

## MINUTES

### MAIN STREET (SHERIDAN) UPGRADE – PUBLIC FORUMS

TIME: Tues 4 February 2014 at 1:06pm

PLACE: Council Chambers

Attendance: 7 Councillors, 25 residents/ratepayers

Apologies: Cr Peter Gain

Mayor Abb McAlister welcomed rate payers and residents to the Public Forum and. The Mayor apologised for changing the time of the meeting (due to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting was delayed 1 hour). He told the forum that Sheridan Street Redevelopment has been on the Council agenda for 15 years -this Council and previous Councils. The process was to get a plan, then get costings. Now there is a need to know if the upgrade is wanted and how to fund it. There is a need for a public forum as part of IPART application and for public consultation. Asked everyone be open and make positive comments.

The Mayor introduced the facilitator, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] described the meeting procedure and rules of the public forum.

- Opportunities for questions will be provided at end following presentations.
- Approximately 2 mins to get point across. If further time is required we will come back to you time permitting.
- Please identify yourself if asking a question or making comment.
- Please let know if having trouble hearing

Presentation by Director of Engineering Services [REDACTED] – thanked all for coming.

➤ Background of project – (get [REDACTED] sheet)

- Development of plan, history
- Costing exercise
- Focus on doing the whole project
- Modest design
- Proposed timetable of work
- Main street committee
- Community engagement

[REDACTED] Is the whole project to be done in one piece or in sections?

So use of Sheridan Lane will be vital?

[REDACTED] What happens if you are an existing alfresco business – and you miss the paved section?

Un-named: Do the trees create shade or are they just ornamental?

[REDACTED] How big will the trees be when they go in?

[REDACTED] Coota and Junee both spent lot of money on main streets. Now need a motorized scrubber and once a month (something in street) have to be scrubbed. Every six

months they paint the asphalt black. Bricks raise and fall and create trip hazards he thinks it needs more consideration.

Is there going to be a double white line up the middle of the street? Why cant we get a government grant? Other towns have. Will the footpath between Byron and Homer be ripped up? Why rip that up – nothing wrong with it. Gundagai is becoming an old persons town and its going to get a lot dearer.

Un-named: Just wasting money

Un-named: Varying of footpath, what's going to happen to traditional awnings?

Presentation by Director of Corporate and Community Services Mr Paul Luff – apology for delay in starting the meeting.

➤ Finance

- Consultant background
- Findings / recommendations of the consultant
- Catch-up rate base
- Explanation of rate notice
- Revenue officer available after the meeting for queries

Un-named Is that application to go forward in its current form?

Facilitator opened the floor and asked for any questions or comments.

QUESTIONS:

If there is no rush to do this why don't we give community more time. Putting application to IPART narrows the option. Have you lobbied local members to get grants? There are grants for lots of things. Council is asking the rural rate payer for too much money. She is not against upgrade, just thinks we need more time. She didn't get a survey delivered to her. She thinks we need to set a timetable to try and see if we can get some more grants to help in payments. It's a big thing to ask the rural community. They have just suffered 8 years of drought. Rural community have suffered the most so why ask more from them. What is the economic advantage? Why can't Gundagai get a grant. It needs to put in decent applications. Gundagai didn't get funding when it was by-passed. Should argue our case. We shouldn't have missed out. We need to look at all funding opportunities before we rush in. Too huge a debt. Need to get people into the town to make Gundagai better and more economically place. What's the hurry to go to IPART? (*Was applauded.*)

Un-named: What was the Council doing at that time (bypass) Seems now 20 years later Gundagai is waking up

Un-named: Local funding got anything to do with the amalgamation?

Is this going to be done by contractors or council? Wouldn't contractors be done in half the time?

Will you be employing more people for the upgrade? Will you be putting the wage budget under pressure?

Will there be a minimal disturbance to main street? Old fuel tanks will they exist in the main street development? If you find large tanks does the owner have to contribute to the removal to them or the fact that we gave you the back of our blocks as Sheridan Lane does that compensate. If resurfacing, leveling, we don't want implosion 5 years after you've done it?

What he can't understand is how the main street is the political football of Gundagai. Survey was ridiculous. Can't compare Coota and Tumut with Gundagai. Five year plan was a communist country. Rusconi Place table and chair was removed. Table and chair was removed from elsewhere. He wants people to paint their buildings.

We have been having Main street meetings for 20 years or so. The current Council has moved, and have preplanned, not up to us to decide. If put back 12 months it's going to cost more. Need to do it now and why should we have to put it off? In another 10 years we would be doing the same thing and it can cost us more.

Surrounding shires have specialist grant officers. If we don't have a full time grants officer – we should go out and get one.

Plans should be to share the cost equally – average residence contribute \$634 to main street. Business will contribute \$1737 and farm will pay \$4384. His contribution for his property will be \$34,000+. He does not feel that is fair. He doesn't get roads, garbage. All they get to do is spend money for people in town to enjoy the street. Rural ratepayers will end up paying 2.3m of the 3 m - it's a disproportionate share . Rural ratepayers have had 8 years of drought. Can't see the value without a reason to get off the highway and come into town . Is there any way that the initial option could be implemented instead of the proposed?

A very few people will be paying most of the money. Eg abattoir, how much will they be paying and they make more then we do on our property. It should be looked at the whole.

With the money taken from TID and other 2 funds are you jeopardising your funds?

We are not arguing about town scape – its who's going to pay for it and how to pay for it. We don't have enough days to decide. Survey never asked for identification. It could have been stacked. Survey is invalid.

Un-named: With the fact and figures, have you considered if the VG decides to up the land values.....What's to say Sydney is going to keep it at 3.2%?

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Mayor Abb McAlister thanked for attendance and closes meeting.

Going on for 37 years. Do the people want it and how are we going to pay for it. Will all be taken on board before decision will be made.