

Maher, Vicki

From: 61427402118@mmsc.telstra.com
Sent: Tuesday, 17 May 2022 8:55 AM
To: Maher, Vicki
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Forwarded by Cr Payne following receipt of text message from Wesley Hall

Thanks for the confirmation Cr Payne. Several ratepayers were asking me where the Petition was on the Council Website when first posted there last Thursday. I challenged your GM as to where I could find it and he said it was an "oversight". That sort of behaviour gives our community a false snapshot of the submissions for and against the skywalk. I also challenged him on several one line submissions in support of the Skywalk. They all contain the same spelling mistakes. The email addresses have been checked and they are false. However, your GM could not be bothered to check if they were genuine or not.

The behaviour of your GM raises serious concerns about how Narrandera Shire Council is currently being run. The role of a Local Government General Manager is to be Neutral in all his or her dealings with Notices of Motion and Business at Hand. He had too much to say and made many false statements regards the Community Meeting at your April Meeting and was way out of order. Our community will watch him closely at tomorrow's Council Meeting. He appears to regard anyone who disagrees with the Skywalk project as a troublemaker. There are many unanswered questions regards the dumping of the magnificent Lattice Bridge Project for an ugly Lookout at Lake Talbot. How could a professional report made by the Council Engineer Shane Wilson recommending full DA Approval be thrown out by the majority of Councillors at the October meeting? The excuses thrown up by the GM and various Councillors as to why the Lattice Bridge Project cannot go ahead should be subject to a full independent investigation.

Kind Regards

Wesley Hall

Kind Regards

Wesley Hall

15th May 2022

Councillor Lewis,

As you will be voting on the recommendation for Council to proceed with the Skywalk Project on Tuesday, I have taken this time to provide you with the following information and statistics that are relevant to this flawed project.

As a community elected Councillor, you have the opportunity to show true community leadership and engagement by seriously considering all community concerns and presenting all actual facts (not just hearsay) to council and bring an end to the Skywalk fiasco on Tuesday.

Relevant “key” Skywalk Project Information for your information and consideration are:

- Council failed to advertise the town meeting. Very poor Council community engagement and inclusion. Community Engagement is a “key value” Council states they do well.
- Council has failed to initiate or undertake any “face to face” community consultation. Poor management given the community level of interest (“for” and “against”) in this project.
- Council failed to include the Town Petition as part of the May’s council Business Papers. Very serious, unacceptable and an inexcusable admission on a critical project which Council is to vote on Tuesday. The missing petition was only added after being highlighted by an interested rate payer. Narrandera Council General Manager passed it off as a minor oversight.
- General Manager has failed to include factual statistics in the Business Papers that reflect the true mood of the community. The submissions “Issues Table” is not a fair representation of all issues raised.
- One, of number of key reasons, as to why the Rail Bridge Project was abandoned, Council states was that they had received 2 objections. The number of objections to the Skywalk project speaks for itself.
- Council’s view that there is potential reputational damage if the grant money if not spent rests solely with Council (no one else), in Council’s inability to deliver a Council approved worthy project. Do not blame the community.
- Narrandera Council General Manager has advised no Skywalk submission emails have been confirmed as being bona fide. A number of “Support” email addresses provided are invalid. A number of others have not responded as being supporters of the Skywalk Project. Thirty (30) responses are all generic in their response (example: “I would like to indorse this project, as I see it as a wonderful asset for the town and regional tourism” or similar) and share a number of common errors, are very shallow

in their content and are flawed as to their true support of the Skywalk project. Surprisingly the majority of these support emails provided, were closely time stamped sequentially, over a two-day period.

- In stark contrast all submissions “Against” the Skywalk project are comprehensive in their content, fully set out each reason as to why the Skywalk Project is an inappropriate Lake Talbot project with names and contact details included. Therefore, are all fully bona fide submissions.
- Past and current commentary by council, consistently dismisses the level of opposition “Against” the Skywalk Project without supporting this view with anything other than unsubstantiated hearsay. Council is not in the position to just state “throw away lines” without any substance, that everyone they talk to are in “Support” of the Skywalk Project.

The True Community Skywalk Project facts are:

-Submissions “Against” (Formal):	41
-Town Meeting: “Against”	65
-Town Petition “Against”:	141
-Submissions “For” (Formal):	31
-Submissions “For” (Generic):	30

Website Skywalk Narrandera - statistics as at 14/5/22:

-Initial Post 23/3/22:	500 People Reached
-Community Meeting Invitation 23/3/22:	1,988 People Reached
-Photo of Sydney Lattice Bridge 25/3/22:	235 People Reached
-Photo of Eyesore Skywalk 26/3/22:	724 People Reached
-ABC Riverina Post:	341 People Reached
-Community Meeting Post 30/3/22:	436 People Reached
-Write a Submission Post 31/3/22:	369 People Reached
-Notice of Motion in May Business Paper:	291 People Reached
-Facebook: Likes (“Against”):	155
-Facebook: Comments (“Against”)	98

I am asking you to stand up and speak to the Skywalk Project motion, and take the time to fully communicate all true community facts that I have outlined above before a vote is cast.

To be true to yourself and the community you represent, please consider fully all available information and communicate all the facts (with no hearsay).

Again, you have the opportunity as a Councillor and as a community representative to say you have listened to your community and bring the Skywalk fiasco to an end by voting against the recommendation for Council to proceed with the project. Anything less will be a travesty.

Should you require and additional information or clarification, I am very happy to be contacted direct.

Can I also please ask that you confirm receipt of my email.

Regards

Murray Hall

Concerned Resident

Manager – Tourist Based Business

New Criterion Hotel

Foundation Member and Past Executive - Narrandera Business Group

Foundation Member and Past Chairman - Narrandera Tourism "*Growing Tourism Together*"

(NTI)

100 East Street

Narrandera NSW 2700

Mob: 0411 012 659