

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
40 CHERRY STREETS, BALLINA,  
ON 15/03/16 AT 4.00 PM**

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**Attendance**

Cr David Wright (Mayor - in the chair), Sharon Cadwallader, Keith Johnson, Ken Johnston, Paul Worth and Ben Smith.

Paul Hickey (General Manager), John Truman (Civil Services Group Manager), Rod Willis (Development and Environmental Health Group Manager), Steve Barnier (Strategic and Community Facilities Group Manager), Peter Morgan (Manager Finance and Governance) and Sandra Bailey (Secretary) were in attendance.

There were three people in the gallery at this time.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That such apologies be accepted.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Deputations**

- **Ron Birch, Wollongbar Community Preschool** – spoke in favour of Item 4.5 – Wollongbar Community Preschool – Improvements.
- **David Fuller** – spoke in opposition to Item 4.11 – Community Infrastructure – Non-recurrent Projects and Funding – and particularly in relation to the Coastal Shared Path/Walk.

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**4. Committee Reports**

**4.5 Wollongbar Community Preschool – Improvements**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report regarding the grant funds available to the Wollongbar Community Preschool and the need to implement car parking and traffic and pedestrian management improvements for Hall Court in Wollongbar, as illustrated in the plan attached to this report, at an estimated cost of \$45,000.
2. That Council approves an allocation of \$38,000 from the car parking reserve and \$7,000 from the community halls reserve to finance this expenditure.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.11 Community Infrastructure - Non-recurrent Projects and Funding**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Ben Smith -

1. That Council receive a report on options to construct segments of the coastal walk (from Sharpes Beach to Pat Morton) to improve accessibility along the existing walking track.
2. That Council include the reconstruction of the Moon Street to Grant Street segment of the River Street beautification program in 2018/19 in the Long Term Financial Plan, funded from loans, as existing loan repayments for the River Street beautification works decrease at that time.
3. That Council confirms the Ballina Marine Rescue Centre contingency funds, currently set aside in an internal reserve, are allocated firstly as a priority for any contingency for the Rescue Centre and secondly to allow the Wollongbar Sports Fields to be finalised.
4. That Council include \$350,000 for the implementation of the Pop Denison master plan in the draft 2016/17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan with those works 100% funded from developer contributions.
5. That for the Section 94 Roads Contribution Plan, Council include in the Long Term Financial Plan loan funding for Council's contribution to the four laning of River Street and Tamarind Drive. The balance of the works program is to be funded from developer contributions.
6. That Council endorses the allocation of the Landfill and Resource Management Reserve funds, to the proposed Ballina Indoor Sports Stadium,

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as per Table 10 of this report, along with recognising the contribution required for the Administration Centre Air-conditioning and Roof replacement.

7. That Council endorses the inclusion of the program of works identified and funding sources for the Community Infrastructure Reserve, as per Table 14 of this report, for inclusion in the Long Term Financial Plan. In addition to this, if the estimated Section 94 recoupment monies are in excess of that forecast in Table 14, those monies are to be set aside to assist with financing the proposed one way lane and car park works as per the Captain Cook Master Plan.
8. That Council notes that no Council funds have been specifically allocated to the Lake Ainsworth southern foreshore works within this report.
9. That Council confirms that the expansion of the Skennars Head Sports Fields is a project that is to be pursued as one of the priority projects for funding from the candidates for the Federal seat of Richmond.
10. That Council approves the re-letting of 9 Commercial Road, Alstonville with the \$46,000 in funding required for the refurbishment of the property to be financed from the Property Development Reserve.
11. That Council endorses grant applications to be submitted to the 2016/17 Public Reserve Management Fund as per Table 16 of this report, with the grant amounts listed in that table being indicative figures and subject to further refinement.

The **Motion LAPSED.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council include the reconstruction of the Moon Street to Grant Street segment of the River Street beautification program in 2018/19 in the Long Term Financial Plan, funded from loans, as existing loan repayments for the River Street beautification works decrease at that time.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council confirms the Ballina Marine Rescue Centre contingency funds, currently set aside in an internal reserve, are allocated firstly as a priority for any contingency for the Rescue Centre and secondly to allow the Wollongbar Sports Fields to be finalised.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.  
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan

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Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

That Council include \$350,000 for the implementation of the Pop Denison master plan in the draft 2016/17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan with those works 100% funded from developer contributions.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That for the Section 94 Roads Contribution Plan, Council include in the Long Term Financial Plan loan funding for Council's contribution to the four laning of River Street and Tamarind Drive. The balance of the works program is to be funded from developer contributions.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council endorses the allocation of the Landfill and Resource Management Reserve funds, to the proposed Ballina Indoor Sports Stadium, as per Table 10 of this report, along with recognising the contribution required for the Administration Centre Air-conditioning and Roof replacement.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the program of works identified and funding sources for the Community Infrastructure Reserve, as per Table 14 of this report, for inclusion in the Long Term Financial Plan. In addition to this, if the estimated Section 94 recoupment monies are in excess of that forecast in Table 14, those monies are to be set aside to assist with financing the proposed one way lane and car park works as per the Captain Cook Master Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

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**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council notes that no Council funds have been specifically allocated to the Lake Ainsworth southern foreshore works within this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

That Council confirms that the expansion of the Skennars Head Sports Fields is a project that is to be pursued as one of the priority projects for funding from the candidates for the Federal seat of Richmond.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Keith Johnson)

That Council seek expressions of interest for the sale and removal of the house at 9 Commercial Road, Alstonville.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council reallocate the \$850,000 from the Coastal Shared Path project to the Coastal Recreational Walk project and that Council apply for matching funding from the Public Reserve Management Fund, with the priority sequence being Section B, C and D as referenced in this report.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ken Johnston)

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That Council also apply for funding from the Public Reserve Management Fund for the following projects:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Application Estimate</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Capital Projects</b>		
Angels Beach Viewing Platforms	50,000	Platforms in this location are requiring replacement
Shaws Bay CZMP – Sediment Erosion Control – South Arm	95,000	This reflects a priority in the CZMP. Council has funding of our own to help supplement any grant funds.
Shaws Bay CZMP – Dredging	95,000	As per the above item.
Pop Denison Master Plan	95,000	As per this report Council has funding of our own for this project to support any grant application. Any funds received can help to leverage Council's funding.
Captain Cook Master Plan	95,000	As above.
Lake Ainsworth – South Eastern Precinct	95,000	As above
<b>Operational Projects</b>		
Ballina Coastal Reserve – Bush regeneration	65,000	Projects of this nature are often supported through the PRMF.
Lake Ainsworth – Water Quality	10,000	This funding would supplement Council's existing testing.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Johnson, Cr Ken Johnston and Cr Paul Worth

AGAINST VOTE - Cr Ben Smith

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.1 Wastewater Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Keith Johnson/Cr Paul Worth)

That this matter be referred to a Councillor briefing.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

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**4.2 Water Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the modeling undertaken in respect to the long term financial plan for Council's Water Operations.
2. That Council endorses the annual charges, as per the following table, for exhibition in the draft 2016/17 Operational Plan, as well as the long term financial plan included, as per the attachments to this report.

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Water Access Charge 20mm meter (1)	195	200	2.6
Water Consumption under 350kl	2.08	2.14	2.9
Water Consumption over 350kl	3.13	3.22	2.9
Vacant Land Charge	195	200	2.6

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.3 Water Operations - Pricing Structure Review**

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Sharon Cadwallader

That Council, approve in principle amending the water charging structure as follows:

- a) Replace the inclining step tariff rate with a single rate per kilolitre for water consumption charges.
- b) Graduate the pricing structure such that 70% of income raised from annual charges is derived from the consumption charge.
- c) The proposed charging structure to be advertised in October 2016 with the outcomes of the exhibition reported to Council.

The **Motion LAPSED**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

1. That Council, approve in principle amending the water charging structure as follows:

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- a) Levy a water access charge on each self-contained residential occupancy situated on a rateable property/assessment based on a 20mm water access charge.
  - b) Graduate the pricing structure such that 70% of income raised from annual charges is derived from the consumption charge.
  - c) The proposed charging structure to be advertised in October 2016 with the outcomes of the exhibition reported to Council.
2. That Council receive a report on not applying the Step 2 charge for concealed water leaks.

FOR VOTE - Cr David Wright, Cr Paul Worth and Cr Ben Smith and the casting vote of the Mayor  
 AGAINST VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Cr Keith Johnson and Cr Ken Johnston  
 ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.4 Waste Operations - Long Term Financial Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Ben Smith/Cr Paul Worth)

That Council endorses the inclusion of the LRM and DWM long term financial plans, as attached to this report, and the following waste charging structure, in the draft 2016/17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition:

**LRM Waste Charges**

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2015/16 (\$)</b>	<b>2016/17 (\$)</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Kerbside Non Domestic Mixed Waste (Annual)	369	342	(7.3)
Kerbside Non Domestic Recycling (Annual)	182	169	(7.3)
Kerbside Non Domestic Green Waste (Annual)	322	299	(7.3)
DWM Gate Fee Mixed Waste	256/tonne	261/tonne	2
Self-Haul Mixed Waste Under 300kg Over 300kg	221/tonne 256/tonne	225/tonne 261/tonne	1.8      2
DWM Gate Fee Recyclates	215/tonne	219/tonne	1.9
Self-Haul Recyclates	88/tonne	90/tonne	2.3
Self-Haul Green Waste	70/tonne	71/tonne	1.4
Remaining Gate Fees	Various up to 5%	Various up to 5%	Up to 5%
Waste Operations Annual charge	72	73	1.4

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**Domestic Waste Charges**

<b>Charge Type</b>	<b>2015/16 Charge \$</b>	<b>2016/17 Charge \$</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
DWM - Rural (excludes green)	314	320	1.9
DWM – Urban (all three collections)	360	367	1.9
Additional Extra Mixed Waste Urban – Fortnight	108	110	1.9
Additional Mixed Waste Rural – Weekly	215	219	1.9
Additional Domestic Recycling	108	110	1.9
Additional Green Waste Collection - Urban Only	215	219	1.9
DWM – Vacant Land	39	40	2.6

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.6 Flood Mitigation Options - Burns Point Ferry Road**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Sharon Cadwallader)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report regarding the possible options to address tidal inundation issues in Burns Point Ferry Road.
2. That option one, as outlined in this report, to construct a road hump and levee to prevent tidal waters overtopping the old ferry road, construct storm water pits over existing drainage lines and fit flood gates to prevent backflow, is endorsed as the preferred solution with an estimated project cost of \$50,000.
3. That Council notes that the recommended stormwater program for 2016/17 will include this work, as per the report presented elsewhere in this agenda dealing with the recurrent capital works program.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

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**4.7 Richmond Tweed Regional Library - Contribution**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes that the forecast increase for the Richmond Tweed Regional Library contribution for 2016/17 is 5.62%, resulting in a total annual contribution of \$1,369,600.
2. That Council authorises the approval of this contribution in our draft 2016/17 Operational Plan.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**4.8 Accessible Toilets - Provision**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Ben Smith)

1. That Council notes the contents of this report in respect to the review of accessible toilets in Ballina Shire.
2. That Council notes the draft 2016/17 to 2019/20 Delivery Program does not include a funding allocation to enable a program to be delivered in response to the identified opportunities to improve the availability of accessible toilets.
3. That consideration is given to the development of an improvement program for accessible toilets in the Long Term Financial Plan by including a schedule of works under the recurrent Public Amenities Improvement Program.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

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**4.9 Administrative Centre Air Conditioning and Roof - Update**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Paul Worth/Cr Ben Smith)

1. The Council confirms the following funding mix for replacement of the Administrative Centre air-conditioning and roof, with this information to be included in the draft 2016/17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Stages</b>	<b>1 and 2</b>	<b>3 and 4</b>	
<b>Cost</b>	<b>1,040,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>1,630,000</b>
Funds Currently Available	482,500	13,500	496,000
Water Operations	76,000	83,000	159,000
Wastewater Operations	114,000	124,000	238,000
Waste Operations	33,000	35,000	68,000
Community Infrastructure Recurrent Funding (depot and community buildings)	50,000	50,000	100,000
Community Infrastructure Reserve	84,500	84,500	169,000
Landfill and Resource Management Reserve	200,000	200,000	400,000

2. This allocation is based on the assumption that the works will be completed as per the following program.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Available Time Period</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>
One	September – October	2017	2016/17
Two	March – April	2018	2016/17
Three	September – October	2018	2017/18
Four	March - April	2019	2017/18

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

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**4.10 Community Infrastructure - Recurrent Projects and Funding**

**RECOMMENDATION**

(Cr Sharon Cadwallader/Cr Keith Johnson)

1. That Council endorses the community infrastructure priorities identified in this report for inclusion in the draft 2016/17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition; i.e.

- Stormwater
- Street Lighting
- Footpaths
- Roads and Bridges
- Playground Equipment
- Sports Fields
- Community Buildings
- Depot

2. That Council receive a report on the option of having a Donations – Community Sporting Groups Capital Works Assistance Policy to assist with managing requests for financial assistance from sporting clubs. The report is also to examine funding options for this policy.

FOR VOTE - All Councillors voted unanimously.

ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Jeff Johnson, Cr Keith Williams, Cr Susan Meehan and Cr Robyn Hordern

**MEETING CLOSURE**

5.56 pm