

19 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**19.1 Question with notice: Councillor Warren - Jewel in the Crown turns 150 in 2026!**

Cllr Erica Warren has submitted the following question with notice for consideration:

Question

Given the significance of this important date in Kiama's rich history, can Council form a working group with Destination Kiama, representatives of the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation and any other interested local community organisations to explore a genuinely cost neutral community celebration?

Councillor information providedBackground

The Crown Jewel of Kiama Harbour, the Robertson Basin, turns 150 years old (sesquicentenary) in September 2026. Sue Eggins and Dr Tony Gilmore of the Kiama Historical Society, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, have proposed a genuine community celebration located around the Harbour. Many of our local community's elderly residents remember fondly, the 100th anniversary.

Chief Executive Officer response

Giving consideration to the number of significant reports and the current workload of Council staff, a response to this question with notice will be provided to the February 2026 ordinary meeting.

19.2 Question with notice: Councillor Warren - Performance Improvement Order and measures undertaken for event sustainability by TEAC

Clr Erica Warren has submitted the following question with notice for consideration:

Question

1. What work has or is being done by Destination Kiama to investigate financially sustainable models for 2026-27 and beyond so that future events are not a drain on ratepayers funding the event?
2. When can Council expect to be briefed on financial models that other regions have explored or adopted for public events such as public/private partnerships, decentralised activity hubs or village centre and township-based celebrations?
3. Given the corrected figures provided by Spendmapp data that the 2024-25 New Years Eve Sky Show provided little stimulus to local businesses compared to events such as Changing Tides and those outside the Christmas and New Year trading period, when will Spendmapp data be available from New Years Eve 2025-26 for Council to accurately quantify the revenues of local businesses so that data indicates the benefit or detriment of the Sky Show to local businesses can be accurately compared?
4. Are there other ways that local businesses can benefit and our local and visiting community can enjoy New Years Eve for less spend of ratepayers money and reduce the movement of traffic within the Kiama township, thinking more broadly for the wider Municipality in terms of events and locations outside of the Black Beach location?
5. Is there a Bhutanese happiness index that Council can adopt to measure resident satisfaction of their New Years Eve in 2025-26 without the pollution and momentary sugar fix of fireworks?
6. Shellharbour City Council has proposed a drone and laser event for 2026-27. Is there a move by Council to explore environmentally friendly opportunities and perform a cost benefit analysis on events such as this?

Councillor information providedBackground

The Performance Improvement Order that has caused Council to cut down on spending with the goal of achieving a balanced budget is still in place. Council made the financially responsibly decision to pause the New Years Eve Sky Show for 2025/26, saving by some estimates over \$100,000 in ratepayer funds.

Chief Executive Officer response

Giving consideration to the number of significant reports and the current workload of Council staff, a response to this question with notice will be provided to the February 2026 ordinary meeting.