



## **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 10 December 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
  
7. General Business
  - a) Exhibition of Wardell Planning and Environmental Study and Draft Strategic Plan
  - b) Bundjalung Community Companion Animal Project
  - c) Aboriginal Land Clean Up and Prevention Program
  - d) Cabbage Tree Island Bridge
  - e) Angels Beach Drive
  - f) Coastal Recreation and Shared Pathways Projects
  
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 8 October 2015 were distributed to members on 28 October 2015. A copy of the Minutes is included with the Agenda.

**5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

**6. Deputations**

NIL

**7. General Business**

**a) Exhibition of Wardell Planning and Environmental Study and Draft Strategic Plan**

The broader Wardell area contains large areas of land within the ownership of the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council (Jali) as well as land having Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

The draft Strategic Plan contains 28 suggested actions. Actions 3 and 5 below may be of particular interest to the Committee:

- Action 3 – Investigate the establishment of an Indigenous Cultural and Training Facility.
- Action 5 – Investigate opportunities for heath land tourism and education in the Ngunya Jargoan Indigenous Protection Area.

The views of Jali are being separately sought on the above proposed actions as well as in respect to the documents on exhibition. If there is support for these actions, and they are ultimately adopted by the Council, then their implementation will require a co-ordinated approach between Jali, the local Aboriginal community as well as Council.

The documents are on public exhibition until 18 December 2015.

**b) Bundjalung Community Companion Animal Project**

Council's Ranger, Joe Sabine and Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) spokesperson, Robyn Mostyn will attend the meeting to outline the success of this program that was conducted on Cabbage Tree Island in conjunction with JALI and funded by Bayer. Details of the program can be seen in the attachments to this agenda.

**c) Aboriginal Land Clean Up and Prevention Program**

Ballina Shire Council has agreed to be a project partner along with North East Waste to support Jali LALC in its application to the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Aboriginal Land Clean up and Prevention Program.

The grant submission is to undertake a clean-up of waste on certain sites nominated within the Indigenous Protected Area in Wardell, including installing some bollards or gates to block access to areas and the installation of signage, to deter illegal dumping in the Shire.

**d) Cabbage Tree Island Bridge**

Council has been approached by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to assist with the investigation and repairs to the bridge at Cabbage Tree Island. Council has been asked to take on the role of coordinating investigation, design and repairs, and to manage an RMS grant for this purpose. The work would likely involve an assessment of the concrete including the foundations, an assessment of railings and roadside issues like signs and markings. The work will be staged where the technical investigations will be completed first to determine the extent of work, priority and budget requirements. Consultation with Jali and the community will commence when the extent of likely investigation is known.

**e) Angels Beach Drive**

Council has received a NSW Roads and Maritime Services grant for road safety improvements along Angels Beach Drive which will include raising the existing road on the bends near Prospect Bridge and Chickiba Lake and the construction of a roundabout at Links Ave, East Ballina. Ian Fox (Ian Fox & Associates) has been engaged to undertake a Cultural Heritage Assessment for the project, and this has included the advertising for Registered Aboriginal Parties. Jali responded and the CHA work is in progress.

**f) Coastal Recreation and Shared Pathways Projects**

Council's Engineering Works Manager, Paul Busmanis and consultant, Ian Fox will be in attendance at the meeting to provide an update concerning these projects.

## **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.

- Wardell Planning and Environmental Study and Draft Wardell Strategic Plan
- Householder's Asbestos Disposal Scheme - Introduction of fee

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Thursday 11 February 2016**.

## **11. Meeting Closure**

**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.





**BUNDJALUNG COMMUNITY COMPANION ANIMAL PROJECT  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH JALI LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL AND FUNDED BY BAYER**

Northern Rivers Animal Services is a charity group situated in Ballina, northern New South Wales, Australia. The group was started in 2001 with the aim of specialising in helping unwanted, lost and abused dogs and cats. The main aims are to rescue, rehabilitate where necessary, complete veterinary work and rehome. Another function is to offer to eligible owners a subsidised desexing and micro chipping service for their pets.

It has been evident to us for a long time that our local Indigenous community, living on Cabbage Tree Island, have long-term problems with animals. There are many cats and dogs which have minimal to no veterinary care. Animals are breeding freely and parasite control is another issue. As a result of these issues, Northern Rivers Animal Services applied to Bayer for a grant to assist.

The grant from Bayer facilitated the opportunity to offer free veterinary services to members of the Cabbage Tree Island community. It was further planned to offer education to the Community, not only for their pets but regarding the impact of poor animal management on human welfare.

**Procedure adopted**

- Visits to several veterinary practices were made to discuss possibilities for their involvement in the project and also special pricing
- Meetings were attended at Ballina Shire Council and also the Aboriginal Community Committee
- The Council pledged Ranger assistance, together with the use of the Council Pound (subject to availability). The Pound was required to accommodate pets that were due for surgery as owner compliance with fasting requirements was not expected to be high. The Pound also provided a quiet area for animals to recover before being returned to their homes. The Rangers also assisted with transport, in particular with the larger dogs.
- Contact was made with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council CEO Dave Brown and permission sought to work with the CTI community. This was readily granted and we received full support from Jali LALC.
- The Cabbage Tree Island School was contacted and arrangements made for representatives of our rescue group to attend and talk to the students about animal welfare. This was fulfilled and we spent much of the afternoon engaging the children in basic animal care information. This was achieved with the aid of with video clips and interactive games with the younger children. We left confident that we had achieved our aim and heartened by the extent of their knowledge and common sense.
- Fortnightly visits were made to the Island and these were publicised widely in advance by the distribution of information flyers. One of these is attached with this document. This was achieved with the aid of the local post office. On several occasions vet nurses accompanied us and helped with animal assessment.

Unfortunately, it soon became evident that the veterinary work we were offering would not, in some cases, be sufficient. For example, abscesses, bad teeth and overgrown claws could not be ignored. Work continued until the funds were exhausted.

## Outcomes

- A newspaper article was published in the Ballina Shire Advocate 10.06.2015.
- It was generally agreed amongst the volunteers who were involved in this program that much ground had been covered and a good relationship with the community had ensued as a result. The relationship with Jali Land Council will continue and they have agreed to hold application forms for our Subsidised Desexing program, which is aimed at assisting pet owners to desex and microchip their pets, where their financial situation is inadequate for such an expense.
- A promising relationship was also formed between the Ballina Shire Council Head Ranger and Jali CEO Dave Brown. There was discussion of invitation to each other's meetings where appropriate. Ballina Council installed a holding pen for wild dogs to be held pending collection by the Rangers. Previously the dogs could only be held at someone's residence, which was far from ideal. It was generally felt that improved co-operation and understanding would undoubtedly ensue.

Northern Rivers Animal Services received from the Bayer grant AUD 4107.80. The costs of this project totalled AUD 4106.68.

There are 25 veterinary invoices plus product receipts plus receipts for miscellaneous expenditures (for example refreshments provided at the initial Information Day held on Cabbage Tree Island and dog / cat colouring sheets for the young children). Please note; included in the list of veterinary invoices is one professional quote for work that was unable to be carried out, due to a female dog still actively feeding her litter of pups. That work is due to be completed very shortly, as the puppies are now being homed and the mother dog is no longer lactating. Rather than delay matters, for the purposes of reporting to Bayer, a quote was obtained.

Finally, the volunteers at Northern Rivers Animal Services would like to thank Bayer for the wonderful opportunity to assist the Cabbage Tree Island community with their animals. The value of education in pet welfare cannot be underestimated and we were delighted to have the occasion to undertake that aspect as well.

# JALI LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

IN COLLABORATION WITH

## NORTHERN RIVERS ANIMAL SERVICES,

### BALLINA Tel.no. 6681 1860

**LET'S TALK PETS!  
COME AND SEE US  
AT THE HEALTH  
CENTRE ON TUES.  
14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015  
12pm to 2.30pm**

**ANIMAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE AND PETS!**

**POOR ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CAN ALSO HAVE A DIRECT AFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH**

**JALI LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL, WORKING TOGETHER**

WITH NORTHERN RIVERS ANIMAL SERVICES, ARE OFFERING THE  
OPPORTUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY CARE FOR ROUTINE  
PROCEDURES

**FREE  
TO  
PET OWNERS**



THANKS TO A FINANCIAL GRANT FROM **BAYER**, MANUFACTURER OF ANIMAL HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS,

NORTHERN RIVERS ANIMAL SERVICES CAN OFFER VETERINARY CARE FREE OF CHARGE FOR SERVICES SUCH AS:

DE-FLEA	DESEXING	WORMING	VACCINATION	VET CHECK	PET ADVICE
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**WE ARE PLANNING SEVERAL VISITS TO YOUR COMMUNITY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO ARRANGE VET CARE, GENERAL INFORMATION & ADVICE.**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN!**

