

## **Late submissions – Item 9 Ordinary Council Meeting – 2009/2012 Draft Management Plan Incorporating Council’s Seven Year Infrastructure and Services Plan; 2009/2010 Draft Budget, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges**

### **1. Tweed Landcare Inc – copy attached**

#### Responsible Officer Comments

*Council’s direct contribution in the proposed 09/10 budget to environmental programs is over \$2,000,000 which equates to \$52 per assessment and is 0.5% of the total rateable income. Gold Coast City Council have in place an Open Space Preservation levy which in 08/09 was \$32 per assessment. The income from this levy is utilised to purchase and preserve open space for nature conservation. Coffs Harbour have an Environmental Levy proposed for 09/10 at a base rate of \$16.50 per assessment with approximately \$1,000,000 in identified projects for the year.*

*Councils throughout Australia use a multitude of methods to raise and distribute money for environmental purposes. Tweed Shire Council has long standing environmental programs and has recently adopted the 7 year Infrastructure and Services program which includes additional funding for these programs.*

### **2. Uki Village & District Residents Association Incorporated – copy attached**

#### Responsible Officer Comments

*Comparative data for Community Services supplied by the Department of Local Government is an indicative tool only. Councils with a high proportion of service provision such as Child Care Centres and Aged Care, from which they derive income, will naturally have a greater dollar to spend per capita than Tweed. In addition, Tweed has a high percentage of pensioners which results in reduced rate income. In short, the comparative figure does not truly reflect the amount of money Council contributes from its rate revenue towards Community Services.*

*Currently, Council employs 1 fulltime equivalent staff to support and undertake community development programs specifically for the aged and people with a disability, and 1 officer 17hrs per week to undertake projects for the healthy aged. In addition, Council auspices and supports Tweed Community Options which is a case management service for the frail aged and people with a disability. Tweed Community Options also provides services for Veterans Home Care, Older Parent Carers of people with a disability, and Compacts which assists people requiring assistance following discharge from hospital. Council also facilitates the Tweed Disability interagency which is a two-monthly forum for all Tweed Service Providers and consumer groups to address the expansion and coordination of disability services in Tweed. Council acknowledges your comment re the need for a specialised disability officer and is investigating funding to address this issue.*

*The Tweed Shire Disability Access Advisory Committee was not functioning as effectively as Council envisaged and henceforth at the decision of the General Manager it has not met since December 2007. Council acknowledges the need for this committee and the Terms of Reference for the Tweed Shire Disability Access Advisory Committee have been reviewed and new membership will be sought in the near future. The new committee will act as an advisory committee to Council and operate within the Terms of Reference.*

*The Tweed Shire Mobility Map has recently been finalised and will be published in due course.*

*A review of Councils web site will be undertaken to ensure greater access for the community.*

*Council acknowledges your reference to Mount Warning National Park and the need for people with a disability to enjoy the natural environment. In May 2008 a Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks in New South Wales was established by the NSW Government. The Taskforce was engaged to provide advice on practical methods to expedite the realisation of NSW State Plan objectives, and report on opportunities for an enhanced level of sustainable nature tourism on New South Wales public lands, particularly national parks, marine parks and reserves. The final report may be viewed on [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au).*

**3. Tweed Billabong Holiday Park, Dakota Properties Pty Ltd and Big 4 North Star Holiday Resort – copies attached**

Responsible Officer Comments

*Following representations from the business community and submissions to the Draft Management Plan, it is now recommended that the calculation methodology of the business assessment for sewer access charge under Section 501 be undertaken to more accurately reflect the quantity of water discharge to sewer and therefore the potential for each business to consume capacity. This is done by including a discharge factor in the process and calculation on an individual meter basis.*

*The amendments to what was proposed will now mean that of the 1647 business properties subject to the sewer access charge, approximately 1200 will pay the same as the residential sewer access sewer charge. The majority of the remaining businesses will pay less than what was proposed, with only a small number being charged more. This results in a more fair and equitable outcome for all business properties.*

**4. Tweed Koala Inc. – copy attached**

*Comments are included in report in response to Submission 4 and 5 (refer page 54) but submission was not included as an attachment.*