reinstatement.
- more than \$9M towards upgrades to local regional and state road networks.
- The full grading, resealing and rehabilitation program is currently being developed and will be implemented in early 2018. At the moment there are 3 reseals planning in Wamboin area for the 2017-18 resealing season –
 1. Norton Road, 500m past Bingley Way

2. Bungendore Road, from Doust Road to the Federal Highway.
3. Bungendore road, from Millyn Road towards Emu Flat. This section of road consists of a considerable amount of heavy patching to be completed prior to the reseal taking place.

There will be further reseals programed in the Wamboin area in the following year's schedule, but exact locations have not yet been finalised. Apart from the reseals there will be routine maintenance carried out consisting of, but not limited to, such things as pothole patching, edge repairs, shoulder grading, drainage works, tree trimming and ground vegetation control. The Forward Capital Works Program will be included in the Delivery Program for 2018-2021. This document will be developed in consultation with council and the community in early 2018. It is expected that public exhibition will occur in March-April 2018."

QPRC Local Environmental Plan

Q) What is the scope and timetable for developing a QPRC LEP?

"The current timetable remains as previously reported to Council at its meeting of 28 September 2016 which is:

Task	Targeted Date for Completion
Discuss the project and requirements with government agency staff	30 December 2016
Compare land use permissibility, prohibitions in a matrix of principal local environmental plans	30 December 2016
Compare provisions including land uses, lot sizes, height	30 December 2016
Undertake current local environmental planning tasks. For example: - Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2014 – heritage items - Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2014 – vegetation layer	September 2017
Prepare draft local environmental plan (including maps) except for the challenging issues and the Planning Proposal	September 2017
Prepare an issues paper on the challenging issues. For example: - E4 Environmental Living - RU1 minimum lot size - RU1 'averaging' subdivision provision	September 2017
Councillor workshop on the challenging issues.	October 2017
Finalise the draft local environmental plan	December 2017
Council resolution to send the Planning Proposal to the Minister	March 2018
Gateway determination	April 2018
Government consultation	June 2018
Community consultation	October 2018
Council meeting to consider report on submissions	December 2018
Amend draft local environmental plan	March 2019
Council recommendation to adopt draft local environmental plan	April 2019
Prepare report for the Department of Planning and Environment	April 2019
Gazettal of the draft local environmental plan	June 2019
Inform government agencies and community of the gazettal of the draft local environmental plan	July 2019

For the comprehensive Local Environmental Plan (LEP) the preferred scope at this stage would be essentially an administrative merger of the six principal local environmental plans currently applying to the LGA. However at the same time there is recognition of a number of

priority policy issues (some being long standing ones) which the comprehensive LEP will also address. These are:

- Review of E4 Environmental Living zone (with a focus on Bywong and Wamboin),
- Rural Lands Study, and
- Proposed Bungendore Aged Care Facility.

This preferred scope for the comprehensive LEP has been reported to the Planning and Strategy meeting of 8 November 2017 and staff intends to report to Council on the first two issues at the meeting of 13 December 2017.

However in addition to the comprehensive LEP Council will be continuing with other land-use projects such as the planning proposal for the rezoning of North Bungendore (Elmslea – 300 lots) and the planning proposal for the rezoning of South Jerrabomberra (1500 lots in total including South Tralee). Should these be finalised in time then they will also be incorporated into the comprehensive LEP.”



L to R: WCA President Peter Evans, Mayor Tim Overall, Bywong Community President Mike Wilkins at the WCA Spring Talk

Greenways

Q) The Wamboin/Bywong Greenways - official and informal - are among the key assets of the QPRC area. What action is Council taking, or will it take, to remediate the severely damaged parts of the Greenways Network, and to expand, protect and strengthen the Network, such as when Crown Roads are released?

“QPRC Service Manager – Urban Landscapes, Tim Geyer, advises that a small amount of money has been made available for Greenways

maintenance and that he has been liaising with the relevant s355 Committee to identify priority areas for maintenance. He considers it would be beneficial for staff to review the situation on site. Tim is the contact point in Council in regard to Greenways. In terms of new areas that may come under Council’s control as a result of changes to the Crown Lands arrangements, Council has made no provision for improvement or maintenance of such areas should this occur, nor is it in any foreshadowed budget.”

Roads

Q) Please explain the difference between local, State and Federal roads in terms of funding and maintenance responsibilities.

Mayor Overall provided information in a handout that will be published on the WCA website <<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/>> and in an upcoming issue of the Wamboin Whisper.

Q) Wamboin and Bywong’s roads have sections that are potholes over potholes. What road projects are specifically proposed for the Wamboin area in the term of the current Council? .

“Bitumen Resealing 17/18: Bungendore Road – Doust Road to Federal Highway;
Bungendore Road – Emu Flat to Millyn Road

Routine maintenance 17/18: Maintenance grading of unsealed roads; Vegetation control’
Drainage maintenance; Pothole patching

The reconstruction of about 1km of Macs Reef Road on the Federal Highway end is also proposed however this may not be done until later in 2018.

The Possible Construction Projects over the next few years are:

- Macs Reef Road: Pavement rehabilitation – from CH880m Federal Highway to CH2380
- Bungendore Road: Pavement rehabilitation – from Macs Reef Road to Summerhill Road
- Bungendore Road: Halfway Creek Bridge Replacement”

Road Safety

Q) Does Council have Road Safety Officers/Co-ordinators as do other Councils? If so, what are their roles and activities, what have they achieved and what goals do they aim to achieve over the next three years?

Q) Is there a Road Safety Committee and, if so, what is its composition, what does it do, and what outcomes has it achieved to date?

Mayor Overall provided information in a handout that will be published on the WCA website <<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/>> and in an upcoming issue of the Wamboin Whisper.

Companion Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership

Q) Roaming domestic dogs are a major issue in our area with numerous attacks on stock and wildlife reported to Council. We are pleased to see recent advertisements for the new role of Animal Management Officer. The WCA will be happy to work with this Officer to arrange community meetings and other avenues for advertising their remit and providing community education on responsible pet ownership. Has the position been filled and how do we best engage with the newly appointed Officer?

“In developing its Transition Structure, Council took into consideration the vast area it covers and the issues with roaming dogs, especially in rural areas. In doing so, Council has created a new position for an Animal Management Officer. The recruitment process that is currently underway (interviews late October), will result in two Animal Management Officers being appointed. It is expected that these two officers will rotate between the Queanbeyan Pound and Bungendore Office with the intention of undertaking more patrols in rural areas and working with groups such as yours on education. The Association is encouraged to engage with Sheree Curwen, our Animal Management Team Leader and when resources become available, we will be in a better position to provide education and information to your Association.”

Community Services

Community Health Services for the Wamboin area

Q) Wamboin residents have access to medical services in Bungendore and Queanbeyan. However, more is needed for community services in our area including those focusing on ageing in place and preventive health services. Please discuss Council's plans.

“QPRC plays an important role in planning programs and developing/encouraging community networks. We recognise and support Seniors’ Week, and are aware that the current QPRC Active Ageing Strategy 2014-2017, will need to be reviewed. We also promote healthy eating and activity programs through schools throughout the region. However, QPRC does not provide Community Health Services directly. NSW Health offers the Community Health service in Queanbeyan and the surrounding region. According to their web page, “...a range of health services are provided to the local community. Services include Community Nursing, counselling, children's services, women's health, sexual health, immunisation, continence nurses, ACAT, asthma clinic, OT for children, dementia advice, diabetes education, physiotherapy, dietician, cancer care, foot clinic, audiology, lactation consultant, men's health, needle exchange, sexual assault counselling, palliative care, TB service, and social work.

Contacts for further Community Health information are:

Harry Williams, Director of Nursing - harry.williams@health.nsw.gov.au/6150 7237

Social Development

Q) We are aware Council has Community Development Officers but are unaware who they are, what their roles are, and what they achieve. Please discuss.

“The Community Choice Portfolio has a number of officers who work in the community and social space. They are represented by small teams (two or three) who run:

1) Children’s services

Predominantly QPRC’s Family Day Care and Aboriginal Playschool Program including placement support for families needing care; child development and monitoring; training, support and monitoring of in-home carers; and play school activities.

2) Youth services

The Youth Services Coordinator is responsible for the Drop In Youth Centre at Queanbeyan (Wed 3-6pm, Thursday 3-6pm, Friday 3-8pm and Saturday 1-6pm). Other youth services offered include community and school youth outreach; School holiday programs; Individual support, referral and advice; Coordination of the Youth Interagency Network; Liaison with Police youth workers; Young parents group; Youth based events such as Youth week and Liquidfest; and early intervention and placement prevention.

3) Community Development

We have two part time CDOs and a part time indigenous liaison officer. These officers have a role in providing partnerships with various agencies in the region and in creating community connections on issues such as community safety and crime prevention, poverty and homelessness, disability services and inclusion, indigenous projects and programs. The community development team assists in needs assessment and in building the capacity of established advocacy groups. A most recent project has been in food security including the delivery of a low cost and free meals directory and an ‘overlooked bounty’ food map. In addition, QPRC administers four Interagency Networks – Koori, Youth, Queanbeyan and Braidwood. These networks act as link for information to all interested parties in terms of programs, training, grants etc.

4) Library Services

The Library offers a range of programs for the entire age spectrum including computer literacy and internet skills for seniors, other adults and youth through to baby bounce and toddler time reading. There are on site libraries in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and the new mobile Library will be regularly travelling to bring Library services and programs throughout the region. The Library also provides home visits and reading selections for people who are confined to their homes. The Library also has a part time historian who researches issues of local interest and runs various historical and heritage events.

5) Cultural Development

The cultural development team of two part time officers provides opportunities for people to engage in events and projects such as the Arts Trail, exhibitions and arts competitions. This team also organises community arts and crafts projects.

6) Community Recreation and Culture

The Community business team oversees aquatic and sports centres, the Q Centre for Performing Arts and administers the hire of community venues. This team also works with the community to identify and support events for social, community and/or regional economic benefit such as the Multicultural Festival, Music by the River, Christmas in July and the upcoming Community Christmas parties.”

Crisis Response Service

Q) What action is Council taking, or will it take, to have an ambulance station located in Bungendore?

Mayor Overall committed to taking this up with the Minister for Health/Ambulance Service of NSW to ascertain current position and forward plans.