



## **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 7 November 2013 commencing at 5.00 pm.**

### **Business**

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Welcome to New Committee Members
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Matters Arising from last Meeting
  - a) General Terms of Reference for the Committee
6. Deputations
7. General Business
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. **Attendance and Apologies**

2. **Welcome to New Committee Members**

Since the initial meeting of the Committee, Council has authorised Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Limited to be represented on the Committee by Ms Carolyn Roberts, with Ms Nita Roberts as alternate member.

Further, the Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service will be represented on the Committee by Ms Denise Duroux, with Mr Mark Moore as alternate member.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2013 were distributed to members on 18 September 2013. A copy of those Minutes is attached to the Agenda.

It is noted that a copy of the Council's Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice were also distributed to members with the Minutes of the last meeting. The Codes will be relevant to the Committee's ongoing operations.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee held on 5 September 2013 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

a) Terms of Reference of the Committee

The draft Terms of Reference of the Committee are attached to this Agenda. They have been changed to incorporate the suggestions made by members at the previous Committee meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the revised Terms of Reference presented at this meeting be adopted for the purpose of the Committee's operations.

6. **Deputations**

Mr Ian Knapman, representing Council's Civil Services Group, will be in attendance at the meeting to present a briefing concerning Council's Recycled Water Implementation Strategy.

**7. General Business**

a) **East Ballina Aboriginal Place Declaration.**

Members are aware of this declaration which relates to areas of public and private land in East Ballina.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), as the responsible authority, is preparing a draft management plan for the declared area. It is understood the management plan will address matters such as signage, community infrastructure and servicing (including bushfire management, environmental repair etc) having regard for the important cultural values of the area.

At this time, it is not known how long it will take for the draft management plan to be prepared.

This advice is provided for the information of members.

b) **Captain Cook Park, Ballina.**

Council is the appointed Reserve Trust Manager for Crown land, known as Captain Cook Park in Ballina. The land is located immediately east of the Ballina RSL Club and has frontage to the Richmond River.

Resources have been allocated to the preparation of a draft master plan which is intended to guide future improvements within the reserve. A copy of the draft master plan has been distributed with this Agenda.

Members are invited to provide feedback at the meeting concerning the draft plan. Comments received will be reported for the Council's consideration.

c) **Kingsford Smith Park, Ballina.**

Council is the appointed Reserve Trust Manager for Crown land, known as Kingsford Smith Park in Ballina. The land is generally bounded by Kingsford Smith Drive, Bentinck Street and Owen Street.

Council is considering an option of constructing an indoor sports and events centre within the reserve. As a preliminary part of this process a consultant (PDT Architects) has been engaged to prepare a master plan to guide the future use of the reserve, including the possibility of identifying an area on which a new centre might be built.

A copy of the map of the reserve, showing the outcomes of PDT's preliminary work is attached to this Agenda. At the meeting, members

will be invited to make comment on the preliminary work. Any comments made will then be reported to the Council for consideration.

d) **Proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trail.**

In August 2012 the Council resolved to support, in principle, the establishment of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trail within the Coastal Reserve. This project has been titled "Bundjalung Cultural Ways".

Planning and implementation of the trail will be dependent on external funding becoming available. Two grant applications have already been unsuccessful, whilst two other grants have been applied for, but are yet undetermined.

The grants propose that funding would be provided to undertake detailed community engagement about what would be most appropriate within the heritage trail (eg interpretive signage) and also to actually undertake some elements of the agreed works.

Preliminary ideas include that the Heritage Trail may be undertaken as an important part of the Coastal Recreational Pathway (should that be approved and funded). The Heritage Trail might also be established within the East Ballina Aboriginal Place declaration area (refer to Item (a) above) in recognition of the cultural significance of this area, if seen as appropriate.

This item requires no action by the Committee at this time, but is submitted for information.

e) **Reforming the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage System in NSW.**

In 2012 the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) established an independent Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Reform Working Party to provide the Government with advice on the best ways to ensure the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the future.

Since 1969, objects of Aboriginal cultural significance have been protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The Government now wishes to look at ways of improving the current legislative framework.

The outcomes of the Working Party's investigations have now been documented and will soon be the subject of broad community consultation, including a series of workshops which have been scheduled in various locations within the State. In this area, a workshop is to be held at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre between 10.00am and 1.00pm on Wednesday 27 November 2013. It is necessary to register to attend the workshops.

Full details concerning the reform process, work done to date and the workshop arrangements may be obtained on the website of the Office of Environment and Heritage [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform).

This information is provided for the information of Committee members.

f) **Installation of Aboriginal Flag in the Council Chamber.**

At the March 2013 Council meeting the elected Council considered a proposal to display the Australian flag in the Council Chamber. This proposal was subsequently deferred for referral to the Aboriginal Community Committee once formed. This initiative is intended to complement the Acknowledgement of Country which is provided by the Mayor at the commencement of each Council Meeting.

The Aboriginal Flag is also displayed at the front of the Customer Service Centre during each Council work day.

The Committee is invited to indicate its support for the installation of the Aboriginal Flag in the Council Chamber.

g) **Consultation With Our Aboriginal Community**

The elected Council has previously resolved at the March 2013 Ordinary Meeting that options to conduct liaison with the Aboriginal community be referred to the Aboriginal Community Committee.

Prior to the formation of the Aboriginal Community Committee the primary source of Council's consultation was through the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer position within Council.

Following the resignation of the previous incumbent this position was discontinued by Council in 2012, with the funds reallocated to the additional position of full-time Aboriginal Ranger. The balance of the funding available (\$8,000) has been retained in the annual Council budget for other projects that support the Aboriginal community. The annual Council budget also has \$5,000 allocated each year for NAIDOC Week.

With the Aboriginal Community Committee now in place, feedback is invited on how Council can continue to improve its consultation processes with the Aboriginal community.

**8. Business Without Notice**

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

**9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

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

- Captain Cook Memorial Park – Draft Landscape Master Plan

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 9 January, 2014

In regard to the above, the Committee may wish to consider allocating an alternative date for the next meeting outside of the holiday period.

**11. Meeting Closure**