



Jerrabomberra Residents Association Inc.

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Mr. Gary Chapman
General Manager
Queanbeyan City Council
PO Box 90
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Dear Gary

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 'Draft Queanbeyan Strategic Traffic Plan 2031'.

At the information night held at the Jerrabomberra School Hall on 14 July 2009, you told us this study is purely a technical document. It is disappointing that Queanbeyan City Council (QCC) Councilors' led by Mayor Overall, chose to rename the Queanbeyan 2031 Transport Report Overview (a technical study) to *Queanbeyan Strategic Traffic Plan 2031*. In doing so QCC fails to consider important social, environmental and community concerns. QCC's approach serves only to confuse, confound and cause angst within the community.

The Jerrabomberra community has genuine concerns that the study fails to address objectively modeling Dunns Creek Road, and instead only recommends constructing Ellerton Drive. QCC's 'Ellerton Drive only' option is myopic, lacks strategic forethought, and serves to funnel all traffic through Jerrabomberra by the Edwin Land Parkway. Constructing Ellerton Drive only will make Jerrabomberra Queanbeyan's bypass. We are advised neither our State member Steve Whan nor our Federal member Dr Mike Kelly support such an outcome. The JRA and our elected Members of Parliament find it difficult to understand how QCC came to make objectively this final recommendation.

Our collective view is that both Ellerton Drive and Dunns Creek Road are Queanbeyan's traffic solution. Ellerton Drive could continue as planned by the Council. However, we fear by failing to plan now for Dunns Creek Road, the Ellerton Drive major road extension will destroy the tranquility Jerrabomberra residents enjoy today and divide our suburb into the future. Where else in the world have government authorities, at any level, deliberately set out to divide a settled family-oriented suburb with a town bypass?

Following the release of QCC's traffic study we are aware that Village Building Company (VBC) put forward a compromise for the Jerrabomberra Valley. The JRA understand VBC propose to pay for half of Dunns Creek Road's construction cost, which includes land buy of the whole eventual alignment route. VBC recognise Dunns Creek Road as critical to any new greenfield development in Queanbeyan.

The NSW Planning Department's review of the Queanbeyan Residential and Economic Plan 2031 recognised the need for Dunns Creek Road. NSW Planning recommended QCC buy the land necessary for Dunns Creek Road to advance. For reasons only QCC can explain Council chose to ignore NSW Planning's recommendation. Further, NSW Planning's response to QCCs 2031 Plan highlighted the need to consider existing residents when deciding transport options.

The JRA urges QCC to reconsider its *Queanbeyan Strategic Traffic Plan 2031* and prepare a plan which considers more broadly Queanbeyan's future traffic infrastructure needs, which includes Dunns Creek Road. Such a Plan needs to confirm QCC's progress of a Dunns Creek Road land buy and alignment and incorporate outcomes of the technical traffic study. QCC's technical traffic study and VBC's Voluntary Planning Agreement proposal could become attachments to the Plan. By adopting this approach QCC can show its commitment to Dunns Creek Road while giving Jerrabomberra residents confidence our suburb will not become Queanbeyan's bypass. The JRA believe QCC officials already have the expertise necessary to revise the Plan in time for Council's consideration on August 26.

The JRA believe construction of Dunns Creek Road needs to occur before year seven of Googong's development. This will help to ease severe traffic congestion on Edwin Land Parkway, Tomsitt Drive and Lanyon Drive, and reduce the impact of traffic noise. QCC must link Dunns Creek Road construction to the number of blocks developed in Googong, not a specific year as was the case with Jerrabomberra. Our community learnt the hard way that development doesn't follow an almanac approach, given Tomsitt Drive was a single lane entry and exit point to our community for many years. Furthermore, your comment to the JRA at the 29 July meeting 'that it would be at least 12 years before Ellerton Drive construction begins' raises fears that the Edwin Land Parkway will need duplication before 2021. We are already aware of strong interest from potential buyers in the Googong development. We stress to you that Jerrabomberra residents oppose Edwin Land Parkway duplication, and the JRA believe QCCs strategic traffic plan must also reject its duplication.

If QCC adopts the JRA recommendations for the Queanbeyan Strategic Traffic Plan Jerrabomberra residents can be confident QCC have considered the needs of existing residents, that Dunns Creek Road will go ahead, and Jerrabomberra will not become Queanbeyan's bypass. The Mayor's stated recommendation that further traffic studies and reviews will occur within six years to find out whether Dunns Creek Road is likely gives Jerrabomberra residents no such confidence or security.

The JRA contributes to this debate in the spirit of community goodwill. We believe our contributions are useful and highlight minimal cost options for QCC to consider. Further, the JRA believe QCC need to show leadership now to ensure Queanbeyan and the region do not suffer from increased and unforeseen traffic congestion by 2031 at the expense of existing residents.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Margot Sachse

President

Jerrabomberra Residents' Association

4 August 2009