

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM IN COUNCIL'S  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE  
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2015**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Members

Lois Cook, Elder  
Sandra Bolt, Jali LALC  
Susan Anderson, John Cook Foundation  
Troy Anderson, John Cook Foundation

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Steve Barnier, Ballina Shire Council  
Caroline Klose, Ballina Shire Council  
Alicia Wallace, Ballina Shire Council  
Mick Howland, Hydrosphere Consulting (Guest)  
Francis Paden, (Observer)

Apologies

Councillor Susan Meehan  
Marcus Ferguson

**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**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

It was noted that the Committee Meetings scheduled for 11 June 2015 and 13 August 2015 were not held due to a lack of attendance.

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9 April 2015, being the most recent meeting of the Committee, 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) *North Creek Dredging*

The Committee welcomed Mr Mick Howland, from Hydrosphere who provided a brief presentation regarding the proposal by Council to undertake dredging works within certain compartments of North Creek in the vicinity of Missingham and Prospect Bridges. Hydrosphere has been engaged by Council to undertake investigations into the feasibility of this project.

The project is in its preliminary stages, and Ms Howland outlined the range of studies which will be undertaken to assist in determining whether the project is able to proceed.

There was brief discussion regarding the known Aboriginal cultural and heritage values within and near North Creek which will be documented as part of the investigations. Mr Howland confirmed that there will be broad community engagement as the project progresses and he will look forward to keeping the Committee informed.

### b) *Welcome or Acknowledgement – 2016 Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide*

Ms Wallace provided the Committee with an overview of the Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide and its extensive national distribution as a key tourism marketing instrument for our area.

The Committee provided suggestions for minor alterations to some of the text within the document's draft Aboriginal Welcome, which had been provided to the meeting. Otherwise however, the Committee expressed its support for the material presented.

Members also felt the document might benefit from the inclusion of images from the mural associated with the pedestrian underpass at Angels Beach, East Ballina and the adjacent proposed Aboriginal Cultural Ways Project. Staff will examine opportunities for inclusion of some of these images within the document.

### c) *Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure*

The Committee noted the information contained in the report. Council staff is continuing to liaise with NSW Aboriginal Affairs concerning ownership of infrastructure servicing Cabbage Tree Island.

d) *Timing of Committee Meetings*

Given the limited number of attendees at the meeting it was agreed that current meeting arrangements will be retained for the time being. A further review can be undertaken in the future.

e) *Australia Day Awards 2016*

Ms Klose outlined the community recognition awards that are promoted and available as part of the Council's annual Australia Day celebrations.

Committee members were encouraged to consider nominating Aboriginal community members or organisations for these achievement awards, and to promote awareness of the opportunity by distributing within community the information brochures provided by Ms Klose.

## **8. Business Without Notice**

a) *NAIDOC Week Planning*

The Committee reinforced the position that it has previously expressed, that it wishes to take a more prominent role in planning for the shire's annual NAIDOC Week activities.

Whilst the efforts of agency representatives were acknowledged and appreciated in planning and delivering past years' activities, members feel that this Committee is the appropriate vehicle through which the coordination of activities should occur. All current members of the Committee should be encouraged to attend meetings and participate in this process.

## **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 10 December 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 November 2015.

## **11. Meeting close**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.