

**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 7 NOVEMBER 2013**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Sandra Bolt, Marcus Ferguson, Mark Moore

Apologies

Carolyn Roberts, Nita Roberts, Kim Vincent, Carmel Kapeen, Dianne Creighton, Denise Duroux, Kylie Coldwell

In Attendance

Mayor Councillor David Wright
Councillor Susan Meehan
Councillor Keith Williams
Paul Hickey, General Manager
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities

2. Appointment of Chair

Marcus Ferguson was asked by the members to chair the meeting. He accepted the role.

3. Welcome to New Committee Members

Mark was welcomed to his first Committee meeting. Mark expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with Council for the betterment of the local community.

4. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 5 September 2013 were accepted, by consensus, as a correct record of that meeting.

6. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

There were no matters identified from the last meeting as warranting discussion.

7. Deputations

- a) Mr Ian Knapman and Mr Andrew Swan, representing Council's Civil Services Group, provided the meeting with an overview of Council's current Recycled Water Implementation Program.

It was stressed that Council is committed to increasing community awareness and education concerning the program. Members are encouraged to liaise with the program coordinators and identify ways of ensuring this awareness is extended to our Aboriginal community.

- b) Mr Paul Busmanis, Council's Engineering Works Manager and Mr Ian Fox, Council's consultant, provided the meeting with a brief overview of the procedures being applied for community engagement relating to the coastal shared pathway projects, which are currently being assessed.

Mr Fox's key role on these projects is to support Council's desire to ensure that important Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the vicinity of proposed works are appropriately considered and managed.

8. General Business

- a) East Ballina Aboriginal Place Declaration – The information contained in the report was noted.
- b) Captain Cook Park, Ballina – The information concerning Council's preparation of a draft master plan for this reserve was noted.
- c) Kingsford Smith Park, Ballina – The information concerning Council's preparation of a draft master plan for this reserve was noted.
- d) Proposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trail – The information outlining Council's commitment to this project within the coastal reserve was noted.
- e) Reforming the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage System in NSW – Committee members noted the information relating to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage workshop soon to be held in Lennox Head concerning the Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation reforms.
- f) Installation of Aboriginal Flag in the Council Chamber – Committee members indicated their strong support for Council's proposal to display the Aboriginal flag in the Council Chamber.
- g) Consultation With Our Aboriginal Community – Members acknowledged that the Committee itself will be the principal means of promoting effective dialogue between the Council and our shire's Aboriginal community.

The General Manager provided an overview of the Council's commitment to ensuring an appropriate representation of Aboriginal personnel within

the Council workforce. Currently, 4.4% of staff identify as Aboriginal persons.

The General Manager also informed the meeting of the recent achievements of staff member, (name suppressed by request) who is the recipient of State Indigenous Trainee of the Year and Apprentice of the Year awards.

9. Business Without Notice

- a) Mark acknowledged the various ways in which Council and the shire's Aboriginal community are working together for mutual benefit. He suggested that it would be beneficial for the Council to consider the preparation of a Reconciliation Action Plan to demonstrate and document these various commitments toward achieving improved social and cultural outcomes. All agreed this would be a desirable outcome to aim for.

Further information regarding this proposal will be presented for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

- b) Marcus enquired about the current Council proposal to change the classification of a parcel of Council-owned land at Bagotville (described as the former Bagotville Road quarry). The matter was briefly discussed in the context of the environmental and cultural heritage values of that area generally, and the current interest of NSW Roads and Maritime Services in realigning the Pacific Highway in that locality.

Committee members noted that a change of the land's classification under the Local Government Act is desirable before the Council is able to properly consider the preferred future uses or management of the property.

Marcus was encouraged to arrange for a submission to be presented to Council, on behalf of Jali, as an adjoining property owner, so that the community's values of the immediate area can be better understood.

- c) Marcus noted that directional signage along Back Channel Road to Cabbage Tree Island has been damaged.

Members indicated that it is important for directional signage to the island to be reinstated. Council is encouraged to replace the signage in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of damage recurring.

Update: Council's Civil Services Group was consulted in relation to this matter. The advice from this Group is that the signage near the intersection of Back Channel Road and Cabbage Tree Island Road has been replaced several times in recent years as a consequence of vandalism.

The option of transferring the signage by attaching it to an adjacent power pole has been considered. However, the advice from the electricity supply authority is that its infrastructure may not be used for the purpose of signage.

Given the substantial public cost of ongoing replacement, and the lack of alternative options for placement, it is not proposed to replace the sign at this time.

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

The documents which have recently been on public exhibition were noted.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting would normally be scheduled for early January 2014. However the members suggested that it would be preferable to defer the meeting for one month so as to avoid the Christmas holiday period.

Having regard for the above, the next meeting of the Committee is to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 6 February 2014 in the Tuckaroo Room of Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street Ballina. Agendas will be distributed prior to that meeting.

12. Meeting close

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.25pm.