

Responses by Edward Foulston

To: Pat Kindellan
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WLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 1: Are you prepared to rescind Councils decision to continue with the sale of WLE Bandiana as carried in Resolution 2008-152 at their October 20, 2008 meeting?

Answer: Short answer YES. My priority is for the WLE to stay at Bandiana.

I do however have to add, I have concerns that the current council may have already signed contracts committing us to certain actions and we will need advice on how to best get out of any signed contracts without serious financial or legal repercussions.

Question 2: Are you prepared to support an expression of interest request for either selling, leasing or contracting out WLE Bandiana to private enterprise as a going concern?

Answer: Short answer NO.

I may possibly consider a proposal from the user groups themselves and **all** other interested parties but every group involved would need to convince me of a benefit to ratepayers and all other parties for me to change my stance.

Question 3: Briefly describe three other activities that the current Council is engaged in that you are not satisfied with or you could make improvements to?

Answer: There are so many it is difficult to single out just three and you have also asked me to be brief so I will attempt to do so.

1. The proposal to put the Livestock Exchange and associated Feedlot, and I wish to emphasize Feedlot, as not much is spoken about that part of the proposal, at Nth Barnawartha is also one of major concern. I am assuming, as I have no evidence to support my belief as such, that the entire proposal is simply to shore up the nearby Logic Center, one that I would hope will not come to fruition if the right people are elected to the next Council. That proposal should not go ahead, it is a Greenfield site and situated on the floodplain of the Murray River. We have not been informed as to who will bear the cost of roads, water, power, sewerage, buildings and other infrastructure. We have also not been informed as to the response of any of the Murray River Catchment authorities, if any, to this proposal. There are many other reasons why it should not proceed. I personally, with the information I have at hand can't see any benefit to the ratepayers or users with this proposal.
2. The proposed closure of the Stanley St Pool and subsequent building of a prohibitively expensive Aquatic Center is another folly this council has

embarked upon. All studies indicate that small towns/cities like Wodonga should not move Swim Pools away from the CBD and should maintain open air facilities such as Stanley St as they are a social center for the general population. Due to budget over runs this council is also proposing to shorten the pool at the Aquatic Center to 25 meters and at the same time proposes to close the Birallee Sports and Leisure Center which already has a 25 meter pool. Why? This means there would not be a suitable venue capable of meeting any of the users groups needs.

3. The Logic Center is another expensive debacle, words fail me on this one. Why it was ever started is beyond my ken, councils should not get involved in Developments such as these as they don't have the necessary expertise. One of the main justifications for going against their own council officers advice in regards to this proposal was that all money made from the sale of Logic Center would go to debt reduction, it would appear on latest values of land left (\$40 Mill) that \$20 million dollars worth of land has been taken up if so why is the current debt level approaching \$33 million. We are stuck with Logic Center and must therefore make what we can out of it. This however does not mean making Social, Financial and/or Environmental sacrifice

I haven't mentioned the level of debt that we are in as I kept my response to current activities per se. I hope that my responses have been helpful.

Yours truly,
Ed Foulston