

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members:

Cr Ben Smith (Chair)
Cr David Wright (Mayor)
Cr Eoin Johnston (via Zoom)
Cr Sharon Parry (via Zoom)

Kate Kempshall - Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
Mary Birch – Wollongbar Progress Association
Pat Carney - Wardell Progress Association
Russell Priddle - Alstonville FC
Barry Jeffress - Secretary Tuckombil Landcare
Steve Miller - Rous Mill Ratepayers Association (via Zoom)
Wayne Garrard - Alstonville & District Cricket Association
Malcolm Johnson - Ballina Environment Society

Council Staff:

Matt Wood - Director Planning and Environmental Health Division
Janelle Snellgrove - Executive Support Officer

Others in Attendance:

Marilyn Perkins - Wollongbar Progress Association

Apologies

Des Burke - Alstonville Lions
Jane Gardiner – Ballina Plateau Historical Society
Jim Hahn - Probus Club of Alstonville

Recommendation:

That the apologies be accepted (Cr Sharon Parry / Cr Eoin Johnston)

2. Guests

Nil.

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes 18 March 2021

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2021 be accepted as a true and correct record (Pat Carney / Mary Birch).

5. General Business

a) **2021 Local Government Election - Saturday 4 September 2021**

Council provided the committee with information relating to the upcoming Local Government Election.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Mary Birch further enquired if Wollongbar Hall is a venue for the Local Government election in September.

Action: Referred to Corporate and Community Services to provide this information directly to Mary Birch.

b) **Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2021/2022 – 2024/2025**

Council provided the committee with information relating to the Delivery Program and Operation Plan (DPoP) 2021/22 – 2/24/2025.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Marilyn Perkins enquired if Council could address Wollongbar Progress Association to discuss Wollongbar works proposed in the DPOP. Kate Kempshall also requested this on behalf of Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce.

Action: Council to arrange a presentation to Wollongbar Progress Association and the Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce focusing on contents of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan relating to the Alstonville / Wollongbar area.

c) **North Wall Maintenance**

Council advised the committee about pathway maintenance currently being undertaken on the North Wall.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

d) **NRAR - Know Your Rules About Water Compliance**

Council advised the Committee that Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has launched its Know the Rules campaign to encourage understanding and compliance on the usage of water.

The information contained in the agenda was noted.

6. Outstanding Business – 18 March 2021

Nil.

7. Business with Notice from Members

a) Healthy Waterways Project / Tuckean Swamp

Malcolm Johnson requested a report on the progress achieved by the Tuckean Steering Committee.

Council staff provided information relating to OzFish's Tuckean project as well as Council's health waterways program in the meeting agenda. The information contained in the agenda was noted.

Malcolm Johnson tabled a map of the River and some data and provided an overview of water quality issues associated with the Tuckean area (map attached).

Cr Smith enquired how far along the project is. Matt Wood advised there is no timeframe as Ozfish is trying to secure funding and there are multiple stakeholders including National Parks and Wildlife Service, Rous County Council, Ballina Shire Council and Lismore City Council.

Cr Smith enquired about who applies for the grant / funding for the project. Matt Wood advised Ozfish are applying for the funding.

Matt Wood also advised there are quarterly updates available on Council's Healthy Waterways Program via reporting on the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

b) Marom Creek Aquifer Pumping

Malcolm Johnson raised concerns regarding the impact use of the Marom Creek Aquifer Pumping might have on the surface flow of streams on the Alstonville Plateau and Tuckean / Broadwater area.

Council staff provided information about Council's licences in the agenda. The information contained in the agenda noted.

Steve Miller commented on the approved bores being over allocated in time of drought (not considering the illegal bores / water rights). Steve expressed concerns about future water supplies and that bores should only be used when there hasn't been much rain.

Cr Smith encouraged Water Strategy Plan submissions be submitted to Rous Council.

Malcolm Johnson requested information pertaining to the upcoming Rous Water meeting about the Water Strategy Plan.

Post meeting note: Rous County Council website indicates public consultation is planned for mid 2021. No meeting dates published on the website to date.

8. Business without Notice

a) Future “C” Ward Meetings Venue

Cr Eoin Johnston requested that meetings return to Crawford House. Cr Parry commented the people zooming were unable to see the tabled documents and supports face to face meetings at Alstonville or Wollongbar.

Matt Wood advised Crawford House is not big enough due to Covid restrictions. Alternate venues can be considered but it was but noted that having suitable equipment to enable zoom (remote attendance) is an important consideration in relation to the Covid situation. .

Action: Council to investigate the option of face to face meeting at Wollongbar Hall for future meetings and contact members to ascertain if any would prefer zoom meetings.

b) Pedestrian Access Signage at Alstonville Roundabout

Pedestrians have been observed accessing the Plaza via the roundabout adjacent to the centre. It was requested that signage advising pedestrians not cross at the roundabout be erected.

Action: Referred to Engineering Works for consideration.

c) Ant Problem - Wollongbar Playing Fields

Russell Priddle advised the ant problem at Plateau Playing Fields has increased since the last meeting.

Matt Wood advised that Council is continuing to consider the balance between chemical application and impact of ants on playing surfaces.

d) Vegetation Removal - Alstonville

Cr Parry advised a Wollongbar resident has contacted her about a development behind her property and has concerns about clearing of vegetation.

Matt Wood advised there has been a modification application in relation to an existing subdivision approval submitted to Council with respect to this land. The historic circumstances relating to the subdivision approval and the presence of the vegetation are of particular relevance to the matter. Council staff have invited the developer to consider the vegetation removal.

e) Teven Road / Ballina Road Roundabout

The committee discussed the roundabout and the peculiar shape of it causing some vehicles difficulties navigating the roundabout.

Kate Kempshall commented that many people aren't following road rules and driving straight through.

Cr Smith advised the Council's engineers have advised that there is an option to bevel the edges to allow larger vehicles to navigate the roundabout better but the roundabout does meet specifications.

f) **Alstonville Police Presence**

Cr Eoin Johnston discussed petty crime in Alstonville. It was noted that the police station isn't manned enough to cater for the demands and that more police presence is required.

Mary Birch added that the library at Wollongbar Hall is now re-opened but was recently closed due to vandalism and was set on fire.

g) **Alstonville Wollongbar RFS**

Malcom Johnson shared that Alstonville Wollongbar Fire Brigade was founded 25 years this month.

h) **Tuckombil and Bullwinkle Landcare**

Malcolm Johnson advised that Tuckombil and Bullwinkel Landcare have saved council \$450 on insurance.

9. Update on COVID-19

No changes reported.

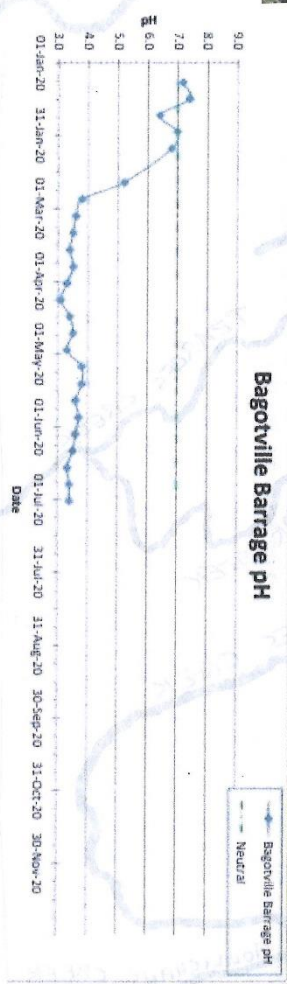
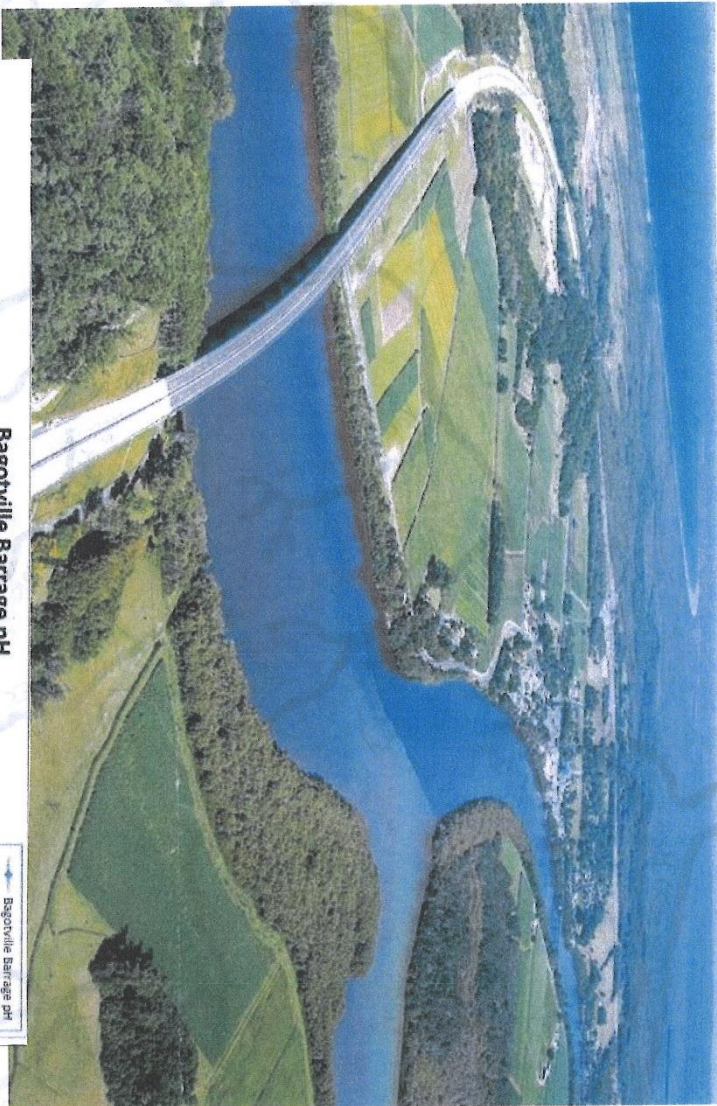
10. Council Documents on Exhibition

The list of Council documents recently exhibited for public comment was noted.

11. Next Meeting - **Thursday 8 July 2021 at 5.00 pm**

12. Meeting Closure - **The meeting closed at 6.07 pm**

THE REASON WHY FISH, PRAWN and OYSTER STOCKS ARE DEPLETED, BROADWATER TO BALLINA



FROM MARCH
To July
2020
← pH 3 ACID
and HEAVY
METAL
WATER PLUME
FROM
BAGOTVILLE
BARRAGE
TUCKERANS
SWAMP

