



## **Appendix 4**

### **ADJUNCT TO 5.1 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS STATUS UPDATE**

*Response to Public Question Taken on notice at  
Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 July 2021*

# **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

Wednesday 25 August 2021 at 7:00pm

Via Videoconference (Zoom)



3 August 2021

██████████  
President, Queenscliffe Community Association  
Via email: [gcaqueenscliffe@gmail.com](mailto:gcaqueenscliffe@gmail.com)

Dear ██████████

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

I am writing in response to the public question that was taken on notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 28 July 2021. The Queenscliffe Community Association's public question reads as follows:

The new and latest Survey on the Tourist Parks informs the community that the tourist parks 'generate income that helps us keep rates low'.

This presumes ratepayers are responsible for Crown land management and contributing financially to its maintenance and upkeep.

Can it be clearly explained by the Mayor how our rates would be higher if it was not supplemented by such Crown land incomes or whether our rates are kept lower having these tourist parks financially viable?

### **Further to the above, I provide the following advice.**

In response to the first part of your question, yes Council is, as the Committee of Management, and by extension ratepayers, responsible for *'contributing financially to (the) maintenance and upkeep'* of Crown Land.

In response to the second part of your question.

For the 2021-22 financial year, after taking away all the direct costs of managing and running the Tourist Parks, the income generated by the Tourist Parks accounts for \$807,000 of Council revenue included in the budget (page 25 of the 2021-22 Financial Budget).

Putting aside revenue from rates, income from tourist parks is the only other significant own- source (within the direct control of Council) revenue stream.

The net contribution generated from tourist parks is used to manage and maintain assets (including infrastructure assets such as roads, parks, open spaces, etc.) situated in Council-managed crown land.



## Borough of Queenscliffe

Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

Without the contribution from the Tourist Parks, Council could not maintain current service standards across the Crown land assets.

The alternative options available to Council to raise these funds would be to source:

- Additional operating grants in excess of \$800,000 which represents, approximately, a 265% increase in our current Federal Financial Assistance Grant we receive each year; or
- To request additional rate increase of 12% above the capped rate increase to establish an income base to generate the additional funding annually.

An increase in operating grants is very unlikely. Without a contribution from tourist parks, the only other viable option to maintain current service standards would have been a request for a significant increase in rates.

Yours sincerely

**Martin Gill**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**