

MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODIES

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2009

Committee Rooms 1, 2 & 3, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – General Manager – Chairperson
Clr Green - Mayor
Clr Guile

Rob Donaldson – Assistant General Manager
Tom Phillips – Acting Director Finance and Corporate Services
Bill Paterson – Director City Services and Operations
Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning Group
Carmel Krogh – Director Shoalhaven Water
Kelie Lowe – Acting Director Development and Environmental Services – arrived 10.45 am
left at 11.20 am
Robert Russell – Development Manager – arrived 10.45 am left 11.20 am
Gordon Clark – Strategy Planning Manager
Lachlan Harris – Media Manager

Rick Gainford – Berry Alliance
John Ings – Berry Alliance – arrived 10.24 am
Will Armitage – Berry Alliance
Geoff Armstrong – Berry Alliance
Ernie Dumbleton – Budgong Community Group
Roger Stebbings – Cambewarra Residents & Ratepayers Association
Noel Schneider – Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum
John Dogterom - Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum
Barbara Woodney – Kangaroo Valley Community Association
Keith Learne – Kangaroo Valley Community Association
David Goodman – Shoalhaven Business Chamber

Apologies were received from Clr Ward

1. Welcome and Introduction

The General Manager welcomed all participants to the meeting and advised that representatives from the Kangaroo Valley Community Association and the Shoalhaven Business Chamber had been invited to attend as several of the presentations were significant to all areas of the city.

2. Assistant General Manager/Strategic Planning & Infrastructure

a) Integrated Planning and Reporting Program (*Rob Donaldson – Assistant General Manager*)

Council

Mr Rob Donaldson, Council's Assistant General Manager, gave a brief outline of his career background and responsibilities as the Assistant General Manager at Shoalhaven City Council. A key strategic project he will be responsible for encompasses:

- rebuilding Council's strategic plan - City Plan – originally adopted in 2000
- a corporate framework to meet the State Government Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation, and
- a long term sustainable resourcing strategy

Council has nominate itself into "Group 1" for the State Government Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation, therefore being committed to having the framework in place and working by 2010/11.

Mr Donaldson provided the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following issues in relation to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Project (presentation attached):

- Future Directions Shoalhaven – based on the four core areas environment, economy, community and civic leadership. The website allows comments and interaction from the community - www.future.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au. Mr Donaldson encouraged the community to use the website as a low cost, high efficiency opportunity to get information.
- All Council's must have a Community Strategy Plan
- Strategic Plan – 10 year plan, objectives, strategies, KPI's; renewed on a 4 yearly electoral cycle
- Community Engagement Strategy has been adopted by Council(3 phases)
- Some key issues to consider: sea change/tree change, aging and health, climate change, agriculture, broadband

Community Representatives

1. How is the community being notified?
2. When complete, is Council planning to use the new Plan as a reason to apply to the State Government for rate pegging exemption?
3. Will Council require additional resources for the project?

Council

1. Postcards and flyers have been distributed through the schools, sent to the Navy supplies left at shops, village community stores, libraries, visitors centres and post offices.
2. The Resourcing Strategy will put a reality check in place to align expectations with funding capacity, and to clarify when and how additional funds may be allocated for new commitments.
3. No, there is adequate internal resources for the CSP project.

b) Growth Management Strategy (Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)

Council

Mr Pigg advised the meeting of the imminent retirement of Ernie Royston. Mr Royston's last day will be 18th December 2009. Both Mr Pigg and community members thanked Mr Royston for his many years of service and the efforts he has put into community consultation among many other things.

- # Mr Royston provided the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Citywide Growth Management Strategy, draft Citywide LEP and the draft Citywide DCP, a copy of which is attached.

Mr Royston advised that they were continuing with a more detailed process and refocusing following the loss of the consultant. He advised that the strategy would not revisit Nowra, Bomaderry, Milton and Ulladulla as these areas have been addressed.

c) LEP (Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)

Council

During the presentation Mr Royston explained that although the original State Government deadline was March 2009 the document was not yet finalised as the statewide template was constantly changing and that some difficulties had arisen because it really doesn't meet the requirements of regional areas such as Shoalhaven being metro based.

The meeting was advised that there will be opportunity for the community to comment on the LEP once it comes back from the State Government and is formally exhibited for public comment.

Council is hoping to get the approval to publically exhibit the document by the end of the year. Additional time will be allocated for exhibition because of the Christmas break if this period is included, however all is reliant on the State Government at this time.

d) Single DCP (Ernie Royston – Director Strategic Planning & Infrastructure)

Council

Mr Royston advised the meeting as a result of changes to the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act a single Citywide DCP must be adopted and operational when the Citywide LEP is gazetted. Mr Royston explained that upon completion the community will eventually be able to access information on the DCP by clicking on a property on the Council website. Information on the DCP is included in the attachment.

During discussion the community enquired if the new DCP will include information on Helo North. Mr Royston advised that this information is not within any DCP but is available through a Section 149-(5) Certificate. The Committee were advised that most property buyers only request a S149-(2) certificate, which is cheaper, when they should pay the extra for the S149-(5) as it includes so much more information. Council has repeatedly

requested the Department of Planning to have only one level of a Section 149 not multiple levels. Council usually promotes the S149-(5) as it provides more information.

The CCBs stated they would assist Council by lobbying their State member for the legislative change to one 149 certificate with all the information supplied.

New flight maps will be provided by the Department of Defence and will be available publicly.

The community representatives asked what will happen to all the DCPs that are out of date and Mr Royston explained that all the old DCPs will be processed into one document. Any that are superfluous will drop out and any repetition will be removed. There will then be a progressive update of Sections of the DCP.

Other Issues:

In regard to Nowra, Council is currently advertising for consultants to proceed with the Nowra CBD Masterplan.

Mr Royston advised Council will soon be advertising some controversial new coastal hazard mapping over the next few months and development controls still need to be resolved for areas of sensitivity within the draft DCP. This draft DCP is proposed to be reported to Council in November to consider these significant issues.

ACTION: CCB'S to lobby Mrs Shelly Hancock MP and Mr Matt Brown MP in regard to changing the legislation relating to the provision of only one level of 149 certificates that will provide all the information required.

3. Development & Environmental Services

a) Regional Development Applications that are considered by the Joint Regional Planning Panel (*Robert Russell – Development Manager*)

Council

Mr Russell advised the meeting of the following aspects regarding Regional Development Applications that are considered by the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP):

- The State Government recently changed the legislation regarding the way major projects are determined. Previously, the Minister of Planning made the decisions but following controversy over the fact that one person was making these decisions it was resolved to set up the JRPP.
- Regional Development applications will be assessed, as independently as possible, by staff, concerns from the community will be taken on board and Councillors will be briefed. A 79C report will be submitted to the JRPP and Councillors can decide if they wish to make separate representation to the JRPP.
- To date Council has resolved to not participate in the JRPP.
- The JRPP will meet in Council Chambers.

- There are currently two development applications that fall into the category for major projects and will be determined by the JRPP – Proposed Waste Facility, Tomerong and the Mobile Telecommunications Tower, Yalwal Road, West Nowra
- The application for the proposed waste facility is more a land fill operation/tip rather than a recycling plant.
- There is a strict Code of Conduct for staff and Councillors to abide by.
- Anyone who makes a submission can make representations at the panel hearing and any decision the panel makes can be appealed through the Land and Environment Court by the applicant and, in the case of the Tomerong Land Fill, by both applicant and anyone who has made a submission (third party appeal rights).
- Proponent for the Waste Facility is South Coast Equipment Resources (SCE) and the application has been made through local surveyors Watkinson & Apperley.
- The proposal is permissible in the current zoning.
- Costs of the JRPP are covered by the State Government. This may be reviewed in the future.
- The JRPP is the determining authority however, Council remains the consent authority.

4. City Services & Operations/Strategic Planning & Infrastructure

a) New LEP Change of Zoning – Jaspers Brush Airfield (*Berry Alliance*)

Council

Mr Royston advised the meeting that Jaspers Brush Airfield is currently in a flood liable zone Rural 1(g) and the new LEP doesn't have a flood liable zone. The new zoning framework clauses are being determined and this location will change to the most appropriate zone, rural agricultural zone RU1. This was reported to Council on 2 June 2009 and it was resolved to maintain the current situation (copy of report provided to Berry Alliance). Council is still waiting for a section 65 certificate for LEP 2009.

The CCBs asked if the land has permissible zoning for the current use, as an airfield. Mr Royston advised that Council has recognised the existing operation, but the degree of use is the issue if they wish to extend the use they will have to go through the application process. Air transport facilities are permissible in RU1 zoning and 1g zoning is proposed to convert to RU1 at this location. There are five rural zones and Council is aware of representations on this matter to the Department of Planning and Council is awaiting a final position.

b) Maintenance Schedule (*Berry Alliance*)

Community Representatives

The Berry Alliance asked how often maintenance is done for parks and gardens, in particular the garden beds in Queen Street, Berry, near the safety crossing. The Berry Alliance also thanked Council for the work done on the northern entrance to Berry.

Council

Mr Paterson advised that the gardens are serviced twice a month in summer, once a month in winter and mulched in June.

c) Creation of Additional Carparking (Berry Alliance)

Community Representatives

The Berry Alliance asked how to change the priority from creating new and expanding existing car parks in towns to creating, at the periphery of towns, more angle parking at appropriate locations and have these supported by good, wide, well lit footpaths with access to town centre. For example, North Street near the playing fields – wide road, provides extra parking for the town on busy days and overflow parking for the sporting fields. Also Victoria Street, outside the Showgrounds – wide road, provides extra parking for town on busy days and overflow parking for the Showgrounds for market days. Could Section 94 Contributions help or is there another way to get this done?

Council

Mr Royston advised that the option to park and walk is a consideration and over the years Council has acquired lands in Nowra and Ulladulla to provide for parking on the perimeter of the CBDs and these areas require good footpaths and lighting to promote attractiveness for fringe parking. There is still a great need for close turnover parking as this is what the shop owners want and in winter and at night it is preferable to park close by.

The current Section 94 Plan does provide for additional parking on the southern side of the Berry CBD. Council's approach to car parking is to prioritise sealed areas close to shops where there is a higher turnover and in areas such as Berry allow unsealed areas on the fringes to be used for overflow parking. Mr Royston advised that North Street, at this time, doesn't generate a priority for sealing as it is seen as an overflow area.

d) Carparking on Market Day (Berry Alliance)

Community Representatives

The Berry Alliance advised that on Market Day in Berry there is a community group that is charging for parking within the Showground and that the surrounding streets are choked because nobody wishes to pay the fee. Could Council address this issue?

ACTION: SPI to investigate and review the issue of a community group charging for parking in the Berry Showground on Market Day.

e) Kerb and Guttering Program – Funding (Berry Alliance)

Community Representatives

The Berry Alliance advised that there were still many streets in Berry that did not have kerb and guttering and people often park on the grass at all kinds of angles which inconveniences community members.

Council

Mr Royston advised the meeting that not all streets were suitable for kerb and guttering and that in some instances the natural unsealed approaches was more appropriate. The priority for kerb and guttering is given for drainage reasons and if community members want kerb and guttering in a particular area they can band together and, through a Ratepayers Advance system, organise for the construction to be done. The policy on Kerb and Guttering (Ratepayers Advance) is available on Council's Website under Policies.

f) Walking Trails (Berry Alliance)

Council

The meeting was advised that the draft Walking Track Strategy was currently on exhibition and all submissions would be reported to Council at the close of exhibition.

Mr Phillips informed the meeting that Council does have a booklet on walking tracks as it is often the primary or supplementary reason for visitors to the Shoalhaven. The Visitors Information Centres provide information, maps and brochures. Council has spent \$30,000 in maintenance on walking tracks over the last four years.

g) Fire Danger (Budgong Community Group)

Community Representatives

The Budgong Community Group expressed concerns on the need to provide visitors to the area with up to date fire danger information. It is felt that there is a need for more of the new RFS signs warning of the danger. It was suggested that solar powered, electronic signs could be useful in areas that can not be maintained efficiently.

Council

Mr Paterson advised that the RFS place signs where they know that someone will maintain the signs regularly, showing the correct fire danger rating. They are trying to improve communication within the community and Mr Phillip Paterson, of the RFS, can help with any enquiries.

ACTION: CS&O to talk to the RFS and pass on the community concerns regarding signage.

h) Maintenance – Coolangatta and Bolong Roads (Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum)

Community Representatives

The Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum expressed concerns on the lack of maintenance to road edges proving to be dangerous for cyclists. They explained that the road was in constant use by cyclists. Another concern raised was the multiple speed limits on the road.

Council

Mr Paterson advised the meeting that edge maintenance was still done but there are never enough resources to maintain areas all over the city. The constant bicycle use may form part of the criteria to consider this area as a higher priority. The RTA are responsible for the speed zones.

ACTION: CS&O to investigate raising the priority for edge maintenance on Coolangatta and Bolong Roads, Shoalhaven Heads.

i) Village Pool (Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum)

Community Representatives

The Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum asked if the duck problem at the local pool could be addressed and also expressed their willingness to assist with volunteers for the proposed increased opening hours. Another question was how do they go about getting heating for the pool.

Council

Mr Paterson advised that the issue of extended hours at the village pools was becoming an extremely complex issue and that a full report would be submitted to the next Crown Reserve, Community and Commercial Operations Committee. Council is keen to work with community members in regard to manning the pools and CCBs were advised that they should keep in contact with Jane Lewis, Council's Leisure Services Manager. He advised that heating of the pool might be achieved by funding with community grants and Ms Lewis could help them with that matter as well.

Staff advised that in regard to the duck problem it was a constant problem in other areas of the Shoalhaven as well. Ducks can be eliminated one day and back the next and there is not a great deal that can be done.

ACTION: Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum to keep in contact with Jane Lewis, 4429 3296, lewisj@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au in regard to the village pool.

j) Skate Park Litter (Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum)

Council

Mr Paterson explained that this was a problem at all the Skate parks and Council is trying to control the issue without much success. Apparently Callala Bay Bushcare Group have had a bit of success by working with the users.

Several suggestions were made including shutting the park down for a week to clean and advising the users that if they cannot keep it clean then constantly closing the park would be the only solution.

5. General Business

Crime Prevention Van

The Mayor advised the meeting that the Crime Prevention Van will be up and running by late November despite there being no funding from the State Government. An incorporated body will run the van along with the Police. Sponsorship has come from McDonalds and a local garage has donated 12 months of fuel.

Linear Accelerator

The LINAC will have raised \$1m for the linear accelerator by late November. The website www.southcoastcancercarecentre.com.au is going for a promotion of all churches contributing on the last Sunday of the month.

Police – Holiday Break

Extra police will be patrolling during the Christmas holiday break and they will be housed at Holiday Haven Tourist Parks. Council has made representation to the State Government for reimbursement.

Water Restrictions

Ms Carmel Krogh advised that Level One Water Restrictions would come into effect on 5th October 2009.

Water Main – Bolong Road

The Shoalhaven Heads Community Group advised of the need for a replacement of the water main on Bolong Road.

Action: SW to investigate the issue of water main in Bolong Road, Shoalhaven Heads.

SES Contacts

The Budgong Community Group advised that if you need to contact the SES you must go through to Corrimal, the regional office.

Amenities Maintenance Shoalhaven Heads

Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum advised that the amenities in River Road Park have not be cleaned in three weeks.

Action: CS&O to investigate amenities maintenance in Shoalhaven Heads.

Mr Pigg thanked Cirs Green and Guile for their attendance and input into the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12:12 pm.

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON