

Councillor Cooper's Community Consultation Proposal for Kingscliff Locality Plan

Councillor Cooper has spoken to many people while collecting 16,000 signatures for the Save Our Lot 490 petition, the 1,250 Future of Kingscliff surveys and the 14,000 signatures for the Heights of Buildings in Kingscliff petition.

He was struck by the contempt in which Government, bureaucrats and elected representatives were held, along with the lack of knowledge about the role of the various levels of government.

Since his election to Council in October 2016, Cr Cooper has identified a priority for Council to revise its methods of community engagement with a trial of a new consultation model in the hope of reversing, in the Tweed at least, what has become a world-wide trend.

He is seeking to trial this new model which facilitates a more personable kind of meeting in local venues using a round-table format. He believes that this format enables residents to be exposed to each other's views in a supported and informed manner. It also gives residents the satisfaction of knowing that their life experience, their imagination and their common sense is valued by Council in the future planning of the Tweed. This will, in turn, foster a greater community spirit and faith in Council processes.

Council will be able to progress plans knowing that the community is right behind them as a result of informed consensus decision – making.

Councillor Cooper has therefore prepared the following consultation format for a re-look at the Kingscliff Locality Plan.

- A series of meetings to progressively gain further input that may result in some modification to the Kingscliff Locality Plan.
- The first round of meetings will be critical in setting the tone and establishing the trust of the community.
- It is not intended to disregard the technical investigation and community feedback received in the Locality Plan consultation to date but rather to restore some faith and trust in our local democratic system through a conversation - based development of ideas and aspirations. These meetings will also enable residents to identify the tools and techniques that can best assist them to understand the more technical elements of planning with special reference to the Locality Plan, of which many have, at least, some knowledge.
- Further meeting rounds can consider the interface between best practice in planning and the expectations of affected communities - referencing population growth, environmental impacts, existing agriculture pursuits, continuing business activities and lifestyle expectations. Stakeholder meetings can be held in parallel with the community meetings, but not take precedence over

them. Stakeholders may choose to fine – tune their input based on the larger stakeholder group’s consensus deliberations

The key logistics of the initial round of meetings will be:

- Council will mail plain English invitations to all residents in the Locality Plan catchment. Interested community members will need to send an RSVP either by writing, email or direct contact with Council. This will allow Council to set up a data base for feedback and future meeting advice.
- Based on the number of acceptances, Council will then determine how many meetings will be required based on a maximum capacity of 100 people per meeting with 10 tables with 10 participants at each table.
- The meetings will be facilitated by one of Council’s Communication Unit staff rather than any planning or technical staff. These staff will play a more prominent role at further rounds of meetings.
- The facilitator needs to present in a plain English style. Moderators will rotate around tables to ensure that less assertive participants receive a fair hearing.
- The meeting times will be varied to enable a diverse range of attendees.
- A data base will be created at the initial meeting to facilitate feedback and along with the Link allow other future communications.
- An email data base will be created at the initial meeting. This in conjunction with the Link will facilitate feedback and reduce the cost of future communications. Participants will also be encouraged to access the web site to update and review the progress of matters under consultation. Mail outs are not sustainable beyond the initial invitation.