



## **Notice of Ballina Shire Council Aboriginal Community Committee Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that an Aboriginal Community Committee Meeting of Ballina Shire Council will be held in the Ballina Shire Tucker Room (Committee Room), 40 Cherry Street Ballina on **Thursday 14 August 2014 commencing at 5.00 pm.**

### **Business**

1. Nomination of Chair for this Meeting
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Matters Arising from last Meeting
  - a) Aboriginal Welcome Statement
6. Deputations
7. General Business
  - a) Coastal Pathways Project
  - b) Community Projects
  - c) Proposed Ballina Major Regional Centre Strategy
  - d) NSW Heritage Grants Funding Offer - Aboriginal Heritage Project
  - e) Cabbage Tree Island Road Infrastructure
8. Business Without Notice
9. Council Documents on Exhibition
10. Next Meeting
11. Meeting Closure

Access to the meeting room is via the ramp off Cherry Street. The main access to the Council's Customer Service Centre is closed at this time.

**Paul Hickey**  
**General Manager**

1. **Nomination of Chair for this Meeting**

The Committee has previously determined its preference to having a rotating Chair for each meeting. It is recommended that a Chair be nominated for this meeting.

2. **Attendance and Apologies**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2014 were distributed to members on 23 April 2014. A copy of the Minutes is attached to the Agenda.

Note: Whilst a meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on 12 June, that meeting did not proceed due to a lack of participants.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee confirms the Minutes of the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee meeting held on 16 April 2014.

5. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

a) ***Aboriginal Welcome Statement***

At the meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2014, members discussed a report which had been presented by staff concerning the wording of Welcome or Acknowledgement statements. These statements are included in various reports and in promotional literature produced by Council from time to time. The Committee was invited to review the draft which was presented, and either endorse it or offer alternative suggestions for the wording.

A copy of the draft presented by staff at that meeting is reproduced here:

**Welcome / Acknowledgement Statement**

*Council respectfully acknowledges the past and present Bundjalung Elders of the Ballina Shire area and pays its respects to their descendants as the traditional custodians of this land. Council also acknowledges that, as indigenous people, Bundjalung people hold a unique place in our shire.*

*Bundjalung custodianship of the Ballina Shire area dates back many thousands of generations. Together with all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the Bundjalung people are part of the oldest and continuing culture in the world.*

*The shire has important Bundjalung cultural heritage sites and areas that contribute to our unique history as a place. Heritage sites and areas remain important to the identity and culture of the shire's Aboriginal community today. Appreciating the*

*importance of the historic and contemporary landscape to the shire's Bundjalung people enhances all our experience of the shire.*

*Bundjalung community members contribute to our shire in many ways. Elders nurture and educate their families, as well as serve roles as leaders within their community and at significant broader community events. Aboriginal people are also strongly represented in our creative industries sector and sport.*

*Bundjalung community members work across many occupations, including within the government sector, to improve services to the Aboriginal community. A number of Aboriginal initiated and managed Aboriginal community organisations also work towards improving employment, health and access to services for Aboriginal people.*

*Council is committed to working with the shire's Aboriginal community representatives, including young people, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Bundjalung history, heritage and culture. This, in turn, enhances the status and well-being of Aboriginal people and builds the broader community's optimism for a strong and respectful future together.'*

At that meeting, members present agreed with the submitted wording, but requested that the word "Bundjalung", wherever occurring, be replaced by the word "Nyangbul".

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 February were presented for confirmation at the subsequent meeting of the Committee held on 16 April. At that meeting, members adopted the Minutes with the exception of the item relating to the Welcome/Acknowledgement statement. Members indicated that they wished to have more discussion regarding this matter.

As a means of encouraging further discussion, staff have prepared an alternative draft Welcome/Acknowledgement statement, a copy of which is as follows:

Welcome / Acknowledgement Statement (2<sup>nd</sup> proposal)

*Jungi Wahla – or Welcome – to the Ballina Shire, being the traditional Nyangbul Country of the greater regional cultural identity of Bundjalung people.*

*Ballina Shire Council, on behalf of its residents, respectfully acknowledges past and present Nyangbul and Bundjalung Elders and pays respects to their descendants as the traditional custodians of this land. The Council also acknowledges that, as Indigenous (or first) people, Nyangbul people hold a unique place in this shire.*

*As part of the Bundjalung cultural group, Nyangbul custodianship of the Ballina Shire area dates back many thousands of generations. Together with all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the Nyangbul people are part of the oldest and continuing culture in the world.*

*The shire has important Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and places that contribute significantly to our area's unique history. These heritage sites and places remain very important to the identity and culture of the shire's Aboriginal community. Continuing to*

*appreciate the importance of the past and present cultural landscape of the shire's Aboriginal people enhances all our experience of the shire.*

*The Council is committed to working with the shire's Aboriginal community representatives, including young people, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history, heritage and culture. Aboriginal community members contribute to our shire in many ways as we all work with a common purpose of a strong and respectful future, together.*

As with the former proposed draft, it is noted that the words within the statement (if found to be satisfactory) might vary slightly from time to time. This is because the statement may be used for a range of different publications, from very formal and structured legal or technical reports to "lighter" type material, including tourism and promotional literature about the shire.

Importantly, the key elements of the statement would not be changed, once endorsed by the Committee. That is, the joint reference to the Bundjalung Nation and the relationship with the Nyangbul people (if this is what is determined as being appropriate) would remain the same.

**Submitted for discussion and recommendation to the General Manager.**

## **6. Deputations**

NIL.

## **7. General Business**

### **a) Coastal Pathways Project**

Council's Engineering Works Manager, Paul Busmanis and consultant, Ian Fox will be in attendance at the meeting to inform on progress concerning this important community project.

### **b) Community Projects**

Council is routinely involved in a range of projects which involve members of our Aboriginal community, often by way of partnership.

The following list, and the accompanying media items, are intended to provide Committee members with a 'snapshot' of the various occasions on which community and Council have been working together in recent months in areas of mutual interest.

### Communication and promotion of collaboration projects

Communication through our local media and Council's newsletter, Community Connect, assists in promoting and raising awareness of projects in which Council and our local Aboriginal community work together.

The following media was produced by Ballina Shire Council between January and July 2014.

- Foyer Art Project – Council's recognition of Aboriginal cultural values in the Shire (Community Connect, April 2014 – page 10)
- Introducing our Local Heroes – Arts Cultural Award – Digby Moran (Community Connect, April 2014 – page 14)
- NAIDOC Week 2014 Exhibition – Entries Close Soon (Media Release – 23 May 2014)
- NAIDOC Week Exhibition at the Gallery (Media Release – 24 June 2014)
- NAIDOC Week in Ballina Shire (Media Release – 27 June 2014)
- Object of the Story wins at the Local Government Arts and Culture Awards (Community Connect, July 2014 – page 1)
- NAIDOC Week 2014 – Upcoming Event (Community Connect, July 2014 – page 8)
- NAIDOC Week 2014 – Group Exhibition at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina (Community Connect, July 2014 – page 11)
- Public Art Work – Chickiba Lake Wastewater Pumping Station (Community Connect, July 2014 – page 21)
- NAIDOC Week 2014 – Serving Country : Centenary and Beyond Exhibition at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina (Exhibition flyer and poster – July 2014)
- Ballina Shire celebrating NAIDOC Week Banner (Banner erected at Missingham Amphitheatre and Community Event Signage Poles, West Ballina – 23 June to Friday 11 July).

This report is submitted for the information of Committee members.

### **c) Proposed Ballina Major Regional Centre Strategy**

Ballina has been identified as an emerging regional centre under the State Government's Far North Coast Regional Strategy. It has been predicted that the rate of population growth and associated development which has been experienced in past years in Ballina Shire will continue. Factors such as rapid growth in South East Queensland, and improved transport linkages (including through expansion of services through the Ballina/Byron Gateway Airport) will contribute to this continued growth.

Given the above, Council has embarked on a project to prepare a strategy which will provide guidance on how Ballina may adapt over the next twenty years to respond to the projected changes. The challenge will be to take advantage of the opportunities presented by growth whilst ensuring that the environmental, cultural and social values which are appreciated by our current community are not compromised.

This report is intended to alert Committee members that the project has recently commenced, and that it will continue over the next eighteen months. Individuals and community groups will have a number of opportunities to have input to the project. Further information may be obtained by contacting Council staff.

Submitted for the information of the Committee.

#### **d) NSW Heritage Grants Funding Offer - Aboriginal Heritage Project**

Council has recently received notification that the Minister for Heritage has approved a Council application for grant funds through the Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Places Program, subject to completion of a project plan that is agreed to by the OEH. These funds are to go towards the Bundjalung Cultural Ways Interpretation Project.

Through engagement with our Aboriginal community, the project aims to develop, design and install a range of interpretation materials along the Ballina – Lennox Head coastal recreational pathway that tell the stories of local Aboriginal people's cultural connection to this part of Ballina Shire's iconic coastline.

Staff are currently in the process of developing a project plan and communication schedule for the project. It is a requirement of the funding offer that the project must be completed by mid 2015.

The project is being administered through Council's Strategic and Community Facilities Group. Further information will be provided to the committee as the project progresses.

#### **e) Cabbage Tree Island Road Infrastructure**

Council's Road Safety Officer attends regular meetings with the Ballina Transport Working Group, which is chaired by the Northern Rivers Social Development Council and supported by Transport for NSW. The working group includes community transport providers, and the matter of bridge and road conditions on Cabbage Tree Island has been raised by the service providers during recent meetings.

It is Council's understanding that over the years the State Government has improved facilities at Cabbage Tree Island, including water supply, wastewater disposal, housing, community buildings, roads and bridge maintenance and the like. Council has been involved with these projects either from a planning and approval process, through to providing construction services when resources are available. More recently, Council has had an agreement with NSW Office of Water to provide operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater infrastructure on a fee for service basis, and this will be extended into the future.

Infrastructure on Cabbage Tree Island, such as roads, access bridge, stormwater, housing, community buildings is not owned or maintained by Council, and are not Council assets.

## **8. Business Without Notice**

This item provides an opportunity for updates and / or questions to be presented by the members.

## **9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The following is a list of recent documents that have been placed on exhibition for public comment in the period since the last meeting.

- Local Directional Signage within Road Reserves
- Cumalum Precinct B Urban Area Proposal to Adjust Locality Boundaries and Create and Name a New Locality
- Investments Policy (Draft Review)
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy (Draft Review)
- Kerbside Waste Bin Entitlement Policy (New)

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 9 October 2014.

## **11. Meeting Closure**