
MEETING NOTES

MEETING WITH ALL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE BODY EXECUTIVES

Monday 8th March 2010

Reception Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra.

The meeting commenced at 10.03am.

Apologies were received from Carmel Krogh, Noel Schneider and Clr Fergusson.

PRESENT

Russ Pigg – Chairperson

Clr Green

Clr Ward

Rob Donaldson – Assistant General Manager

Peter Dun – Director Finance and Corporate Services

Bill Paterson – Director City Services and Operations

Tim Fletcher – Director Development and Environmental Services

Peter Adams – Director Strategic Planning

Martin Uptis – Infrastructure Planning Manager

Gordon Clark – Strategy Planning Manager

James Harries – Senior Strategy Planning Officer

Margaret Day - Callala Beach Progress Association

Robyn Marlowe – Hyams Beach Villagers Association

Roy Easton – Orient Point Progress Association

Charlie Yates – Callala Bay Progress Association

Margaret Slorach - Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum

Peter Hudson – Red Head Villages Association

Maureen Webb – Basin Villages Forum

Peter Cumes – Currarong Progress Association

Jan Gregory – Ulladulla and Districts Community Forum

Margaret Kinsella – Hyams Beach Villages Association

Ken Jones – Vincentia Residents and Ratepayers Association

Jane Harris – Bawley Point and Kioloa Progress Association

Rae Howard Riley – Bawley Point/Kioloa Progress Association

Jack Kerr – Culburra Beach Progress Association

Max Ford – Culburra Beach Progress Association

Ron Vaughan – Get to the Point Greenwell Point

David Tarbert – Sussex Inlet Community Forum

Graham Quinton – Sussex Inlet Community Forum

Claire Shaw – Cambewarra Residents and Ratepayers Association

Roger Stebbings – Cambewarra Residents and Ratepayers Association

Leslie Lockwood – Huskisson/Woollamia Community Voice

Felicity Welsch - Tabourie Lake Ratepayers and Residents Association

Peter Mueller – Tabourie Lake Ratepayers and Residents Association

Alan Burrows – Huskisson/Woollamia Community Voice

Rick Gainford – Berry Alliance

Jem Horwood – Friends of 2538

John Lamont – Shoalhaven Business Chamber
Mark Corrigan – Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association
Pamela Webb – Basin View Forum
Ernie Dumpleton – Budgong Community Group

1. GENERAL MANAGER – RUSS PIGG

The Mr Pigg welcomed all attendees to the meeting advising of the structure the meeting would take and that it was not a meeting on localised issues. Presentations would be made and there will be time allowed for questions on each issue.

The Mr Pigg welcomed and introduced Peter Adams, Council's new Director of Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, to the meeting.

2. DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – TIM FLETCHER

a) Sea Level Rise – Impact on Development Applications

Mr Fletcher advised that he had prepared a presentation but time restraints meant it would be quicker to advise of the situation so he reinforced that Council had resolved to extend the submission period for DCP 118 – Areas of Coastal Management by two months and invited questions on the issue.

CCB COMMENTS

1. Is there anything that Council would change or add to DCP118?
2. Is Council going to take into account for Caravan Parks etc and their sewerage systems?
3. Are there any Insurance issues?
4. Are the sea levels monitored?
5. What implications will there be with the sea level rise and DCP118 on the Coastal Properties?

Mr Pigg brought the questions to a close.

COUNCIL

1. In summary there have been a number of submissions and questions about Council's policy approach and the impact on property values, there are clauses about removal of existing structures, but can we do something about sea level rise? There is no overnight solution and staff will still have to assess the Development Applications.
2. Council has completed a number of exercises and audits in relation to this.
3. There may well be insurance difficulties for affected properties. Council also has potential liability issues that it must consider. We are of the view that adopting a DCP will improve the situation for both Council and residents.

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4. Port Kembla is the closest sea level monitoring station and has been monitoring the changes for approximately 20 years.
 5. Coastal erosion studies have been done and the impact on flood level rise will be put into DCP118. The State Government have released a State Policy about Sea Level Rise and now that figures have been determined we can qualify the extent of the impact. The Shoalhaven has 109 beaches and Council is trying to create a Policy to address the issue and provide some certainty.

b) Signs Policy and Enforcement

Mr Fletcher advised that a Signs Policy had been in place for some time now and that there is concerns regarding the proliferation of unauthorised signs. Staff are attempting to investigate unauthorised development and Council has taken recent action relating to signs in Huskisson. Mr Fletcher stated that insufficient resources, unfortunately, made enforcing compliance difficult.

CCB COMMENTS

1. Mr Gainford, from the Berry Alliance, acknowledged staff and Mr Pigg and thanked them for ensuring this item was placed on the Agenda. He advised that their group have contacted Real Estate Agents directly about the signs being placed in dangerous places and have also talked with the local Chamber of Commerce.
2. Some CCB's have received more complaints about dogs and signs.
3. Signs on telegraph poles, in particular garage sale signs that are not removed, are of real concern.
4. Signs being placed on private property are a different issue again.

3. DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS – BILL PATERSON

a) Waste Services

Mr Paterson advised that the Waste Contracts end in June 2010 and Council have tendered for a new Waste Management Contract. A large trial of an alternative waste management system was completed at Greenwell Point in 2009. The Tender is very complex and Council is coming to the end of the evaluation process.

b) Policy on Street Bins and Public Recycling

Mr Paterson advised the meeting that these types of systems are largely ineffective unless there is extremely tight control of what goes into the bins. Most of the material in such bins goes to landfill. The meeting was then open for questions and comments.

CCB QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

1. Why was Greenwell Point chosen for the three Bin Trial?
2. What would happen to the waste if it were to flood at Greenwell Point?
3. Cllr Ward requested clarification on how much Community Consultation took place?
4. What knowledge/influence has been gained from the study at Greenwell Point?

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5. Are there any services locally for recycling electronic waste?
 6. Concerns were raised that at Vincentia there are many holiday rentals and the tenants are putting the bins out too early for collection.
 7. Could the public street bins in Mollymook be collected every week in the tourist season?
 8. Do commercial shop keepers receive a yellow and red bin?

Ron Vaughan from Greenwell Point thanked Mr Paterson for the talk and advised that there was a very good response from the residents of Greenwell Point.

Over the Christmas/New Year break there was much more garbage in the Community Bins.

Rick Gainford advised that the Berry Alliance has a "Green page" in the Community Paper about green waste and it would be a good idea if they could have information on how to dispose of electronic waste.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

1. Staff advised that 18 months ago letters were sent to 320 community organisations advising them of the availability of Waste Services staff to attend a meetings to discuss the Shoalhaven Waste Management Systems. Staff visited the organisations who responded and roadshows were organised in relation to this. 85% of the Residents at Greenwell Point were positive towards this trial.
2. Staff advised that taking into consideration the amount of building damage etc that would occur in a flood of that size the waste bin contribution would be insignificant.
3. Mr Paterson reiterated that letters were sent out, staff visited the CCB's and other organisations and also went to their meetings. Roadshows were conducted at public venues as this was a preferable option to public meetings as the public meetings tended to attract very few residents.
4. Following the study/trial 85% of the residents of Greenwell Point wanted the new bin system.
5. The Federal Government is investigating a provider responsibility system for electronic waste but at present all the costs fall back on Local Government. Council knows of one business in the Shoalhaven in regard to electronic waste recycling.
6. Property owners need to contact Real Estate Agents who they are leasing the property through and make other arrangements for bin collection.
7. Staff advised that in the busy tourist season collection of bins was more frequent in the tourist areas.
8. Upon request, shop keepers can have both bins.

Clr Green advised that in the current system there are waste targets that are required and at the next ordinary meeting there will be a decision.

4. DIRECTOR FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES – PETER DUN

a) Rating / Budget – Some Key Drivers

Mr Dun advised the meeting of the following points:

- It is going to be a tough year and to complete more projects throughout the City we need to find more money. There are so many things we need to do and very little money to do it.
- Council is having its first Budget Briefing tonight.
- State Government advised Local Government of how much money they are allowed to raise.
- Rates will be going up 2.6%. Water and Sewerage charges are on a separate Rates notice.
- Council receives a grant every year from NSW Local Government Grants Commission, this year we are receiving the same amount as what we received in 2003. The reason for this is the valuation of properties and the price of Real Estate has gone up more than some other area's in NSW such as Bathurst and Wagga Wagga. There is new Legislation in Development and Environmental Services and a range of other things that are effecting the budget.
- The public meetings regarding Council's Budget/ Draft Management Plan have been scheduled as follows:
 - i. Wednesday 12th May 2010 – Ulladulla Civic Centre
 - ii. Monday 17th May 2010 – Huskisson Community Centre
 - iii. Wednesday 19th May 2010 – City Administrative Centre, Nowra
- The total Budget for next year is \$275,000,000
- The Community Strategic Plan is on Public Exhibition

b) Long Term Financial Plan and Capital Works

Mr Dun advised the following points:

- It is important to be aware of Council's long term plan for years to come
- From Fiscal Star Ratings, Shoalhaven City Council was the only Council on the South Coast that was sustainable.
- Each part of the City will have an opportunity to give their ideas on where Council needs to spend the budget.
- The Operational and Management Plan will be clear on what Council has planned for years to come.

CCB QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The value of land has risen. Are there any recommendations to disband the current formula to determine property rates?

The community needs assurance that Council will show how much revenue is gained/lost from sale of properties. eg Comberton Grange.

COUNCIL

There have been recommendations made to Council, however, consultation with the community over the budget will proceed through the exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan where opportunities for comment/submissions will be available.

c) Communications Protocols – Email

CCB COMMENTS

It was suggested by the Berry Alliance that Council should provide **all** correspondence to CCB's by email with a hard copy sent as well for those CCBs that are not able to receive emails. An electronic copy is faster, easier to disseminate and easier to advertise in community newspapers and web sites. Further, where there is an item communicated to a CCB the direct link/address should be provided. Some sections of Council do this and it makes it a lot easier for people to find the item on a very large Council web site.

COUNCIL

All sections of Council endeavour to reply to all correspondence in the format the correspondence was received in, for example, reply via email for faster response, reply via letter for those that do not have access to email etc.

5. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER – ROB DONALDSON

a) Community Strategic Plan

COUNCIL

Mr Donaldson gave a verbal update and also distributed hard copies of information on the Draft Community Strategic Plan.

In relation to the Community Strategic Plan the following points were raised by Mr Donaldson:

- The Draft Community Strategic Plan is on exhibition until 10th March 2010, following two earlier consultation phases in 2009. The Community Strategic Plan is available on Council's website.
- Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association was the only CCB that made a submission in the Phase 2 engagement period.
- The elected Council had some different views on the vision for the Community Strategic Plan, and the responses from community and staff also appear quite evenly split on which vision is a better representation of where we want to be in the future
- Council is a "Group 1" Council, for the Department of Local Government "Integrated & Reporting" requirements and is keen to finalise the Community Strategic Plan, so that it can keep shape in the 2010/2011 financial year.

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- Reporting of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan is underway and that will provide further detail to help deliver the Community Strategic Plan. Council staff are also working on a Resourcing Strategy.
 - The Delivery Program/Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy will be available for consultation and information respectively, in May 2010, together with the Draft Budget.
 - Long Term Financial Planning is part of the Resourcing Strategy. The resourcing focus is on sustainability of services, assets and new activities over the long term.
 - Each of the key documents will include measures of progress, on which Council will report both internally and externally.

CCB QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- The Orient Point Progress Association raised the issue of forward planning, setting priorities and how the Progress Association can effectively contribute and represent local community views.
- It was suggested that feedback on the Community Strategic Plan be kept open until the two other documents are available so they can be read together.
- In the Community Strategic Plan there is a mixture of very general terms and very specific terms, it is a very difficult plan to read and very complex.
- The CCB's only meet monthly and the timeframe is too tight for some to be able to get their members' responses and then make submissions.

COUNCIL

- It is a 10 year plan, and before the next Local Government Election the current Council will need to report on what has been achieved. The two (2) key messages are, its about integration and after Phase 3 consultation closes, Council will consider a revised form of the Community Strategic Plan, to be adopted.
- As a group one (1) Council we need to be finished the process by the end of the Financial Year, 30 June 2010.

6. DIRECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE – PETER ADAMS

a) Growth Management Strategy/Local Environment Plan/Development Control Plan

COUNCIL

- # Mr Clark – Strategy Planning Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Growth Management Strategy, Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan, a copy of which is attached.

CCB QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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1. How are the CCB's to understand the documents and make submissions in 8-10 weeks?
 - Building heights were raised as an issue.
 2. Will some of the zonings be affected?

COUNCIL

1. It will be a minimum of 8-10 weeks depending on what other projects are being exhibited and the time of year, Staff will make a call on the timeframe, it could be ultimately extended to three (3) – four (4) months. The amendments from the 1985 LEP will be incorporated into the new LEP
2. The LEP will change the form and content of the zoning of all properties. This is a consequence of the standard LEP instrument format.
 - In relation to the Amendment No. 29 Manyana, Council is in discussion with the Government to keep the current plan provisions.
 - Peter Adams advised that Council will endeavour to make reasonable timeframes for submissions to the documents.
 - Mr Clark advised that the current height limit is 11m. Throughout the draft plan however exceptions to this are shown on signs at Huskisson, Nowra and Ulladulla. Council will consider raising this if needed as a result of submissions received.

b) Contributions Plan

COUNCIL

James Harris gave a PowerPoint Presentation in relation to this matter, a copy of which is attached that covered the following points:

- Development Contributions will take effect 1st July 2010.
- The Roadshow will demonstrate how the document works.
- The new plan will be linked to the website.
- The draft document will go on exhibition.

CCB QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

It was requested that the Mobile Library have a computer facility available for the use of downloading the documents.

COUNCIL

It was suggested that staff could investigate the possibility of a computer that is able view documents rather than downloading from a website.

ACTION: SPI to investigate installation of a computer in the Mobile Library to view Council documents

7. DIRECTOR SHOALHAVEN WATER – CARMEL KROGH (represented by RUSS PIGG)

a) Pricing “in general”

COUNCIL

Russ Pigg gave a quick update of the current situation with water and sewerage. (presentation attached).

- The Bush Care Action Plan time for submissions is coming to a close
- The complaints Policy and Procedure is on exhibition
- The Dog Off Leash Area’s has received a lot of interest, however its not on exhibition yet.
- The prices for Water and Sewerage will be recommended to Council and the information will be part of the Management Plan
- The Sewerage pricing path has been driven by the major capital works program and this causes the price increases.
- The Kangaroo Valley Community Association received many questions about the Kangaroo Valley sewerage therefore an updated newsletter will be sent out on the progress.

GENERAL BUSINESS

It was requested by the CCBs that both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the presentations given at the meeting be provided when the meeting notes are sent out

ACTION: F&CS to ensure electronic and hard copies of the presentations be provided when the meeting notes are forwarded to the CCBs.

Russ Pigg thanked Councillors, the CCBs and staff for their input and attendance and expressed his hope that the meeting was beneficial for all involved.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12.35pm.

Russ Pigg
CHAIRPERSON