

## REPORTS THROUGH THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

### REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a47 [CNR-CM] Provision of Bulk Water - North Byron Parklands

SUBMITTED BY: Director

Valid



### Strengthening the Economy

#### LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

- 3 Strengthening the Economy
  - 3.1 Expand employment, tourism and education opportunities
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#### SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The General Manager of North Byron Parklands has written to Council requesting that Council apply the “local rate” fee (currently \$3.40 per kilolitre) as opposed to the “out of shire” fee (currently \$10.20 per kilolitre) for the supply of bulk water to North Byron Parklands. This water is supplied by local water carters who have approval to extract water from the Tweed District Water supply. “Out of shire” users of Council's water are charged a higher fee to restrict the dependency on Tweed District Water supply and to minimise the disruption during drought events when water sales outside the shire are banned.

The financial impact of the request is estimated to be between \$21,760 and \$32,640 loss of income per year. There are significant benefits to the broader economy from the events held at North Byron Parklands. Council has the option of applying all or part of the requested reduction and also requesting a change in the naming of the venue.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Provides water - bulk sales to the North Byron Parklands for the remainder of 2013/14 and 2014/15 at the "local rate" (sale from standpipes for use within the Shire) listed in the fees and charges.**
- 2. Requires North Byron Parklands to make application to Council for the supply of water 21 days prior to each event.**
- 3. Requests the North Byron Parklands to change its name from 2014/15 to Tweed Byron Parklands in recognition of the provision of the above fee, location of the venue and the support provided by Tweed Shire Council.**
- 4. Reviews the application of this fee before the end of the 2014/15 financial year and the impact and benefit of Council applying the "local rate" fee in future years.**

**REPORT:**

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A copy of the letter is reproduced below:



5 December 2013

PO Box 517  
Bangalow NSW 2479  
[www.northbyronparklands.com](http://www.northbyronparklands.com)  
02 6680 4049

Mr T Green  
Acting General Manager  
Tweed Shire Council  
Po Box 816  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Dear Mr Green,

**North Byron Parklands – Purchase of Tankered Water from Tweed Shire Council**

We refer to our recent meeting with you regarding the above matter. The purpose of this letter is to request that Council's local rate for purchase of water apply to purchase of water for cultural events at North Byron Parklands.

The reasons for this request are as follows:

- The site adjoins Tweed Shire Council with the cultural event venue adding to the attractions available to visitors within the Tweed LGA;
- The use of the site for three cultural events per year brings significant local economic benefits to the Tweed Shire economy
- It is understood, the reasons for the higher rate for use of Tweed water outside of the LGA have largely disappeared as the higher rate was introduced in times of water restrictions and when Tweed water was being sought from users in Queensland.

Cultural events held at North Byron Parklands will attract over 50,000 patrons each year. The economic flow on effects to the Tweed Shire include:

- The generation of tens of thousands of "bed nights" within the Tweed Shire (especially along the Tweed coast);
- Event patron spending throughout Tweed shire attractions and service centres;
- Provision of goods and services by Tweed shire businesses to both the venue and individual festival operators; and
- Employment opportunities of Tweed residents.

The economic analysis prepared for the venue application assessed, that the venue when fully operational, would generate economic multiplier effects in the order of some \$192 million annually (RPS Economic Impact Assessment June 2010). Tweed Shire is well placed to participate in a significant proportion of this economic activity.

In this context, your favourable consideration to sell Tweed water at the local rate would assist the sustainability of the venue operation.

Do not hesitate to contact myself for any further information.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mat Morris".

Mat Morris  
General Manager

**OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the request for North Byron Parklands to be provided with bulk water at the "local rate" for the remainder of 2013/14 and 2014/15 with a review to be undertaken at the end of this period.
2. Approve a reduction from the out of shire rate of \$10.20 per KI to nominally \$6.00 per KI for the remainder of 2013/14 and 2014/15 with a review to be undertaken at the end of this period.
3. Not approve the requested reduction in fee.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is recommended that Council support option 1.

**COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:**

**a. Policy:**

Corporate Policy Not Applicable.

**b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:**

Option 1 will potentially reduce Council's income from water sales by between \$21,760 to \$32,640 per annum based on the use of between 3,200 to 4,800KI of water per year.

Option 2 will potentially reduce Council's income from water sales by between \$13,440 to \$20,160 per annum based on the use of between 3,200 to 4,800KI of water per year.

Option 3 will generate an estimated total of between \$32,640 to \$48,960 in water sales per year.

The "local rate" and "out of Shire rate" are higher than the normal user charge for bulk water as the users of this water are not charged Section 64 Headworks Contributions.

**c. Legal:**

Not Applicable.

**d. Communication/Engagement:**

**Inform** - We will keep you informed.

**UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Nil.

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