

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

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Report Author Councillor P Epov

File No. / ECM Index MidCoast Council - Questions with Notice

Date of Meeting 28 August 2019

QUESTION(S):

1. Forster Civic Precinct

Can the General Manager please explain the following:

- a. Does the \$ 18 million budget include the \$3million paid by Council for the land?
- b. Why was there no bank guarantee provided by the developer to cover his contribution to the project?
- c. Has the \$250,000 Section 94 contribution and headworks charges been paid?
- d. The contingency of \$250,000 seems unrealistic, according to your budget of \$17.5 million it would be reasonable to expect to allow at least 10% for any contingencies (\$1.75 million) particularly given the contingency that has been allocated for the Masters Office centralisation project?
- e. Please clarify all the funding sources?
- f. Council has loan borrowings of \$3 million for this financial year, will Council require further borrowings in 2020/21?
- g. How much of Council's section 94 contributions will be allocated to the project?
- h. What reserves will be used, given reserve funds have been allocated to the Master's Office Centralisation project.
- i. What funding has Council received from State Libraries Grants for this project?
- j. What plans does Council have to finance any overruns on this project given that the estimates given to council are now 18 months old.

2. Masters Office Centralisation

Can the General Manager please explain the following:

- a. How the transfer of the \$1 Million from the Waste and the \$2 Million from the Water and Sewer funds will be treated in the financials as they would appear to be transfers in the form of dividends from those funds, which in the case of the Waste fund is not permissible under the Act while the other two funds have to meet certain conditions before a dividend can be paid.

3. Council Staffing

Can the General Manager please explain the following:

- a. What is the value of the redundancies paid out by Council since the formation of Council (including those paid by Council's trading enterprises)?
- b. How many staff received redundancies and were any of those positions replaced (if so how many).
- c. Specifically, what were the full time equivalent staff numbers at the time the four Councils came together?
- d. At the present time what are the total full time equivalent staff numbers?

4. Visual broadcast (live streaming) of Council Meetings

Can the General Manager please explain when live video broadcasting or live streaming of Council Meetings will be introduced, given it was foreshadowed in 2017 and mandated by the NSW Government in 2018?

RESPONSE BY GENERAL MANAGER:

Responses to the Questions With Notice will be provided by the General Manager and circulated to Councillors prior to the Ordinary Meeting 28 August 2019.