

Responses to Questions on Notice

Received at the 24 October 2019
Ordinary Meeting of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Arnold".

Mark Arnold
General Manager

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING

1. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC)3

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

	Question with Notice No. 1	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC)
5	File No:	12019/1826

At Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 24 October 2019, Jan Barham asked the following question:

Can Council clarify if the DOEE have requested further information relating to the lodgement of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) self referral and is it known when it will be advertised and made publicly available and what is the cost of the work undertaken for this?

Council's Director Infrastructure Services provided the following response:

At this stage, DoEE have not requested further information regarding Council's EPBC self-referral. Information requests are possible up to the point at which a decision is made by the Minister. Council staff have been advised that the referral could be registered and publicly advertised as early as this week, but at this stage it has not cleared the gateway process. Once this has occurred it will be made publicly available by DoEE. The costs associated with the referral will continue throughout the referral period and therefore the total cost will not be known until the associated processes are completed.

Jan Barham asked a further question:

Costs to date aren't known?

Response Director Infrastructure Services:

As at 24 October 2019, the cost for the work in preparing Council's referral of the Bypass project to DoEE is approximately \$75,000. This cost consists of consultant costs, expert review, staff time and the fee for the referral itself. All of these costs would have been borne by Council regardless of the timing of the referral. The total cost of the referral and any impact to the project can be quantified once Council has a confirmed outcome from DoEE.