



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 Tuckeroo Room (Committee Room), 40 Cherry Street Ballina on **Thursday 09 April 2015 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

6. Deputations
 - a) Proposed Public Art Program

7. General Business
 - a) Responsible Pet Ownership
 - b) NAIDOC Week Planning
 - c) Coastal Pathways Project
 - d) Cabbage Tree Island 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 Thursday 12 February 2015 were distributed to members on 26 February 2015. A copy of the Minutes is contained within the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee confirms the Minutes of the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee meeting held on 12 February 2015.

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TUCKEROO ROOM IN COUNCIL'S
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2015**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Lois Cook – Elder
Troy Anderson – John Cook Foundation
Marcus Ferguson – Community member
Susan Anderson – John Cook Foundation (alt)

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright
Councillor Sue Meehan
Councillor Keith Williams
Councillor Jeff Johnson

Others in Attendance

Marcia Anderson
Steve Barnier, Ballina Shire Council
Paul Busmanis, Ballina Shire Council
Ian Fox, Ballina Shire Council consultant

Apologies

Nita Roberts, Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative
Carmel Kapeen – Richmond Community Options, Ballina
Samantha Anderson – Community member
Mark Moore – Bullinah Aboriginal Health Services

2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Lois Cook was nominated to chair the meeting and she duly accepted the role.

3. Declarations of Interest

Marcus Ferguson noted a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council. Marcus is an active member of that organisation.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11 December 2014 were accepted, by consensus, as a correct record of that meeting.

5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations to the meeting.

7. General Business

- a) *Proposed Upgrade of the Pacific Highway, Woolgoolga to Ballina –*
The General Manager, Pacific Highway Upgrade for the NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Mr Bob Higgins and several of his colleagues attended the meeting and provided the Committee with a status report for this project.

In particular, Mr Higgins' presentation focussed on Section 10 of the project, being the length of the proposed route in the vicinity of Wardell. He spoke about the technical issues which were assessed prior to final route selection, the terms of the approvals which have been issued and the actions that are now being taken to respond to the conditions attached to those approvals.

Dr Steve Phillips, who has now been engaged by the RMS, provided additional and more detailed comments about the extensive work he and other experts are now doing to ensure that adverse impacts to Koala and other native fauna species will be minimized as the project proceeds.

Dr Phillips stated that in his very considerable experience, the level of assessment being applied to understand the local Koala population is unprecedented for a public infrastructure project of this kind.

Committee members were most appreciative of the information which the RMS representatives were able to provide.

- b) *Coastal Pathways Projects –* Council's Engineering Works Manager, Paul Busmanis and consultant, Ian Fox presented information regarding the status of these projects.

Shared Pathway West stages 1 and 2 (Coast Road and Skennars Head Road sections) are now complete and stage 3 (North Creek Road section) will commence soon.

The Coastal Recreation Pathway (east side of Coast Road) stage 1 work is imminent. The Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment and the draft Cultural Heritage Assessment are being finalised in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties. These assessments will evaluate both the approved route in the vicinity of Flat Rock Tent Park and the proposed minor deviation which the Council has asked to be investigated.

Liaison with the Registered Aboriginal Parties is continuing in relation to the content of the interpretative material to be incorporated into the Aboriginal Cultural Ways Project.

- c) *Proposed Locality Naming* – Noting that this matter had been presented to the Committee at two prior meetings, members were again asked for potential locality naming suggestions for this future urban growth area. Regrettably, no names were suggested.

Members asked for one additional week, within which they would liaise with community members to discuss this proposal, and get back to Council. No additional information was presented at the end of this further period.

- d) *Proposed Public Art Program* – The Committee briefly discussed the approach made by Ms Samantha Wortelhock to attend a meeting of this Committee to outline her interest in initiating a public art program within Ballina Shire. She has a keen desire to work with our local Aboriginal community in the planning and delivery of this project.

The Committee agreed to invite Ms Wortelhock to the next meeting, for further discussion.

- e) *Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan* – Steve Barnier advised of the preliminary work Council staff is undertaking in support of this project. It is proposed that material will be gathered as a means of presenting a preliminary draft document to a forthcoming meeting of the Committee, for its consideration.
- f) *Naming of the Rooms at the Ballina Surf Club* – Steve Barnier outlined the steps that Council has undertaken to adopt names for the function rooms within the Ballina Surf Club building at Lighthouse Beach.

8. Business Without Notice

- a) *Meeting Attendance by Committee Members* – Members present expressed disappointment at the consistently low number of attendees at Committee meetings. It was requested that a letter be written to all members of the Committee in an attempt to encourage participation by community members who nominated to be part of this engagement process with Council.
- b) *NAIDOC Week* – Members expressed a strong view that they wished to be actively involved in the coordination of this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations in Ballina Shire.

It was agreed that information will be presented to the next meeting to enable planning to commence.

- c) *Strong Aboriginal Men (SAM)* – Just prior to the meeting, Council staff had been contacted by representatives from NSW Health Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) who are conducting a program of workshops designed to support Aboriginal men to identify and respond to issues of domestic violence and child protection within their communities.

Details of the workshops to be conducted locally were contained in a brochure provided to ECAV, a copy of which was distributed to each Committee member.

9. Council Documents on Exhibition

The Council documents which have recently been on public exhibition for community feedback were noted.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 9 April 2015.

Agendas will be distributed to Committee members prior to that meeting. Any matters which members wish to have considered for inclusion in the next Agenda should be emailed or notified to Council by Friday 27 March 2015.

11. Meeting close

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.55pm.

5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

NIL.

6. Deputations

a) Proposed Public Art Program

At its most recent meeting, the Committee considered a proposal submitted by Ms Samantha Wortelhock to implement a public art program within Ballina Shire. The Committee agreed to invite Ms Wortelhock to attend this meeting, where she will be available to present her proposal in greater detail.

7. General Business

a) Responsible Pet Ownership

In April 2014 the Committee received and considered a report concerning responsible pet ownership. Staff in attendance at that meeting advised the Committee that Council was applying for grant funding to conduct a de-sexing program for dogs on Cabbage Tree Island. Committee members indicated their strong support for this program. Regrettably, Council's grant application was unsuccessful.

However, Council has recently been approached by Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) requesting in-kind support to assist that organisation to implement a de-sexing and healthcare program for companion animals within the Cabbage Tree Island community. NRAS has received a financial grant from the Bayer Cares Foundation to undertake this program. Council's Rangers will be providing in-kind support in terms of planning and delivery.

It is anticipated that program organisers will now liaise with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council to arrange details, with the program expected to be completed by the end of July this year.

The Project Coordinator, Ms Denise Matthews from NRAS and Council's Ranger, Joe Sabine will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss this matter.

SUBMITTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

b) NAIDOC Week Planning

At the most recent meeting of the Committee, members expressed their strong desire to be actively involved in planning the arrangements for our shire's 2015 NAIDOC Week celebrations. This year, NAIDOC Week is scheduled for the period 5 to 12 July with the theme being "We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate".

Given this relatively short timeframe, it is important that programming for proposed events and the allocation of tasks/responsibilities be organised at the earliest opportunity. As a means of assisting the Committee, Council staff members who have been key coordinators of past years' NAIDOC Week planning will be in attendance at this meeting.

To assist members, a copy of the 2014 NAIDOC program of activities is attached for your information.

BALLINA SHIRE NAIDOC WEEK – 2014 Program of Activities and Costings

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION & TIME	DETAILS	ORGANISER	COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION (\$)
Friday 27 June – Sunday 13 July	Installation of 2 x NAIDOC Week signs & main street flags	- Cnr Bangalow Rd & Cherry Streets - Cnr Barlow's Road & River Street, West Ballina River Street, Ballina	'Ballina Shire celebrating NAIDOC WEEK' – in Aboriginal flag colours & national logo	Ballina Shire Council	Install & pack down \$625 Total Contribution: \$625
Wednesday 2 July – Sunday 13 July	NAIDOC Art Exhibition	Northern Rivers Community Gallery		Northern Rivers Community Gallery in partnership with Bunjum Culture Matters	Gallery Hire \$600 Advertising \$250 Install materials \$90 Install contractors \$564 Total Contribution: \$1504
Saturday 5 July	Church Service	4pm Jali LALC Health Post	Workshop and Healing	Carolyn Roberts Lynette Bolt	No assistance required.
Sunday 6 July	Launch NAIDOC Art Exhibition	1pm to 3pm Northern Rivers Community Gallery	NAIDOC Exhibition Light refreshments provided	Northern Rivers Community Gallery in partnership with Tania Marlowe from Bunjum	Catering \$300 Total Contribution: \$300
Monday 7 July	NAIDOC celebration walk	Assemble at Grant Street outside Ballina RSL Club. Walk along River Street to Ballina Visitor Information Centre. 11am assemble for an 11.30am start. Followed by the official flag raising ceremony, kid's activities and free BBQ in the Visitors Centre carpark (section of the carpark closed).	The whole community is encouraged to participate by joining the walk along River Street, followed by Welcome to Country, speeches and dance performance. Morning tea will be provided for elders and adults at the Richmond Room.	Ballina Shire Council in partnership with Bullinah Goori Services Action Group	Traffic Control \$1564 (main street) Part carpark closure \$330 (VIC) Electrician – no charge Richmond Room Hire \$153 (including use of tables) Catering \$1,245 Marquees (3) \$165 (flag raising) Marquees (6) \$330 (carpark area) Labour \$450 40 plastic chairs & table cloths \$233 Traffic closure notice \$121 Waste Management \$90 Total Contribution: \$4681

BALLINA SHIRE NAIDOC WEEK– 2014 Program of Activities and Costings

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION & TIME	DETAILS	ORGANISER	COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION (\$)
Tuesday 8 July	NAIDOC Sports Day	10am to 1pm Kingsford Smith Park, Ballina	Development games and skills clinic Lunch provided.	NSW Sport & Recreation Lennox Head in partnership with Les Roberts - Bunjum Goori Sports Officer	Marquee Hire (6) \$330 Labour set up and pack down \$143 8 tables – Council inventory (no charge) 20 plastic chairs \$82 Waste bins \$90 Richmond Room Hire (back up venue) \$153 Total Contribution: \$798
Wednesday 9 July	Children and Family NAIDOC Celebration Day	10am – 2pm Ballina Aboriginal Child and Family Centre, West Ballina	Free fun day, with arts and craft, music, kids' education, awareness, sand art, face painting. Free giveaway bags, games, information stalls for children services, sausage sizzle, elder's tent.	Ballina Aboriginal Child and Family Centre	No assistance required. Richmond Room Hire (back up venue) \$153 Total Contribution: \$153
Thursday 10 July	Bunjum Music and Cultural Festival	11am – 2pm Ballina Amphitheatre	Free entertainment, activities for children, information stalls, free sausage sizzle, elder's tent.	Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative	Marquee Hire (8) \$440 Labour \$420 50 plastic chars \$150 10 tables - Council inventory (no charge) Waste bins \$90 Electrician – No charge Richmond Room Hire (back up venue) \$153 Total Contribution: \$1253
Total Contribution					\$9314

c) **Coastal Pathways Projects**

Council's Engineering Works Manager, Paul Busmanis and consultant, Ian Fox will be in attendance at the meeting to provide Committee members with a status report concerning these projects.

d) **Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure**

Members may recall that at its meeting in August last year, the Committee asked that Council write to the Member of Ballina, Mr Don Page requesting that he make representations to the appropriate Minister/s seeking improved maintenance to roads on Cabbage Tree Island and the access bridge. As the Committee is aware, these are State Government, rather than Ballina Shire Council assets.

A letter from Council was forwarded to Mr Page on 21 August 2014, and a letter of reply was received on 3 September 2014, in which Mr Page advised he had taken the matters up with the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In the absence of any further advice, Council staff followed the matter up with Mr Page's office on 12 March. The advice received is that, as the NSW Government is currently in "caretaker mode" (at the time of finalising this report) leading up to the election, no information is available from the relevant agency which is responsible for Cabbage Tree Island infrastructure.

Staff will continue to follow the matter up.

SUBMITTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE

8. Business Without Notice

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

- Liquid Trade Waste Policy
- Donations - Waste Disposal Fees for Not-for-Profit Disposal of Feral Orphan Animals
- Urban Vegetation and Tree Management on Public Land (reviewed version)
- Urban Vegetation and Tree Management on Public Land (current version)

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 11 June 2015.

11. Meeting Closure