

Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 21 May 2020
Planning Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Arnold".

Mark Arnold
General Manager

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

1. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

1	Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3
2	Legal Costs.....	4

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

5	Question with Notice No 1.	Tourism Infrastructure Fund
	File No:	I2020/804

At Council's Planning Meeting held on 21 May 2020, Jan Barham asked the following question which was taken on notice:

Could council please advise on the criteria used for assessing and determining the allocation of the NSW Government \$25 million tourism infrastructure fund for Byron Shire Council and if any community consultation was undertaken or a report to council prior to finalisation of projects?

Response Director Infrastructure Services:

In relation to the \$25 million - NSW Government roads and infrastructure election commitment on infrastructure funding, staff compiled an extensive list of possible projects based on the grant criteria and using the relevant data from Council's asset condition assessment register and from community requests for infrastructure works, as well as projects from current adopted strategic plans.

Council has engaged with the community extensively over the last five (5) years in relation to infrastructure, including engagement on the approved Special Rate Variation, the current Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, a citizens jury on infrastructure, community satisfaction surveys and other strategies, plans and programs. From this engagement Council has developed an extensive list of potential projects, works and programs.

There were 2 components to the funding \$5M for general infrastructure needs and \$20M specifically for road infrastructure.

The value of the works identified in the initial list substantially over subscribed the funding commitment.

This list was provided to Councillors at a Strategic Planning Workshop for consideration and Councillors then ranked projects based on their understanding of community needs and infrastructure condition status.

A final list was then submitted to the NSW Government for its consideration and final approval.

There was no formal reporting to Council other than via the Quarterly Budget Review reporting process.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

Question with Notice No 2.
File No:

Legal Costs
I2020/804

At Council's Planning Meeting held on 21 May 2020, John Anderson asked the following question which was taken on notice:

In response to a recent question of mine the Mayor implied that State and Federal Greens policy somehow guide(sic) his approach to local matters, so could the Mayor please indicate where in Greens Policy-or indeed in the Mayor's own electoral material-it is suggested that developer's wishes be substantially granted in order to save on legal costs and prevent needless confrontation.

Response Mayor Simon Richardson:

As I represent the whole community of Byron Shire it is the whole community's needs and the needs of future residents that guide my decisions. State and Federal political party policies have no binding power over my decision making and do not influence my decisions on local matters. I am first and foremost a Byron Shire local, making local decisions with the local impact in mind.

As a Greens member, I hold the four principles dear and am more than satisfied my decision making fits within these guiding principles.