

13. Questions on notice

Cr Wykes asked whether approval had been granted for DA 2007.0047 - Guideline South Coast Pty Ltd to carry out road works on Mount Darragh Road?

The question was taken on notice by the Group Manager of Planning & Environment who will provide Councillors with a response via memorandum prior to the Council meeting.

Cr Wykes asked about the substantial increase in headworks charges over the past 12 months and in particular the 2000% increase to connect to existing services for a property in Eden since the introduction of the new Council Policy relating to headworks charges?

The question was answered by memorandum from the Manager Civil Assets & Urban Projects which advised that since adoption in 2006, Section 64 charges have been indexed annually and are currently (09/10 year) \$11,340 for water supply and \$8,620 for sewerage. On 14 April 2009 the policy supporting the DSP documents (Procedure 2.3.1(l)) was amended to allow past water and sewer access charges for properties to be deducted from the payable Section 64 charges. The amendment provided a measure of equity for those property owners who had contributed for many years.

There has been some speculation that Section 64 charges have risen steeply since their adoption in 2006. In fact the charges have only risen according to Sydney CPI. What has changed is the rigour with which the charges are applied. In the past, many developments escaped having to pay the charges because of inconsistent application and understanding of policy. Over the past 18 months there has been more consistent application of the charges in accordance with Council policy and section 306 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.