

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN COUNCIL'S  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE  
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2015**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Members

Susan Anderson, Numbahjing Clan Native Title  
Marcus Ferguson, Community Member  
Nita Roberts, Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd  
Carmel Kapeen, Community Member

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Priscilla Sutor, Numbahjing Clan  
Desmond Anderson, Numbahjing Clan  
Samantha Wortelhock, Clean Slate / Breakaway Art  
Michela Brown, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Robyn Mostyn, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Denise Matthews, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Joe Sabine, Ballina Shire Council  
Steve Barnier, Ballina Shire Council  
Paul Busmanis, Ballina Shire Council  
Ian Fox, Ballina Shire Council consultant  
Holly Archibald, Ballina Shire Council  
Roberto Kenk, Ballina Shire Council  
Fiona King, Ballina Shire Council

Apologies

Councillor Susan Meehan  
Sandra Bolt, JALI LALC  
Mark Moore, Bullinah AHS

**2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting**

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Marcus Ferguson was nominated to chair the meeting and he 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 12 February 2015 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**

##### *a) Proposed Public Art Program*

Ms Samantha Wortelhock provided an overview of her artistic career achievements and expressed her desire to work with our local Aboriginal community in undertaking a mural program within the shire.

Committee members expressed their in-principle support for the proposal, subject to details of the program being determined and funding sources established.

Ms Wortelhock was thanked for her presentation and was encouraged to pursue her proposal through further community consultation.

#### **7. General Business**

##### *a) Responsible Pet Ownership*

Representatives from Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) and Council's Ranger, Joe Sabine provided an overview of the animal welfare program that is proposed for implementation on Cabbage Tree Island over the next few months.

The Service and Council will be working in collaboration with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and local veterinarians, with details of the program to be provided through community consultation sessions.

Importantly, the checking and treatment sessions for domestic pets will also be supported by an educational program through Cabbage Tree Island School.

Committee members expressed their support for this initiative and their appreciation for the wonderful work undertaken by NRAS.

##### *b) NAIDOC Week Planning*

Committee members and others present discussed planning for Ballina Shire's 2015 NAIDOC Week celebrations, due to be held between 5 and 12 July.

Members noted information contained in an email from Nancy Walke, representing the Bullinah Goori Services Action Group, which outlined consultation arrangements which have been put in place to encourage discussion within community concerning NAIDOC Week.

Due to the lead time and prior approvals required to conduct the annual celebration walk, the Committee agreed to tentatively “lock in” this for Monday 6 July pending confirmation at the consultation sessions, which are scheduled for 22 and 29 April.

A copy of the 2014 NAIDOC Week program was available and reviewed by those present. Generally, it was seen as providing a good basis for discussion in developing this year’s activities. However, confirmation will be sought through the planned community consultation, with a report brought back to the Committee’s next meeting.

*c) Coastal Pathways Projects*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox explained the staged progress of the Shared Path and Coastal Recreational Path (CRP) projects.

The shared path project (west of the Coast Road) has been completed for the section along the Coast Road (north of Angels Beach roundabout) and along Skennars Head Road. The section along North Creek Road has recently commenced. The cultural heritage assessments (CHA) for these sections have been completed, and represents the staged progression with completion of assessments for the entire project.

The CHA for the current section of the CRP between Angels Beach and Sharpes Beach has been completed without receiving the promised responses from one of the three Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP). It was noted two of the RAPs had provided good feedback which forms part of the CHA, and the CHA would be submitted as-is to OEH and also to make the AHIP application for the East Ballina Aboriginal Place (EBAP). Any response from the remaining RAP would be welcome when received.

It was confirmed to Susan Anderson that the response was being promised by Troy Anderson. Susan undertook to review the CHA material and organise a prompt response. Council will forward the currently completed documents to Susan.

Further stages of continuing engagement with the RAPs will include the Shared Path East (Skennars Head to Pat Morton) and Coastal Recreational Path (Sharpes Beach to Pat Morton).

Ian Fox also explained progress with the Cultural Ways Project (CWP) which is to provide supporting interpretive signage and information for ‘The Coast Track’. Ian also explained he had a number of stories which needed to be agreed by the RAPs. Susan Anderson offered to review this material as well. The CWP project is investigating a number of ways of presenting cultural information including the use of audio and apps. The Anderson family members indicated they had recordings of stories in language and English which could be of value to the project.

It was noted that the RAPs are busy with field work with the RMS, however there are time constraints with both Council projects and prompt feedback would be appreciated.

d) *Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure*

The information contained in the report was received and noted.

An update was also provided which noted that the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs had arranged a meeting of State Government agencies on 1 April to inspect the Cabbage Tree Island bridge and road network.

Outcomes from the inspection are presently unknown, however it is hoped that further information may be available for the Committee's next meeting.

## **8. Business Without Notice**

a) *Wardell Cemetery*

Des Anderson enquired about Council's maintenance program for the Wardell Cemetery. Concerns were expressed that the current maintenance levels are inadequate, and that further improvements are highly desirable for those attending services or visiting the cemetery. Toilets, a small shelter, additional waste bins and improved landscaping within the reserve were mentioned as initial proposals for improvements.

It was suggested that Council prepare a cemetery improvement plan, developed in close consultation with the local community, which would identify prioritised works and ongoing maintenance arrangements.

Council's Civil Services Group is asked to present a brief report to the next Committee meeting.

## **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 11 June 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 29 May 2015.

## **11. Meeting close**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35pm.