

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Murder of Gerard Flemming at the Tramshed Bus Stop, Narrabeen and community safety at Narrabeen

Question from: Mr Vincent De Luca OAM

Meeting Date: 28 June 2007

Question: Asked the following three questions to the meeting.

1.a) Has Council extended its sympathy to the Flemming family following his tragic death at Narrabeen?

b) Is Council aware of media reports that the public toilets at Narrabeen are often littered with syringes, that drug dealing and consumption is regularly occurring, that gangs are congregating in and around the toilets and that many of those people gathering at the toilets are on drug ICE resulting in violent, abusive and aggressive behaviour?

c) Has any liaison between the Police and Council occurred regarding the allegations of anti-social behaviour mentioned in the media and what is the outcome?

d) What action does Council propose to take in this area in view of the community's concerns voiced since the murder and outlined above?

e) Will Council ensure as a matter of priority that spot-lights are installed around the area of the toilets, around the community and arts centre and in the carpark and investigate whether the toilet block should be demolished and a more safe facility built?

Response:

The Administrator extended his sympathy to the Flemming family for their loss. He noted that it is not Council policy to contact members of the community in the event of a death, unless that of a resident who has been actively and closely linked in community participation with the Council. He stated that there is a police investigation underway and there will be an inquiry into Mr Flemming's death. Council is liaising with the police through the Community Safety Committee, and the Narrabeen Chamber of Commerce in this case, in the prevention and management of trouble areas. The Director Corporate Services advised that the installation of bollard lighting is proposed along the lake path at Narrabeen and it is possible that a review of lighting around the Tramshed toilet area could be undertaken as part of this. The Administrator cautioned against jumping too quickly to a solution; the tragedy would sharpen everyone's awareness of the situation but the community must work together to provide a lasting solution and safer environment.