

**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 9 JUNE 2016**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Members

Lois Cook, Elder  
Marcus Ferguson, Community Member  
Susan Anderson, John Bappa Cook Foundation

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Mr Desmond Anderson (observer)  
Paul Busmanis, Engineering Works Manager, BSC  
Ian Fox, Council Heritage Consultant  
James Brideson, Natural Resource Officer, BSC  
Steve Barnier, Group Manager Strategic and Community Facilities, BSC

Apologies

Troy Anderson, John Bappa Cook Foundation

**2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting**

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Lois Cook was nominated to chair the meeting and she duly accepted the role.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Marcus Ferguson noted his role with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council in relation to some of the items on the Agenda.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14 April 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) Coastal Recreational Pathway Project*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox provided an update concerning construction works associated with this project.

The section of pathway between Sharpes Beach carpark and Flat Rock carpark is largely complete. The construction contractor is currently redeploying to commence work on the pathway between the Flat Rock Tent Park and the Angels Beach carpark.

As this section of work nears completion, Council staff will then carry out improvements to the Angels Beach carpark and formalise the 'entry node' to the coastal recreational pathway.

The section of the proposed pathway adjacent to Flat Rock Tent Park is to be realigned further to the east, as determined by a recent decision of the Council, and will be subject to a variation to the existing AHIP.

Ian Fox distributed to each attending member of the Committee, being the Registered Aboriginal Parties to the project, a copy of Dr Knuckey's recently completed draft report relating to his assessment of heritage impacts for the section of the proposed shared path between Skennars Head Road and Pat Morton lookout, referred to as Shared Path East.

On behalf of Dr Knuckey, Ian Fox invited each of the Registered Aboriginal Parties to review the draft report and provide feedback within twenty eight days, should they wish to do so.

### *b) Angels Beach Drive*

Stage 2 of the Angels Beach Drive improvement project, involving curve correction north-east of Prospect Bridge, is soon to be completed.

Paul Busmanis advised that the project will soon move to Stage 3, involving the installation of a roundabout and ancillary works at the intersection of Angels Beach Drive and Links Avenue.

Very recently, Council received the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) which authorises the work to proceed. One of the requirements of the AHIP is for Council to arrange for carbon dating of shell samples to be taken from the adjacent Chickiba Creek midden.

The Committee was also informed that for those employees and contractors working on this stage of the project, Aboriginal cultural training has recently been provided as part of the induction process.

*c) Cabbage Tree Island Bridge Repairs*

Paul Busmanis provided an update concerning this project, with the scope of works now having been confirmed by the consulting engineer.

The elements will involve repairs to the bridge abutments, decking and railing, and funding has been sourced for these works. Weather permitting, the work may be completed by the end of June.

Committee members enquired about the possibility of including replacement signage to the Island, as well as improved pedestrian access linking the bridge and an area adjacent to the Primary Health Post and the nearby school.

Paul indicated that he would hold further discussions with Jali representatives to determine the preferred works, and then see whether RMS funding can be made available.

*d) Lennox Head Vegetation Management Plan (Coastal)*

James Brideson provided an overview of the draft plan and also spoke about what has been achieved through weed abatement strategies employed under the management plans which are to be replaced.

Noting that Jali LALC has already been consulted in the preparation draft management plan, James indicated that feedback from community and key stakeholders will be welcomed up until the end of June. Afterwards, there will be a formal public exhibition period for the draft plan prior to its presentation for adoption by the Council.

During discussions, members of the Committee indicated their desire for the placement of an additional waste bin within the Council-owned reserve adjacent to the Patches Beach beach access. Further, that they will appreciate Council's consideration of the provision of public toilets within this reserve, to replace those that used to be there.

Following consideration by staff, a report will be brought back to the Committee concerning these matters.

e) *Aboriginal Community Recognition*

The meeting Chair, Lois Cook spoke on this item, suggesting that Council is not doing enough to recognise Aboriginal heritage within the Shire. Further, that this lack of recognition is insulting to Traditional Owners. The brief items listed in the Agenda formed the basis of Ms Cook's comments.

It was suggested that these matters warranted additional discussion when more Committee members are in attendance. It was agreed the matter will be retained as a standing item in future meeting agendas to enable that discussion, when considered appropriate.

**8. Business Without Notice**

a) *Lois Cook* - advised that a friend is soon to visit her, who is an accomplished musician. She enquired about the possibility of hiring a function room at the Ballina Surf Club to enable a musical recital, with the casual hire charge for the facility being waived.

Steve Barnier advised of the need for a Council resolution to be obtained for a hire charge waiver, if Ms Cook wishes to proceed with a booking of the facility.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 11 August 2016.

Any items proposed by Committee members for inclusion in the next meeting agenda should be forwarded to Council by no later than 28 July 2016.

**10. Meeting close**

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.