

CCB Executive Meeting – Questions on Notice

The questions below were provided by CCB's at the CCB Executive meeting on 27 November 2024.

City Services and City Performance	
<p>Have the operational costs of the Comerong Island ferry being reviewed? There are only a handful of residents, will they absorb the cost or will this be borne by the wider community's rates?</p> <p><i>Jessica Zealand, Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum</i></p>	<p>The costs of Comerong Island Ferry have been reviewed, and they are significant. Apart for the daily running costs, the Ferry must be removed from the water periodically and maintained. This is very costly.</p> <p>Virtually all the costs associated with running the ferry are funded by Council and the residents of Comerong Island do not pay a fee to use the ferry.</p> <p>Following a tender earlier in 2024, East West Ferry Services Pty Ltd were appointed as the manager and operator of the Cormorant Ferry, that services Comerong Island effective 1 July 2024</p> <p>The cost of operating the Cormorant Ferry is funded from Council's General Fund.</p>
City Services	
<p>What benefits has the State Government put into their investment decision to construct the Jervis Bay Road intersection?</p> <p><i>Bob Pullinger, Vincentia Residents & Ratepayers Association</i></p>	<p>Council is not privy to the assumptions underpinning the investment decisions of the state government, as they relate to the construction of the intersection at Jervis Bay Road.</p> <p>That question would be best put directly to Transport for NSW please.</p>
City Performance	
<p>With borrowings of \$190M and \$16M being paid on loan repayments. \$120M SCC and \$70M Water. If we are paying \$16M out per year to pay back loan. Wanted to clarify will more money need to be borrowed to make it sustainable?</p>	<p>Council current year budget includes new loans of \$3.4m for waste related projects – the repayments of these loans are funded through the externally restricted waste reserve and not general fund unrestricted cash.</p>

<p><i>Brenda Sambrook, Kangaroo Valley Community Consultative Body</i></p>	<p>Council's long term financial plan does not allow for future borrowings, with the exception of a potential \$14m loan for sanctuary point library in FY2027 (should the project proceed)</p>
<p>When grants are returned, what loss is Council willing to incur? <i>Brenda Sambrook, Kangaroo Valley Community Consultative Body</i></p>	<p>Grants are only being returned in circumstances where Council cannot provide a co-contribution to the project, but the contractual grant agreement requires one. This has happened in very limited circumstances and is unlikely to occur in the future due to the new grants application process.</p> <p>Council's new grant application process requires a higher level of scrutiny ensuring that council only applies for grant money when the necessary co-contribution funding is already available.</p>