



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 12 June 2014 commencing at 5.00 pm.**

Business

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Matters Arising from last Meeting
 - a) Aboriginal Welcome Statement
5. Deputations
6. General Business
 - a) Coastal Pathways Project
 - b) NAIDOC Week Planning
 - c) East Ballina's Bushland Treasures Brochure Review
7. Business Without Notice
8. Council Documents on Exhibition
9. Next Meeting
10. 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. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2014 were distributed to members on 23 April 2014. A copy of the Minutes is attached to the Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee confirms the Minutes of the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee meeting held on 16 April 2014.

4. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

a) ***Aboriginal Welcome Statement***

At the meeting of the Committee held on 20 February 2014, members discussed a report which had been presented by staff concerning the wording of Welcome or Acknowledgement statements. These statements are included in various reports and in promotional literature produced by Council from time to time. The Committee was invited to review the draft which was presented, and either endorse it or offer alternative suggestions for the wording.

A copy of the draft presented by staff at that meeting is reproduced here:

Welcome / Acknowledgement Statement

Council respectfully acknowledges the past and present Bundjalung Elders of the Ballina Shire area and pays its respects to their descendants as the traditional custodians of this land. Council also acknowledges that, as indigenous people, Bundjalung people hold a unique place in our shire.

Bundjalung custodianship of the Ballina Shire area dates back many thousands of generations. Together with all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the Bundjalung people are part of the oldest and continuing culture in the world.

The shire has important Bundjalung cultural heritage sites and areas that contribute to our unique history as a place. Heritage sites and areas remain important to the identity and culture of the shire's Aboriginal community today. Appreciating the importance of the historic and contemporary landscape to the shire's Bundjalung people enhances all our experience of the shire.

Bundjalung community members contribute to our shire in many ways. Elders nurture and educate their families, as well as serve roles as leaders within their community and at significant broader community events. Aboriginal people are also strongly represented in our creative industries sector and sport.

Bundjalung community members work across many occupations, including within the government sector, to improve services to the Aboriginal community. A number of Aboriginal initiated and managed Aboriginal community organisations also work towards improving employment, health and access to services for Aboriginal people.

Council is committed to working with the shire's Aboriginal community representatives, including young people, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Bundjalung history, heritage and culture. This, in turn, enhances the status and well-being of Aboriginal people and builds the broader community's optimism for a strong and respectful future together.'

At that meeting, members present agreed with the submitted wording, but requested that the word "Bundjalung", wherever occurring, be replaced by the word "Nyangbul".

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 February were presented for confirmation at the subsequent meeting of the Committee held on 16 April. At that meeting, members adopted the Minutes with the exception of the item relating to the Welcome/Acknowledgement statement. Members indicated that they wished to have more discussion regarding this matter.

As a means of encouraging further discussion, staff have prepared an alternative draft Welcome/Acknowledgement statement, a copy of which is attached.

As with the former proposed draft, it is noted that the words within the statement (if found to be satisfactory) might vary slightly from time to time. This is because the statement may be used for a range of different publications, from very formal and structured legal or technical reports to "lighter" type material, including tourism and promotional literature about the shire.

Importantly, the key elements of the statement would not be changed, once endorsed by the Committee. That is, the joint reference to the Bundjalung Nation and the relationship with the Nyangbul people (if this is what is determined as being appropriate) would remain the same.

Submitted for discussion and recommendation to the General Manager.

5. Deputations

NIL.

6. General Business

a) Coastal Pathways Project

Council's Engineering Works Manager, Paul Busmanis will be in attendance at the meeting to inform on progress concerning this important community project.

b) NAIDOC Week Planning

The Committee has previously discussed the arrangements that are put in place each year in Ballina Shire to acknowledge NAIDOC Week. For many years, Council has collaborated with community, through the Bullinah Goori Services Action Group, to plan a program of events and in that regard, discussion has been occurring to deliver this year's activities.

A copy of the draft 2014 NAIDOC Week program in Ballina Shire is attached for the information of Committee members. Staff wish to acknowledge and thank the community members who have worked collaboratively to contribute to the program.

c) East Ballina Bushland Treasures Brochure Review

Ballina Coastcare Inc has produced a draft of the East Ballina Bushland Treasures brochure for review and approval by the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee. A copy of the draft brochure is attached.

Ballina Coastcare Inc consists of several volunteer restoration groups that include Angels Beach Dunecare, East Ballina Landcare and Lighthouse Beach Dunecare which have been instrumental in undertaking weed control and restoring many of the endangered ecological vegetation communities in the East Ballina area. The group have worked closely with Aboriginal custodians of the coastal zone for the past 25 years.

Coastcare is revising an earlier brochure originally published in 2005, and with the recent declaration of the East Ballina Aboriginal Place, has tried to include suitable reference to the EBAP within the brochure. The brochure is however a bushwalkers' guide to the best of the ecological bushland treasures.

It is anticipated the brochure will be distributed publicly, including through the Ballina Visitor Information Centre, to assist bushwalkers interpreting the ecological values whilst walking in East Ballina.

A prompt consideration of this matter by the Committee will be appreciated because the brochure's publication is being underwritten by a Community Donation from Council, which will soon expire.

7. Business Without Notice

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

8. Council Documents on Exhibition

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

- Pensioner Concessions - Rates & Charges Policy review
- Private Structures on Public Land & Roads Policy review
- Integrated Planning & Reporting 2014/2015 to 2017/2018

- Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2014/2015 - 2017/2018
- Draft Fees and Charges 2014/2015
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan (Budget) 2014/2015
- Alcohol Regulation on Public Land Policy Review
- Commercial Activities on Public Land Policy Review
- Festivals and Events - Council Support Policy Review
- Footpaths and Cycleways - Inspection, Evaluation and Maintenance Policy Review
- University Scholarship Policy Review

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 14 August 2014.

10. Meeting Closure