

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION HELD 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

13/171

The Public Forum Session commenced at 6:15p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Turley (Mayor) Councillor M. Browne (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors C. Adams, B. Algate, M. Clark, D. Gallagher, T. Kennedy and
B. Licul.

General Manager, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Financial Officer,
Director Corporate, Manager Communications, Governance Officer and
Executive Support Officer.

Media (3), Members of the Public (48).

APOLOGIES:

Councillors J. Nolan and R. Page.

The following members of the public addressed Council during the Public Forum Session:

1. Agreement between Council and the Broken Hill Rifle Club Inc.

Mr John Simons representing the Broken Hill Rifle Club Inc. spoke in favour of the report recommendation for Report No. 154/19 – Formal Agreement Between Broken Hill City Council and Broken Hill Rifle Club. Mr Simons advised that an agreement with Council is required in order for the Broken Hill Rifle Club to comply with regulations of the NSW Police Firearms Registry to establish an Air Sentry for ceasefire when an aircraft is detected. The Broken Hill Rifle Club have a long history in Broken Hill without incidence. Mr John Simons gave an overview of the reasons and the processes put in place to ensure safety at the Rifle Range.

2. Agreement between Council and the Broken Hill Rifle Club Inc.

Mr Mick Waldren representing the Broken Hill Rifle Club Inc. spoke in favour of the report recommendation for Report No. 154/19 – Formal Agreement Between Broken Hill City Council. Mr Waldren outlined the steps that are taken to monitor the activities of aircraft and to ceasefire when required. Mr Waldren thanked John Simons for his work with CASA and other bodies and asked that Council notes that CASA have also approved of the Rifle Range as they pose no significant risk to aircraft. The Rifle Club have operated for over 80 years at the South Rifle Range with no incidents or near misses recorded and Mr Waldren requested that Council resolve to enter an agreement with the Broken Hill Rifle Club.

3. Proposed Cricket Pitch for Picton Oval

Mr Noel Hannigan of the Picton Oval Management Committee spoke against Notice of Motion No. 17/19 – Picton Oval Cricket Pitch. Mr Hannigan advised that he had been in discussion with Mr Peter Johnson of the Barrier Cricket Association for the past year regarding a cricket pitch at Picton Oval. The Under 10's have been playing cricket at the Picton Oval and they don't require an artificial pitch. The Picton Oval Management Committee is investigating a roll-out pitch for use at the Oval which will solve this problem and a permanent artificial pitch is therefore not required.

4. Declaration of Climate Emergency

Ms Anika Molesworth representing Landcare spoke in favour of Mayoral Minute No. 4/19 – Declaration of Climate Emergency. Ms Molesworth implored Council to make a declaration of climate emergency to help minimize risks to the City and to realise opportunities. Benefits of supporting the declaration include:

- *Gives confidence to companies looking to invest in the City*
- *Creates jobs in the renewable energy industry where Broken Hill has been identified as a key location*

The longer we take to tackle environmental challenges the more costly they become e.g. summer heat melts bitumen roads, water becomes more scarce and costly, more hospital patients due to heat stress and mental health disorders due to the stress of drought.

The declaration will inspire the City to be the best it can be. Ms Molesworth has a vision of electric city buses powered by the sun; TAFE courses conducted on renewable industries and electric vehicles and to set Broken Hill up as a centre for learning about renewables construction; Broken Hill could become a leading centre for the jobs of the future; Renewable industries to lower energy bills and to lift our standard of living.

Ms Molesworth implored Council to support the declaration for the future of the City; to bring investment to the City; to have green sports ovals; to save our rivers; and for our children to live in the best version of Broken Hill. This will ensure a resilient and vibrant future for all citizens of Broken Hill.

5. Broken Hill Sign and Tourist Information Bay

Mr Nick Bobos, Boss Constructions Pty Ltd. advised that his team had fabricated the Broken Hill sign as he was disappointed that the City did not have a welcome sign. The sign was delivered to his property on the Barrier Highway but within six hours Council had put a stop work notice on his company to remove the sign. He feels that Council is victimising his company due to other dealings that he has with Council.

Mr Bobos spoke about issues relating to his property on the Barrier Highway that the Tourist Information Bay including the tourist sign is owned by Boss Constructions. Council has not paid Boss Constructions for rental on the property since they took ownership 7 years ago. Land rates on the property have increased from \$6,000 per year to \$18,000 per year. When the rates increase happened Council was approached to pay rent for the use of the information bay and tourist sign, but that this has not happened. Mr Bobos advised that as the matter has not been resolved the tourist information bay will be inaccessible to tourists and the public, and he will be removing the tourist sign tomorrow.

6. Declaration of Climate Emergency

Miss Abbie Kelly addressed Council regarding the declaration of climate emergency saying that she is a strong supporter of the climate change emergency as she is worried out its impact and advised that she has taken the action of writing letters to members of Parliament asking them to support environmental programs such as the banning of plastic straws. Miss Kelly advised that she is in support of the Mayoral Minute for Council to make a declaration of climate emergency.

No further members of the public addressed Council.

The Public Forum Session concluded at 6:30p.m.