

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – LETTER
 CONCERNING GROSE VALLEY BUSHFIRE**

FILE NO: F01922

Question by Councillor O’Grady (18/09/2007)

Could the letter concerning the Grose Valley fire listed at item 2 in the Precis of Selected Correspondence, 28/08/2007 be printed in the Business Paper of 9 October 2007.

Response

See letter attached.

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F 00414



The Hon Nathan Rees MP
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Water Utilities

MIN 07/1176

Mr Phil Pinyon
 General Manager
 Blue Mountains City Council
 Locked Bag 1005
 KATOOMBA NSW 2780



19 JUL 2007

Dear Mr Pinyon

The Premier of NSW, the Hon Morris Iemma, MP, has referred to me a letter of 20 February 2007, (Reference: C01085) from Blue Mountains City Council, outlining Council's resolution of 30 January 2007, concerning the Grose Valley fire in the Blue Mountains in November 2006. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has advised me that Council participated in the recent forum chaired by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute to examine a range of issues raised by the community. The issues included those contained in Council's resolution.

I am advised that the forum was extremely worthwhile and the discussions resulted in the formulation of a comprehensive action plan to be implemented by various organisations represented at the forum. The action plan includes strategies for improving fire management in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The Institute's full report is now available from its website www.bmwhi.org.au.

The RFS advises that, in addition to the forum, a number of other reviews examining various aspects of the fire have taken place. These are:

- A series of individual agency debriefings culminated in an interagency debriefing in December 2006 attended by the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Management Committee. Information from these debriefings went into the Section 44 report, which critically and constructively examines the whole fire incident from beginning to end.

The Section 44 report and resulting recommendations will form the basis of a plan of action for the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Management Committee. This will ensure that lessons learned from the Grose Valley fire lead to future improvements in incident management. Council chairs this Committee.

- The local heads of the three main fire agencies have met to consider a range of issues arising from the fire, and will be reporting regularly to the Bush Fire Management Committee to ensure that interagency fire operations are continuously improved.

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24 JUL 2007 BMCC
 Phil Pinyon
 REC No.

I understand that the RFS will also be reviewing the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. The review process will require wide community consultation and will adopt a thorough performance-based approach to future bush fire management.

Fire management is an increasingly complex issue because of the impact of climate change and the social and environmental context in which bush fires are fought. I look forward to continuing to work with Council towards our common goal of protecting the community and environmental values of the Blue Mountains.

Thank you for bringing Council's resolution to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely



Nathan Rees
Minister for Emergency Services

cc: Mr Greg Apin MP, Member for Albury

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - ANNUAL
REPORT FEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAND USE APPLICATIONS
SUBMITTED BY LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS**

FILE NO: F00740

Questions by Councillor O'Grady (28/08/07):

1. *"With regard to Bodington Nursing Home, my understanding would be that this is a type of business and would not fall into the non-profit community organisation category. How does it get there?"*

 2. *"What is the Blue Mountains Land Foundation and why are we waiving their fee?"*
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Response

1. Bodington Nursing Home is a not for profit aged-care facility providing both high and low level residential care.

2. Blue Mountains Land Foundation Pty Ltd is a not for profit organisation whose purpose is to develop resources to assist and support community organisations and groups. They are the owners of 124 Lurline St, Katoomba which was purchased for and remains tenanted by Blue Mountains Women's Health Centre which is also a not for profit charitable organisation.

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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – COMMUNITY DONATIONS PROGRAM 2007

FILE NO: F00328

Question by Councillor McInnes (26/06/07):

"Can Council receive a report, with regard to Item 12, Community Donations Program 2007; if the \$3000 unspent could be rolled over?"

Response

During assessment of the 2007 round of the Community Donations Program by the Advisory Committee it was proposed that an unallocated amount of \$3,010 be rolled over to the 2008 Program. After further consideration it was decided that the remaining funds be reallocated equally to all successful projects receiving funding.

If this situation were to occur in subsequent years, Councillors may recommend the carryover of unallocated funds to the following financial year.

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - FORMER
LAWSON GOLF COURSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

FILE NO: F00731

Question by Councillor O’Grady (18/09/07)

1. *How much income has been received from rental?*

Questions by Councillor McInnes (18/09/07)

2. *How much has been spent on consultants and maintenance of the Lawson Golf Course redevelopment project to this point?*
 3. *Do we have any estimates for the further cost of consultations?*
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Response

1. Income from Lease is \$1,100 per month. Total from lease commencement on 31 January 2006 to the present date is \$22,386.
2. Maintenance is \$30,000 per year. Total to-date (approx.) is \$70,000.

Note: Information on cost of consultants and future estimates of consultant costs will be provided in the Business Paper of 30 October.

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