

1. **Submission to 2014/15 Operational Plan – South Ballina Community Association**

Council considered all submissions to the draft 2014/15 Operational Plan at its June Ordinary meeting.

The attached submission was received from the South Ballina Community Association. The report to Council mentioned that due to the comprehensive nature of that submission that the document should be listed as part of the A Ward Committee Agenda to provide an opportunity for Councillors to hear feedback from a range of parties in respect to the various matters raised in that submission. A copy of Council's response is also attached.

THE SOUTH BALLINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Representing the district of South Ballina.

c/- 440 South Ballina Beach Road.,
SOUTH BALLINA. NSW. 2478

President: Lorraine Leuckel; Vice President: Bill Allen; Secretary Rikki Grinberg; Treasurer Frannie Stanek.

CORRESPONDENCE TO: Ph. 0427847057 or email Rikki@mullum.com.au

19 May, 2014.

Attention Mike Sivikis.,
Ballina Shire Council,
BALLINA BY EMAIL

Dear Sir, regarding the survey on what makes our community special and what is needed to help make our community more family friendly, the South Ballina Community Association has compiled a submission based on the general meeting of the community Association held on 24 May. Here are those findings:-

1. VILLAGE STATUS the South Ballina community formally requests that Council give the area village status;
2. MEETING HALL and that the Council apply funds and land for a village meeting hall with recreational facilities such as a large meeting hall, childrens' playground, half basketball court, tennis court. We suggest that the lot on the corner of Keith Hall Lane and River Drive is ideal as it is already correctly zoned and already has a certain amount of infrastructure;
3. TOILETS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT the community would like public toilets and waste bins placed at the South Wall, and waste bins at the ferry and South Wall, and when a recreational/meeting hall is built to also include these facilities at that site;
4. COMMUNITY SIGNAGE the community association formally requests that Council places a signboard for community association meeting notices on the approach to the ferry and on the sign board at the ferry;
5. MORE WILDLIFE AND BIKE RIDER SIGNS – the area is significant for its wildlife and an increasing number of bike riders are present on South Ballina roads. More signage is essential to prevent wildlife and rider fatalities;
6. SOUTH WALL – the south wall is a significant tourist attraction and needs re-roading, and a proper viewing structure created at the end to elevate it for whale and dolphin viewing (similar to the North Wall walk). The car park is adequate in size, however the walkways to the end and to the beach are in a dangerous state and need to be properly constructed and maintained. We also request that this walkway be disabled friendly;
7. THE SOUTH BEACH 4WD ACCESS – this is a very popular 4wd area and needs proper signage to it
 - a. at the corner of River Drive and South Ballina Beach Road,
 - b. at the Corner of Burns Point Ferry Road and River Street and
 - c. at the corner of Pacific Highway and River Drive Wardell, as well as better infrastructure around it.
8. BETTER SIGNAGE – there needs to be better signage to the caravan parks on South Beach Road, both from the entrance off the Pacific Highway at Wardell and from the Ferry. Many tourists are being misdirected by their GPS and end up in dead end roads or farmers paddocks, which is very dangerous and of course a problem for the farmers.
9. INCLUSION IN THE BALLINA TOURIST INFORMATION BROCHURE: South Ballina as an area and featuring the National Parks, 4WD access, South wall and caravan parks needs promotion in the council tourist booklet.

10. FERRY PROMOTION: we urgently request that Council do the following
 - a. include the ferry in all promotional material to help boost ferry income.
 - b. To this end we believe that the ferry should also be themed in a visitor friendly way. Decorative flagging, special promotions, ferry stickers, ferry passports, fish feeding fees etc.
 - c. That the ferry operation be passed over to a community trust to administer and operate;
 - d. That the ferry land on the north side be allocated for a tourist precinct and the building of a café, and other tourist related retails items;
 - e. That certain safety measures be implemented at the south ferry entrance, including a turn circle, parabolic mirror and lights (red, orange and green) to replace the dysfunctional boom gates).
11. FERRY REPLACEMENT OPTION as Council has clearly stated that it will not replace the ferry in the event of infrastructure destruction due to cataclysm, which is unacceptable to the rate payers of the South Ballina isthmus., Without a ferry service, and with the possible loss of River Drive during a cataclysm, then a disaster replacement plan is required by the community for any damage to ferry infrastructure to ensure the safe egress and ingress of the community.
12. MARKETS FAIRS AND FUN: The community would like an area to hold community fairs, fun days and farmers and swap meet markets.
13. BROADBAND AND NBN – it is notable that no household or business on the isthmus can get broadband or nbn from any provider. As there is now a large amount of business and education as well as many private homes and home based businesses on the south side, this communications infrastructure is essential. We formally ask that Council lobby both Telstra and the Federal government in regard to improving this. We ask that a person from Council be nominated to work on this and liaise with the community association.
14. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN – in the event of a widespread emergency there is a need for an evacuation and emergency plan for the area, and in particular the school.
15. TOURIST ROUTE – The River Drive route south to the Pacific Highway is worthy of 'Tourist Drive' classification and we ask that Council approach the RTA and NSW Government to acquire this status and signage. This would have the additional benefit of boosting ferry income.
16. BIKE FRIENDLY – South Ballina welcomes the bike riders, but would like to see River Drive and South Ballina Beach Road, be widened and a bike lane included on the shoulders. Once again we petition the Council to introduce a 'gold coin' fee to bike riders using the ferry.
17. REZONING – there is a considerable amount of land that is ideal for subdivision for family homes sized lots in the isthmus. It should be a priority that Council work with the community association and identify preferred areas for rezoning for housing.
18. SOUTH BALLINA ISTHMUS IS UNDER FUNDED – we formally request that an officer with Council be nominated to work with the South Ballina Community Association for the purposes of accessing funding and grants through available Section 94 funds. We note that as a region, our area has received NO FUNDING at all in comparison to other similar communities and that this is inequitable and clearly discriminatory against the community. It is urgent that Council assist us to address this issue.

Please contact the Secretary Rikki Grinberg on 0427847057 or email Rikki@mullum.com.au with regard to the above matters. A formal response from Council is requested.

Yours faithfully,

LORRAINE LEUCKEL
President,
SOUTH BALLINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
14/32700 (1509-02)

8 July 2014

Lorraine Leuckel
President
South Ballina Community Association
Rikki@mullum.com.au



Dear Ms Leuckel

Re: Submission to Operational Plan

In reference to your correspondence to Mr Mike Svikis dated 25 May 2014, as many of the matters you raised relate to Council's annual Operational Plan, the contents of your submission were reported to the June 2014 Ordinary meeting where Council considered all of the submissions to the draft 2014/15 Plan. By including your correspondence in that report it provided Councillors with an opportunity to determine whether they wished to allocate resources to any of the 18 points mentioned.

I now wish to advise that as a result of that report Council did not specifically allocate any additional resources to assist with delivering the matters highlighted in your letter, however some of the points are being further investigated by Council.

A brief summary of Council's response to each item is as follows.

- 1) Village Status – This proposal would need to be approved by the Geographic Names Board and based on the relatively low population and population density of South Ballina, Council did not resolve to support such a proposal. The Rural Character Statements Project being undertaken by Mr Mike Svikis on Council's behalf may well provide some recommendations in respect to how our rural areas are better defined right across the Shire.
- 2) Meeting Hall – Council did not approve any funding for this project in our long term financial plan (LTFP). Essentially it was not considered to be a higher priority than other works identified in the LTFP.
- 3) Toilets and Waste Management – Council did not approve any funding for these works in the LTFP.
- 4) Community Signage – Council practice in recent years has been to promote community group meetings through our Community Directory website, located on our website (www.ballina.nsw.gov.au), rather than through additional signage.
- 5) More Wildlife and Bike Rider Signs – This request has been referred to the Civil Services Group for their assessment to determine whether changes are needed based on Council's current practices.
- 6) South Wall – This request has also been referred to the Civil Services Group for their assessment.
- 7) South Beach 4WD Access – Additional signage was not supported as Council's preference is not to locate signage at too far a distance from a location, plus Council signage is minimised where possible.
- 8) Better Signage – This proposal was also not supported.

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- 9) Tourist Information Brochure – The latest edition of the Council Visitor Guide, a copy of which is available on the discoverballina.com.au website, in the opinion of Council provides adequate coverage for South Ballina.
- 10) Ferry Promotion – This proposal was not supported by Council, albeit that our engineering staff are constantly examining options to improve safety on the ferry.
- 11) Ferry Replacement Option – The regular maintenance on the ferry is designed to ensure it continues to operate without the need for replacement and Council has no funding set aside for replacement.
- 12) Markets Fairs and Fun – Council's event funding program is focussed on the major population centres of Ballina, Alstonville and Lennox Head and ideally local markets and fairs should be supported and co-ordinated by local residents. Council's Events and Grants Officer, Ms Holly Archibald can provide advice on undertaking community based events if any community group is interested in staging such an event.
- 13) Broadband and NBN – Council's Manager – Information Services, Mr Stewart Littleford, deals with these matters on behalf of Council and if you wish to discuss this issue further please contact Stewart at the Council Administration Centre.
- 14) Emergency Evacuation Plan – Council has a shire wide evacuation plan and the Empire Vale School is required to have its own plan. John Truman can provide any additional advice you may wish to obtain on this issue.
- 15) Tourist Route – Council's resolved position on tourist routes is Route 28 from Wardell through Alstonville to the Tintenbar roundabout, with this route to be extended along the existing Pacific Highway to Ewingsdale once the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale bypass is completed. The other tourist route is Route 30 being River Street to The Coast Road, to Byron Bay and Ewingsdale. Council agrees there could be an option to commence Route 30 at East Wardell and then join River Street and Council's Tourism Section will follow this up with the TASAC, which is the NSW Authority that determines these matters.
- 16) Bike Friendly – No funding has been allocated in Council's LTFP for these works.
- 17) Rezoning – South Ballina has not been identified as an area for residential growth in Council's Growth Management Strategy therefore this proposal was not supported.
- 18) South Ballina is Under Funded – Infrastructure provision from Section 94 Plans is focussed on the major population centres and with there being very little in the way of residential growth in South Ballina, Section 94 is not a relevant funding source for this locality. Whether or not South Ballina is underfunded is also debatable as many services provided by Council are not locality specific, but rather provided for all residents and visitors to the shire.

Finally it was also thought appropriate to include a copy of your correspondence in the next A Ward Committee agenda as this then provides an opportunity for Councillors to hear feedback from a range of parties in respect to the various matters raised in your correspondence.

Thank you again for taking the time to make a submission to Council and I hope this information is of interest.

Yours faithfully



Paul Hickey
General Manager

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