

**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 14 APRIL 2016**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members

Lenkunyar Hickling, Yarrabee CACPS
Marcus Ferguson, Community Member
Troy Anderson, John Bappa Cook Foundation

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Ms Frances Paden (observer)
Paul Busmanis, Engineering Works Manager, BSC
Ian Fox, Council Heritage Consultant
Ms Suzanne Acret, Sustainability Programs Coordinator, BSC
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities, BSC

Apologies

Nil

2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Lenkunyar Hickling 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

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2016, 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) *Ballina Shire Koala Management Strategy*

Suzanne Acret provided an overview of the processes undertaken by Council and its consultants in the preparation of the Ballina Shire Koala Management Strategy, which was adopted by the Council on 24 March 2016.

Ms Acret presented information concerning key threats to the shire's declining koala numbers and the actions contained in the Strategy which aim to maintain a viable population.

Committee members expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

b) *Coastal Recreational Pathway Project*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox provided an update in relation to this project.

A contractor (B&S Landscaping and Earthworks) has been awarded construction of part of the CRP Section 1, Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach comprising:

- path section from Flat Rock carpark to Sharpes Beach carpark including small footbridge across Sharpes Creek
- boardwalk section along Angels Beach from the overpass to south of Flat Rock Tent Park.

The contractor commenced early March 2016 on the section from Flat Rock carpark to Sharpes Beach carpark. The contractor's staff completed a Cultural Heritage Induction session, and site monitoring was also undertaken during initial ground disturbance between Flat Rock carpark and Sharpes Creek. Two of the three Registered Aboriginal Parties responded to the site monitoring request.

It was also clarified that the CRP work has proceeded as a result of completing a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) for CRP Section 1, and then obtaining an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). All three Registered Aboriginal Parties endorsed the CHA at the time, and have subsequently received copies of the AHIP.

A Part 5 approval has now also been received for dealing with the additional boardwalk viewing platform and entry node associated with the Cultural Ways project. The associated AHIP variation has also been received.

It was noted that information dealing with the CRP project and the CHA and the AHIP was available for the Registered Aboriginal Parties to discuss further with other family and parties if needed.

With completion of contract works it is proposed for Council to complete the path connection from the Angels Beach underpass to the overpass including the Cultural Ways 'entry' and carpark.

A demonstration was also made of the development of the iPhone/iPad link which provides more Aboriginal Cultural Heritage information along the CRP, including audio recordings.

c) *Angel Beach Drive*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox provided an update in relation to maintenance and upgrading work along Angels Beach Drive, East Ballina.

The project involves raising the levels of the existing road curves at Prospect Bridge and at the sewage pumping station adjacent Chickiba Lake, applying a new asphalt overlay on the road and constructing a new roundabout at the Angels Beach Drive and Links Avenue intersection.

Part 5 approval has been received for the project and requires an AHIP for the Links Ave roundabout worksite due to the adjacent midden site. An AHIP application was submitted to OEH at the end of March 2016, which included the project's Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) report. Suggestions from the Committee about improving cultural heritage recognition at the Links Avenue midden site have been incorporated into the CHA.

The project commenced last week on the road section east of Links Avenue and will then proceed to the section west of Links Avenue, and then continue to the roundabout. Significant advertising has occurred due to the associated road closures. The roundabout construction would start following the receipt of the AHIP. It was noted that creek bank rehabilitation would occur near the new roundabout, and it is proposed for carbon dating to be done for information gathering as part of the project work.

d) *Cabbage Tree Island Bridge Repairs*

Paul Busmanis provided an update regarding a recent site inspection by Roads and Maritime Services regarding the grant offered by the NSW State Government for the Cabbage Tree Island bridge assessment and upgrade.

It was accepted by RMS that work associated with approach roads, drainage and gravel roads would be able to be undertaken as part of the grant. Council will liaise further with Jali LALC about scoping this work in conjunction with the bridge investigation.

8. Business Without Notice

a) NAIDOC Week 2016

The Chair, Lenkunar Hickling enquired about planning for this year's NAIDOC Week activities.

Steve Barnier responded by advising that Council staff will soon be liaising with representatives of Aboriginal service organisations to arrange a program of activities. This approach is the same as in past years.

No objections were raised to this arrangement.

b) Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference

Steve Barnier distributed to members of the Committee notification regarding the proposed 2016 Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference, which this year is to be hosted by Tweed Shire Council on 24 to 26 August.

The conference is not limited to elected members or staff of councils, and may be attended by any individual who has an interest in developing and enhancing Aboriginal lifestyle, culture and employment opportunities.

Committee members were encouraged to distribute information concerning the conference within community.

c) Committee Membership

The Committee was informed that Council staff have been unable to contact Ms Kim Vincent, an appointed member of this Committee.

In the absence of any other notification, it is now assumed that Ms Vincent has resigned from her position of Committee member.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 9 June 2016.

Any items proposed by Committee members for inclusion in the next meeting agenda should be forwarded to Council by no later than 26 May 2016.

10. Meeting close

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting concluded at 6.25pm.