PRESS RELEASE

Survey Results – Emu Swamp Dam Report Briefing Session 9 August 2017

The Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce is releasing survey results from members of the public who attended the recent briefing on the Emu Swamp Dam stage 1 report presented by the Chamber of Commerce and the Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel.

On Wednesday 9th August some 85 people attended an information seminar hosted by the Chamber at the International Club on the same topic. Information was presented by Ian Henderson (Chamber President) and Stephen Tancred (Chair of Stanthorpe Community Reference Panel).

54 people responded after the Chamber meeting via surveys that were left on chairs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response Yes</th>
<th>Response No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you find the presentations informative?</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>After hearing the information, do you have any concerns with the GHD consultants report?</td>
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<td>Do you think the Council should re-consider their decision to accept the GHD consultants report?</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>If you asked a question was it adequately answered?</td>
<td>13</td>
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NOTE: 1 Feedback sheet did not answer questions but left a comment
1 Feedback sheet only answered first two questions.

17 people who completed the survey after the Chamber’s public meeting also offered written comments;

1. SDRC should listen to this presentation and they may then realise that the recent decision made was incorrect in my opinion.
2. Great Presentation
3. Build Emu Swamp Dam.
4. Another example of Council making poor decisions.
5. The current council has no vision and where there’s no vision the people perish. Current council for various reasons is shaping up to be worse than the previous one. Roll on the next council election so we can give them the boot.
6. Sincerely believe that the council should reconsider their decision as like our business most of the irrigators would not be aware of what is in the report. We can only praise the detail that Steve & Ian have explained to us.
7. I totally support the dam.
8. Excellent presentation by Steve & Ian. Thank you.
9. Enough reports and money wasting. Investigate ESD to get true costings.
10. Reports with inaccurate numbers should NEVER be accepted.
11. Council need to reconsider their decision on this matter.
12. If a process is flawed it must be revisited. Water Security is paramount.
13. I feel the report focused on the cheaper options and not the BEST option for the community and preferred options are not even viable.
14. Good decisions cannot be made with bad data.
15. Council need to re think this decision.
16. There is a great chance of a massive mistake being made if nothing is done to prevent it. If that happens we should all be ashamed we did not prevent it.
17. I am not convinced that ESD is the sole option. There have been other proposed dam sites that I do not believe were fully researched and considered. I would like to see evidence that this work was done.

Only one Southern Downs Regional Councillor was available to attend the Chamber seminar, however the speakers have made the offer to present the information to the SDRC councillors if and when they are available.

The results are pretty clear cut said Mr Henderson, Chamber President, “The public is clearly engaged in this matter and they have real concerns over the due process around this report”.

“This is not a noisy minority as council claims from time to time, there is a real and genuine dissatisfaction with councils process around the Emu Swamp Dam Report adoption. I sincerely hope this demonstrates the mood of the public in relation to this matter.”

“We were able to clearly articulate the textual and mathematical problems in the report, as well as errors in the assumptions and where data was lacking. It only took an hour to present.” Said Ian Henderson.

Further, “I’m disappointed that councillors, despite personal invitations to hear this presentation, proceeded anyway with a secret ‘in-camera’ special meeting just a few days later to decide the fate of the remaining $3.5M or so federal grant funding. They appear to be acting knowing this easily accessible assessment is available to them. No doubt the one councillor who attended the meeting would have informed them of the quality of the content.”

Again, Ian Says “We understand Council has up to 3 months to reverse a decision within their own control, so that leaves a deadline of 14 September for council to re-consider.”

Further Information
Ian Henderson, Chamber President, 0429 848 621

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