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Outstanding Question Time Items					
Meeting	Status	Requested	Question	Officer Responsible	Response
27/07/2022 QT45/22	Closed	Felipe Fernandez	Can you please speak to the status of implementation for the 2019 Wendouree Station master plan. The plan's development of the south side of the station with a forecourt, bus interchange and south side station access were a very positive step in making the area pedestrian friendly. Wendouree station is an important access point for people coming to visit the Ballarat's gardens precinct and this plan should be implemented so that the stations access and surround area matches the importance of this function. Ballarat only has two train stations lets not forget about one of them.	Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth	Natalie Robertson, Director Development and Growth provided a written response to Felipe Fernandez (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT46/22	Closed	Barbara Clark	I recently read the article on the cost blow-outs of the Lake Lighting Project and am concerned by this project blow-out being absorbed into our Council budget as carry-over. In addition to this unplanned Capital Expense (CAPEX) request, I would like to submit a question to council to clarify what the ongoing Operational Expense (OPEX). As we have recently seen, the two "sample" poles were recently cleaned due to insect activity. Providing this new ongoing service across all 255 poles, as well as ongoing maintenance will have extra costs that will impact on the existing OPEX budgets. I would like to have these additional OPEX costs articulated for full transparency.	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Belinda Clarke (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT46/22	Closed	Michael	I recently read the article on the cost blow-outs of the Lake Lighting Project and am concerned by this project blow-out being absorbed into our Council budget as carry-over. In addition to this unplanned Capital Expense (CAPEX) request, I would like to submit a question to council to clarify what the ongoing Operational Expense (OPEX). As we have recently seen, the two "sample" poles were recently cleaned due to insect activity. Providing this new ongoing service across all 255 poles, as well as ongoing maintenance will have extra costs that will impact on the existing OPEX budgets. I would like to have these additional OPEX costs articulated for full transparency.	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Michael (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT47/22	Closed	Stuart Kelly	My questions relate to the recent cleaning of dead insects and spider webs from the 2 trial lights at Lake Wendouree. 1. Can I get a description of the technique used in cleaning these lights particularly any measures taken to ensure that vehicles used did not cause soil compaction in root zones to the detriment of nearby trees? 2. Based upon the costs involved in this recent cleaning of 2 lights what is the estimated ongoing annual cost of such necessarily regular cleaning of all 225 of the proposed lights?	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Stuart Kelly (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT48/22	Closed	Daniel Murphy	1. The requested \$370,000 for the project that is being charged to ratepayers – is this the final increase, or will there be further costs incurred by ratepayers before completion? 2. Standard procurement procedures normally dictate that an increase of a project's cost over 10% prior to commencement automatically requires a re-tender. As the increase of \$370,000 is well over that margin, at what point will the tender be re-advertised?	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Daniel Murphy (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT49/22	Closed	Scott Gallop	1. How does the installation of 225 lights fit in with the councils Environmentally Sustainable Development policy? 2. With the P class soil and many larger holes required and possible soil issues does the increase in the contractors price include any amounts for the additional excavation and the supply of extra concrete for these foundations?	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Scott Gallop (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT50/22	Closed	Jason Gross	Why was the contract not signed with the successful tenderer after it was approved that the CEO will have it signed and has this failure to sign for the last six months exposed the ratepayers to cost increases? I would like to ask the councillors to remove their councillor hats for one moment and put themselves as a ratepayer and ask yourselves is it the time that council should concede that it might possibly be wrong with the choice of lighting particularly now with the cost blowouts and prior to any holes being dug?	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Jason Gross (see response attached).
27/07/2022 QT51/22	Closed	Heather Lewis	Has ongoing costing of maintenance been assessed with other options such as lighting at ground level? For example: Cleaning/Repairs/Replacement. Impact on Wildlife. For example: Such as possums live in trees and come out to feed after dusk. Feeding times will alter for those affected, particularly in Winter. How much investigation has been done on the impact on Wildlife using different options of lighting?	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment	Bridget Wetherall, Director Infrastructure and Environment provided a written response to Heather Lewis (see response attached).

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Telephone: 03 5320 5500
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Felipe Fernandez

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 23 August 2022

Our Ref: NR:kr

Your Ref: QT45/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Direct Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Dear Felipe,

RE: OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEM – QT45/22

Thank you for your question.

Can you please speak to the status of implementation for the 2019 Wendouree Station masterplan? The plan's development of the south side of the station with a forecourt, bus interchange and south side station access were a very positive step in making the area pedestrian friendly. Wendouree station is an important access point for people coming to visit the Ballarat's gardens precinct and this plan should be implemented so that the stations access and surround area matches the importance of this function.

Ballarat only has two train stations, let's not forget about one of them.

Wendouree Station is an incredibly important part of the City and City of Ballarat were pleased to lead the preparation of this master plan in 2019. When implemented, the vision, plans and actions in the plan will all make a significant contribution to the local Wendouree and Lake Gardens communities, as well as Ballarat and the region more broadly.

The land at the station, transport infrastructure, services and other elements related to the Station precinct are all owned and managed by the Victorian Government – whilst City of Ballarat has the role to advocate for the implementation of this vision for the site. We remain actively engaged in advocating to the State Government for further investment into this precinct.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Robertson".

Natalie Robertson
Director Development and Growth

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PO Box 655
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Telephone: 03 5320 5500
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061



Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT46/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Barbara Clark

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Barbara

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your question asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"I recently read the article on the cost blow-outs of the Lake Lighting Project and am concerned by this project blow-out being absorbed into our Council budget as carry-over. In addition to this unplanned Capital Expense (CAPEX) request, I would like to submit a question to council to clarify what the ongoing Operational Expense (OPEX). As we have recently seen, the two "sample" poles were recently cleaned due to insect activity. Providing this new ongoing service across all 255 poles, as well as ongoing maintenance will have extra costs that will impact on the existing OPEX budgets. I would like to have these additional OPEX costs articulated for full transparency."

The lighting infrastructure (225 poles) will be included on the City of Ballarat's Asset Register to ensure inspections and regular maintenance is programmed for completion. City of Ballarat's Operations Unit will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance including cleaning and incidental repairs such as vandalism. All maintenance and repairs will be completed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and warranties.

Preliminary estimates have been undertaken for the ongoing maintenance of the light infrastructure and these will be considered through the 23/24 budget process. This will include regular cleaning and other maintenance activities associated with the lights.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridget W".

Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

PO Box 655
Ballarat Vic 3353
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Telephone: 03 5320 5500
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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT46/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Michael Jones

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Michael

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your question asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"I recently read the article on the cost blow-outs of the Lake Lighting Project and am concerned by this project blow-out being absorbed into our Council budget as carry-over. In addition to this unplanned Capital Expense (CAPEX) request, I would like to submit a question to council to clarify what the ongoing Operational Expense (OPEX). As we have recently seen, the two "sample" poles were recently cleaned due to insect activity. Providing this new ongoing service across all 255 poles, as well as ongoing maintenance will have extra costs that will impact on the existing OPEX budgets. I would like to have these additional OPEX costs articulated for full transparency."

The lighting infrastructure (225 poles) will be included on the City of Ballarat's Asset Register to ensure inspections and regular maintenance is programmed for completion. City of Ballarat's Operations Unit will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance including cleaning and incidental repairs such as vandalism. All maintenance and repairs will be completed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and warranties.

Preliminary estimates have been undertaken for the ongoing maintenance of the light infrastructure and these will be considered through the 23/24 budget process. This will include regular cleaning and other maintenance activities associated with the lights.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget W".

Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

PO Box 655
Ballarat Vic 3353
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500
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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT47/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Stuart Kelly

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Stuart

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your questions asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

My questions relate to the recent cleaning of dead insects and spider webs from the 2 trial lights at Lake Wendouree.

"1. Can I get a description of the technique used in cleaning these lights particularly any measures taken to ensure that vehicles used did not cause soil compaction in root zones to the detriment of nearby trees?"

Vehicles regularly access the lake foreshore for maintenance activities to be undertaken. Vehicles also gain access regularly for the many events that happen around the lake with conditions placed on event permit holders. There are designated crossing points during these events to protect infrastructure including the establishment of tree exclusion zones.

Maintenance of the lights will be undertaken from the path with vehicles utilising designated driveways which are positioned around the lake. All works will be undertaken from the path which are outside or the root zone however controls will be put in place in the areas required.

"2. Based upon the costs involved in this recent cleaning of 2 lights what is the estimated ongoing annual cost of such necessarily regular cleaning of all 225 of the proposed lights?"

The lighting infrastructure will be included on the City of Ballarat's Asset Register to ensure inspections and regular maintenance is programmed for completion. City of Ballarat's Operations Unit will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance including cleaning and incidental repairs such as vandalism. All maintenance and repairs will be completed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and warranties.

Preliminary estimates have been undertaken for the ongoing maintenance of the light infrastructure and these will be considered through the 23/24 budget process. This will include regular cleaning and other maintenance activities associated with the lights.

2.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

PO Box 655
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Telephone: 03 5320 5500
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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT48/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Daniel Murphy

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Daniel

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your questions asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"1. The requested \$370,000 for the project that is being charged to ratepayers – is this the final increase, or will there be further costs incurred by ratepayers before completion?"

The additionally requested \$370,000 is what is currently understood to be the increased cost of completing this project.

"2. Standard procurement procedures normally dictate that an increase of a project's cost over 10% prior to commencement automatically requires a re-tender. As the increase of \$370,000 is well over that margin, at what point will the tender be re-advertised?"

Council's procurement policy does not have any requirements regarding re-advertising when the budget is exceeded by greater than 10%. Council's procurement policy requires the following:

"In circumstances where the cost of the variance(s) exceeds the allocated project budget, approval must be sought from the initial approver prior to works proceeding."

The provision of this report to Council is in line with that requirement.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridget W".

Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

PO Box 655
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Telephone: 03 5320 5500
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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT49/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Scott Gallop

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Scott

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your questions asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"1. How does the installation of 225 lights fit in with the councils Environmentally Sustainable Development policy?"

The new Environmentally Sustainable Design policy focuses on enhancing current and future communities by making homes and workplaces more sustainable and liveable. The Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy does not apply to open space such as Lake Wendouree. The lights are in compliance with the City of Ballarat's Energy Efficient Public Lighting Policy 2009 which states that public lighting installations must utilise energy efficient LED lighting and consider the relevant sections of AS/NZS 1158. The selected fitting complies to this standard and the energy efficient LED lighting directive. The City of Ballarat purchases 100% renewable energy for all operations including lighting through a Power Purchase Agreement.

The variable soil conditions found, including "Classification P" are not unexpected given the large distances and spread of test sites. These soil conditions are found throughout the entire municipality and as is standard practice for any City of Ballarat infrastructure project, a geotechnical report is commissioned to inform the technical specification and foundation details for the project. When it comes to the site by site footing depths for the poles, this is determined by the Contractor based on the conditions onsite and the pole manufacturers footings details and is then tabled with the City of Ballarat site superintendent for review in line with the project specification and all Statutory Authority requirements.

2.

"2. With the P class soil and many larger holes required and possible soil issues does the increase in the contractors price include any amounts for the additional excavation and the supply of extra concrete for these foundations?"

The removal of any contaminated soil if found onsite will be assessed on a case by case basis as a latent condition, as is standard practice by the City of Ballarat. Any such claims would be submitted by the Contractor to Council's Project Superintendent for review. The allocation of a construction contingency for the project, which occurs on all of Council's major infrastructure projects, is used to manage any such latent conditions and their removal as necessary.

Please call Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

PO Box 655
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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT50/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Jason Gross

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Jason

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your questions asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"Why was the contract not signed with the successful tenderer after it was approved that the CEO will have it signed and has this failure to sign for the last six months exposed the ratepayers to cost increases?"

The contract was not signed with the successful tenderer post the Council resolution in February as the notice of the lodgement of the Interim Protection Order (IPO) was received by Council Officers. Given the IPO necessitated statutory approval through a Heritage Victoria permit, the contract was not formally signed until the outcome of this process was reached.

The price escalation of the contract value has occurred over the period of time it has taken for Council to go through a secondary Heritage Victoria permit process including advertising and assessment. This statutory process was necessary as a result of the Interim Protection Order placed on the Lake Wendouree Foreshore Precinct. Over this time, cost escalation across the entire construction industry have been experienced.

"I would like to ask the councillors to remove their councillor hats for one moment and put themselves as a ratepayer and ask yourselves is it the time that council should concede that it might possibly be wrong with the choice of lighting particularly now with the cost blowouts and prior to any holes being dug?"

The choice of lighting has been approved through a two Heritage Victoria permit process, as part of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Wadawurrung, and through a Planning Permit process. The increase costs associated with the project has occurred over the past 6 months and is in-line with price escalation for materials seen across the entire construction industry.

2.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
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Phillip Barnett, Project Manager

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Date: 3 August 2022

Our Ref: BW:pb:bk

Your Ref: QT50/22

Enquiries: (61) 03 5320 5500

Email: info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Heather Lewis

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Heather

RE: PUBLIC QUESTION ASKED AT COUNCIL MEETING

I refer to your questions asked at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 as follows:

"Has ongoing costing of maintenance been assessed with other options such as lighting at ground level? For example: Cleaning/Repairs/Replacement."

The lighting infrastructure will be included on the City of Ballarat's Asset Register to ensure inspections and regular maintenance is programmed for completion. City of Ballarat's Operations Unit will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance including cleaning and incidental repairs such as vandalism. All maintenance and repairs will be completed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and warranties.

Preliminary estimates have been undertaken for the ongoing maintenance of the light infrastructure and these will be considered through the 23/24 budget process. This will include regular cleaning and other maintenance activities associated with the lights.

In-ground lighting has been considered and subsequently not supported because they do not meet the Australian Standards for Public Lighting of Pathways, spills light upwards and into tree canopies rather than downwards and onto the path, represents a significant maintenance burden given how accessible the lights would be to damage and vandalism, and is not supported by the Lake Wendouree Masterplan which specifically recommends overhead pole mounted lighting.

2.

*“Impact on Wildlife. For example: Such as possums live in trees and come out to feed after dusk. Feeding times will alter for those affected, particularly in Winter.
How much investigation has been done on the impact on Wildlife using different options of lighting?”*

As part of the design process, Council engaged Biosis to undertake an independent biodiversity impact assessment. This has been an important consideration throughout the process, and the lights have been chosen for their ability to limit/avoid spill and limit emitting light where it is not required. Choosing lights that are programmable with the ability to be readily changed throughout the year was also a key factor. The light spill and its effect on wildlife has been considered during the design process. Bollard level lighting and in-ground lighting have sideways and upwards light spill that doesn't meet the relevant Australian Standards and also create glare issues for both users and also wildlife.

Please contact Phillip Barnett, Council's Project Manager, directly on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss the Lake Lighting project further.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Wetherall
Director Infrastructure and Environment

CC: Mayor and Councillors
Governance
Phillip Barnett, Project Manager