

BANORA POINT & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Inc.

President: Cliff Clothier 5524 7396 Secretary: Pat Tate 5524 2957 Treasurer: Clive Andrew 0488 133 342
Vice President: John Sweeney 5524 5282 Vice President: Brian Taylor 5524 1640
Correspondence: The Secretary, P.O. Box 936, Banora Point, NSW 2486
Website: www.banora.webs.com

Tuesday, 23 May 2017

The General Manager,
Tweed Shire Council,
P.O. Box 816,
MURWILLUMBAH, NSW 2485

Dear Troy,

Response to Draft Budget 2017/2018.

Our response to this current Draft Budget is the same as it has been for the past few years. Despite attending meetings either group meetings or one-on-one meetings, we are still asking the same questions with no feed-back whether any of our responses can be addressed or planned for in a future budget.

Western Drainage System.

The condition of the western drainage system has been raised with Council on numerous occasions by this association and the usual response to our concerns is the same i.e. "it is a budgetary issue" so therefore nothing can be done until the next budget comes along. As Council receives many complaints from local residents as well as our association, why is there not a more permanent solution found and the appropriate money allocated to this project.

With regard to the moat surrounding the golf course at Club Banora, is this section of the western drainage system the responsibility of Council or is it the responsibility of Club Banora to maintain it?

Kirkwood Road Extension:

Again, this is another issue we ask about each year and with all the new development occurring along Fraser Drive which will result in a large increase in the volume of traffic trying to gain access to Tweed City and the many other local businesses in South Tweed, there has been no monies allocated toward this extension up to and including the 2020/2021 figures.

Do we assume from this that the Kirkwood Road extension will never happen?

Geo Link Concept Plan 2006:

This is yet another project that seems to have been forgotten. The concept plan was authorised by the Tweed Shire Council back in 2006 and although our association did not approve of the elaborate plan for the area at the corner of Amaroo Drive and Darlington Drive, it was hoped that a less expensive but more functional recreational area could be designed.

Is this yet another project that will never happen?

Broadwater Parkway:

There is \$1.1 million allocated to the Broadwater Parkway. Is this for the construction of a permanent access to the Aspire site? If so, when will it be completed and when will the newly constructed “temporary” access be closed.

We would very much like to have a written response to the questions and issues outlined above, and look forward to receiving that response shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Tate".

PAT TATE
Secretary

From: Caldera Art [mailto:info@calderaart.org.au]
Sent: Thursday, 18 May 2017 9:32 AM
To: Corporate Email
Subject: Draft Delivery Program 2017-2027 Submission

To whom.....

Please Refer **3.2.2 Art Gallery (page 62) , Significant projects (page 63)**

Suggest another significant project might be: "Explore opportunities to establish a presence in the Murwillumbah CBD"

Comment: A successful outcome to this project would be a greater number of TRGMOAC (Mistral Rd) patrons also visiting the Murwillumbah CBD itself, and further engaging with local artists/art spaces/businesses.

This suggestion stems from the adopted Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027:

3.2 Places (page 28) Strategies/actions: Provide places, spaces and facilities for the and cultural pursuits of locals and visitors.

Also stems from the TRG Foundation "Tweed Visitor Report" in 2015 which highlighted the opportunities for Murwillumbah-based businesses to leverage off the success of the TRGMOAC.

Thanks

Andy Reimanis

Art Director

Caldera Art Gallery | World Heritage Rainforest Centre
PO Box 5196 Sth. Murwillumbah NSW 2484 | Ph 02 66721340

CALDERA ART

www.calderaart.org.au

Australia's Green Cauldron



Caldera Environment Centre
4 Queen Street Murwillumbah NSW 2484
PO Box 5090 South Murwillumbah NSW 2484
PH: 02 66 721 121

1 June 2017

General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah, NSW 2484

Dear Troy,

Re: 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the Draft 2017 Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges

Caldera Environment Centre believes that natural resource management is core business of Council as the sustainable management of our natural resources underpins the future of our social and economic wellbeing. We ask for a greater allocation of funds to natural resource management proportionate to other Council programs.

A significant number of external grants have been received in past years with the expectation, and often commitment, that Council would maintain the funded sites after the projects finished. We do not believe that this has happened. Examples include:

The Bush Futures Project received funds for sustainable management of public bushland. We believe that many of the public bushland sites included in this program have not been maintained. Many sites included in the survey are still not under active management though it is five years since the project finished.

The Koala Connections Project finalized last year and we ask whether all funded activities will continue to remain under active management to ensure their success. The current paltry allocation to the NRM Unit for the implementation of the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management will not be enough to slow the decline of Tweed Coast Koalas.

We also ask for more funds for installation of renewable energy infrastructure to Council facilities. We are aware of the renewable energy initiatives already undertaken by Council, however the transition to 100% renewables needs to be faster.

In the past, we have discussed with Council management the possibility of proceeding to put in place an environmental levy. The proposal was initially considered but dismissed as there were concerns about the appropriate uses of the levy. We would like to see the proposal back on the table for consideration. As you would be aware most neighbouring Councils now have an environmental levy in place.

Regards

Rhonda James
Co-ordinator

On 26 May 2017, at 11:20 am, Mark Humphries <markh727@gmail.com> wrote:

The General Manager

Mr Troy Green
Tweed Shire Council

26th May 2017

Dear Sir,

The Kingscliff and District Chamber of Commerce wish to make a submission for the 2017/2018 budget and delivery plan: -

1. Consideration be given to provide funding for the continuity of the footpath along Marine Parade Kingscliff from the Police Station to the North Kingscliff Caravan Park.

Rationale:

There are many elderly residents using motorised scooters, younger adults pushing strollers along a path that is disjointed due to older lots not completing the footpaths outside their lots, making orientation of the pedestrian path on the western side of Marine Parade impossible.

It is not uncommon to watch people stepping/ taking their scooters out onto the road through parked vehicles, to pass the footpath obstacles and continue their passage along Marine Parade.

We request funds be made available to complete the foot path works making the path fully accessible.

2. Consideration be given for funding be provided for "double headed" lighting on existing street lighting poles, to increase the illumination of the walk/cycle path in the park along the eastern side of Marine Parade from the Bowls Club to the North Kingscliff Holiday Park.

Rationale:

People using this path, are limited in the evenings and early morning due to the poor lighting along this area and this increases the risk to the residents and visitors. The Northern Kingscliff Holiday Park is being occupied by guests and the chamber would like to encourage these people to venture safely to the businesses along Marine Parade, particularly while the Kingscliff Holiday Park is being redeveloped.

Thank you for your time and considering the funding to improve safety for our residents, local workers and visitors using these paths.

It would be appreciated if the KDCC was advised that this submission has been received .

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Humphries
President
Kingscliff District Chamber of Commerce
26/5/2017



Contact Us: P O Box 56, Pottsville NSW 2489 ~ pca.mailbox@gmail.com ~ Chris 02 6677 1300

Mr Troy Green
General Manager
Tweed Shire Council

Dear Mr Green

Re: Draft Submission to the Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 4 year program designed to deliver the sentiments expressed in the Community Strategic Plan.

Please accept the following comments on the current Draft Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Draft Revenue Policy and the Draft Budget. These comments were endorsed by members during our general meeting on 30 May 2017.

Comments on the Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Updated population figures will be available for 2016 from June 27, 2017, please use these in the final copy of the Draft to ensure community faith in planning provisions matching the actual population.

There appears to be nothing in the Plan about Tweed being one of the least affordable Shires in Australia and the need to address this?

In the Leaving a Legacy section, p11 there is no KPI regarding completing the mapping for environmental zones, it is listed in the significant projects but needs a KPI.

Also updated Tweed Shire Coastal Zone Management Plan does not appear to be listed for completion during the Delivery Program?

Comms Unit on Page 39 does not have a goal to provide feedback back from the community? Is it possible to be using the new Facebook medium for a tool to provide feedback back, as well as getting information out to the community?

KPI's for Compliance listed on p50 as " reduction in illegal activity requiring action" may encourage lack of action on Council's part, is there a better target for action on Compliance?

KPI on p52 for Economic Development is supposed to be supporting local jobs so it would be meaningful to have an estimate on the number of residents leaving the Shire for employment.

The development and implementation of the off-leash dog area's Policy does not appear to be listed in the Delivery Program or Operational Plan, please include it in the Program of works and allocate funding in the budget for this work and the action outcomes from it.

Please include more actions for youth in our area. Please investigate the possibility of providing a skate park or youth facility in Pottsville.

\$900k per year allocated to Tourism in the Tweed seems overinflated in today's world of internet searches and marketing. This should be reduced and monies spent on real outcomes.

We note Pottsville North Holiday Park is slated for renovations in 2019, 2020. Please consider the parking needs of the parks customers and provide adequate parking for patrons and their visitors within the parks grounds.

Road upgrade works listed in Pottsville: Thank you for item 31 Tweed Coast Rd Sports Club to Cudgera Ave and item 50, Overall Dr. Pottsville Rd works listed do not appear as items in the Budget? Please ensure the works are funded.

The item re Rehabilitation of Sports Club to Cudgera Ave. is shown in the Delivery Program as not occurring till 2018 - 19 & Hampton Court to House 72 is for 2019-20. If possible can these works be brought forward to to this year.

p89 lists provision of public wifi at Sporting fields. Please do not provide this facility. Our young children need to be playing sports at sporting fields, not playing on social media.

Please provide the long term financial plan for Council (covering from 2017-2027). Why has the community had no input into this?

Thank you for allocating \$1.2M to upgrade the Hastings Point STP,

Thank you for providing the suburb names for road works in the Capital works program, it has made it much easier to identify plans for our area. Please also extend this system to the planned sewer infrastructure works.

Comments to the Draft Revenue Policy.

We would like to suggest investigating the potential to apply a levy on all properties listed on short term accommodation websites such as Airbnb and StayZ, to be charged a special levy rate which is then used for social housing.

Rate Increases:

Rate increases are severe in our coastal town where valuations have increased much above the average 18% and ratepayers, many of whom are pensioners are being severely impacted. We argue this increase is inequitable and believe a fairer system needs to be used.

The levying of general rates it discriminates between classes of ratepayers according to level of increase in valuations by exempting those with only up to an 18% increase & allowing no 18% exemption to those with an increase above. We believe there should be one levy rate for all or give the same exemption to all.

Comments to Draft Budget

Art Gallery:

We question the large increase in funding for the Art gallery of approximately \$375K per year where no explanation of this increase is provided. The predicted increase in return is only \$160K per year so increase in funding should match that only.

Members have raised that no responsible Council could justify the continuance of losses of approximately \$2 million p.a. Steps should be taken to mitigate the losses by charging those who attend. What happened to the policy of government that the user pays? An alternative may be to investigate privatising the Gallery.

We ask that funding be urgently allocated to restoration of the mural and removal of graffiti in the shelter shed in Ambrose Brown park.

We also ask that funding be allocated to a viewing platform at Black Rocks Beach.

We ask that \$80K funding be urgently allocated to provide a formalisation of the pedestrian access to the beach at the northern end of Ambrose Brown Park.

Page 41 Item B1451 Clarrie Hall Dam Raising :-

There is Zero for budgeted expense in raising the Clarrie Hall Dam in 2019 yet there is \$1.13 million in 2018 & \$1.782 million in 2020. Surely once the work starts there will be work-in-progress payments of size in each of those years.

Is there a mistake because Clarrie Hall Raising also appears at B1451 with figures of over \$1 million in each of 2019 & 2020.?

Page 39 Item D3552 Hastings Point STP Sludge Lagoon :-

Can you please provide the details of what is intended to be done re expense of \$195,000 in 2017 & \$1.2 million in 2018.

Page 31 Items A3760 & A3761 Asphalt & Bitumen Re-Surfacing:-

There is no identification on this page of where these works with huge expenditures on asphalt & bitumen re-surfacing will be carried out. .

Perhaps the detail is what was itemised in the Draft Delivery Program on Pages 76 & 77.

Could further re-surfacing be done around Pottsville?

Page 5 Item A1182 Koala Beach Management Plan:-

On average approx. \$150,000 each year is to be spent on Koala Management. What is it they intend doing? I am sure our members would be interested to know how much of this is purely administration cost especially when it is under the heading of Service Biodiversity Cost.

The only new Capital Expense is \$10,000 in 2018 (Item A1182).

Page 5 Item A3620 Koala Beach :-

What work is intended to cost an average of \$90,000 per year on Koala Beach?

Page 7 Item A5785 Tweed River Festival:-

How can an average annual cost of around \$44,000 be justified as being spent on one festival, the Tweed River Festival, when funding has been withdrawn from others & the managers of which were told they had to be self-funding.

Strangely on Page 19 under Service Events Item A0544 budgets for an average of \$290,000 p.a., to Service Events. Can this item be itemised please?

Page 9 Items A2505 & A2536 Waste Collection & Transport:-

How will Collection Costs be reduced by an average of \$5.5 million p.a. from 2019 to 2022 & at the same time reduce Transporting Waste Contract Payments by an average of approx. \$1.5 million?

There does not seem to be any reference to how this will be achieved in the Delivery Plan.

Page 18 A3145 Rangers' Salaries:-

The Pottsville Community Assn. was told by a Council officer at a general meeting they only had 3 Rangers in the Shire yet salaries exceed \$700,000 p.a.. Surely they do not each cost over \$200,000.

Page 25 Item A3000 Parks & Gardens – Sports Fields Maintenance:-

There is no cost shown of maintenance after 2018. Why?

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to at least some modification of the draft document.

Tony Cosgrove
Secretary

Pottsville Community Association Inc

31 May 2017

General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Dear Troy

I would like to provide a response to the exhibition of the draft 2017/2021 Delivery Program and draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan, currently open for public comment via the TSC Project Team.

The TBLALC make the following points.

- Given the commitment of the Tweed Aboriginal community to support and work with TSC to develop better management and planning processes for cultural heritage, it is disappointing that the Program appears to make almost no reference to cultural management for the next four year period. We consider that cultural management is a sufficiently important topic to be included in the “Leaving a Legacy” section of the document and the TBLALC requests that you consider an amendment accordingly.
- The TBLALC note that page 32 of the Program (1.4.1 Strategic Land-use Planning) includes a reference to the drafting and pending implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan as a significant project or works, but no further explanation or priority is provided within the document. The preparation of an ACHMP is a very significant development and step forward for our community, with extensive good will and voluntary contribution, so it is a further disappointment not to receive acknowledgement within the Community Strategic Plan.
- Page 48 (3.1.2 Community and Cultural Development) identifies the implementation of a general “Cultural Plan”, but makes no reference to Aboriginal cultural development despite the valued contribution to Council’s processes by Rob Appo, Community Development Officer- Aboriginal.
- Page 55 (3.1.7 Events) identifies “Indigenous Tourism”, line item 5, as a significant planned project from next year, however, the TBLALC is unaware of any proposal or consultation in this regard. The TBLALC wish to be included in any discussion or decision on tourism ventures involving our heritage and cultural interests.
- Page 103 (Connections to other plans) identifies priority areas at state and federal level and the TBLALC considers there is potential to reference and directly link Aboriginal cultural issues with such programs as a “service stream”. For example, Improving Aboriginal education outcomes (SP8) provides a State Priority link if Aboriginal cultural heritage had been included and addressed within the four key service streams of the Community Strategic Plan.
- With respect to Council’s Operational Plan, the TBLALC would like to recommend that all locations for proposed capital works and upgrading programs be assessed against the recently completed TSC Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Landscape Map, such assessment would provide the earliest advice to Council’s planning and operational staff of potential heritage issues. As proposed in the ACHMP, the TBLALC would prefer a proactive approach to conservation and management of our heritage and commits to assisting Council in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this response.

Regards,

Leweena Williams
CEO
Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO BOX 6967, Tweed Heads South NSW 2486
Ph: 0755 361763 **Fx:** 0755 369832



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31 May,2017
Delivery Program
The General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah, NSW 2484

Dear Sir,

Re:2017/2021 Delivery Program and the Draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges

I wish to make the following submission in regards to the above Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the Draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan, Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges.

I telephoned Mr Arthur Piggott of Tweed Shire Council on the 21s May 2017 about my concern about how to write a submission that had some meaning for the above subject.

In our conversation, I expressed that making any submission on a document with so many delivery outcomes and significant projects/works would be a challenging task for any community member with the lack of information provided in the Draft's significant projects and works.

Acknowledging the good intentions of the Tweed Shire council we agreed that presenting my concerns on those issues not mentioned in the Draft could be worthy of consideration.

Background

Following on from the adoption of the 2017/2027 Community Strategic Plan, Tweed Shire Council is inviting public submissions to the draft 2017/2021 Delivery Program, the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan and the associated 2017/2018 draft Resourcing Strategy and draft Revenue Policy and Statement which incorporates the draft Operational Plan Budget and draft Fees and Charges.

The draft Delivery Program, annual draft Operational Plans and associated documents details Council's role in the delivery of projects and services during the four-year term of the elected council to realise long-term strategic goals adopted in the Community Strategic Plan.

Combined, these documents provide a guide to Council operations and help the organisation meet community demands for services and infrastructure by maximising what it can achieve with its available

My Submission

I would request consider the following matters in regards to the above 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan.

1.1 Natural Resource Management 1.1.1 Biodiversity Management

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.11/12)

What we deliver: Internal and external advice on biodiversity issues, legislative requirements and strategic planning; Biodiversity policy development and implementation; Biodiversity research and monitoring; Threatened species management; Private land conservation programs.

Significant projects/works: 1 Ongoing creation of additional koala habitat on private and public land toward the KPOM target of 200 hectares; 2 Update mapping of vegetation communities; 3 Review Environmental Zones
4 Implementation of the Shire-wide Flying-fox camp management plan; 5 Reassessment of the Tweed Coast koala population; 6 Prepare a Tweed Shire Biodiversity Strategy; 7 Review and update the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management.

Comment Item: 5 Reassessment of the Tweed Coast koala population;
7 Review and update the Tweed Coast Koala Plan of Management.

There is much support in the community supporting the retention of wildlife, that when a koala population in the wild become remnant, in an area, consideration should be taken to save the remnant koala population of the Tweed Coast from extinction.

Protective and fenced koala sanctuaries, in existing habitable areas of the Tweed Coast are recommended to council. Areas of suitable habitat exist at council's environmental precinct at Pottsville and at the koala block at West Tweed Heads.

If the population of koalas in the wild on the Tweed Coast are now at very low levels, council should make immediate provision for planning and funding to save the remnant Tweed Coast koala population, for the future enjoyment of Tweed residents and tourists.

Conclusion

The Tweed Shire Council should make known to the public the number of koalas existing, since the last count in the Tweed Coast Koala Study prior January 2011. This information is necessary to determine whether there should be a change of policy towards saving remnant populations of koala on the Tweed Coast.

Comment Threatened species management

The Natural Environment

There is evidence that the natural and built systems are under severe strain. Currently and in the past, environmental offsets for lost habitat have been transferred to areas outside of this shire, if at all. There is a need for council to remedy this situation and utilize the value of these offsets within the Tweed Shire.

Loss of habitat through 'poor' past council planning has seen the loss of threatened species such as the common Planigale (near the Gold Coast Airport), the Cobaki Lakes Long nosed Potoroo and a substantial drop in the population of the Tweed Coast koala, reported as 144 in 2011 but now an even less viable koala population.

Other threatened Fauna species - Potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*)

This species is listed as vulnerable under NSW, Qld and EPBC legislation and the Cobaki Lakes population has now been listed as an Endangered Population under TSC Act 1995. In approving the Cobaki Lakes development one condition of approval was to monitor and protect their Long-Nosed Potoroo. When will council provide their next update of this monitoring program?

International bird treaties

An updated report should be considered for the 17 migratory and 10 non-migratory birds which occur in the Lower Tweed Estuary listed in international bird treaties.

Conclusion

I request that council undertakes a further study to identify the current status of the impact of the built environment on the natural environment and existing infrastructure to determine an ecologically sustainable carrying capacity and keep growth within that carrying capacity before irreparable damage has been reached.

1.1 Natural Resource Management -1.1.3 Coastal Management

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.14/15)

What we deliver: Coastal hazard identification and risk management; Beach access and use management; Waterways access (via facilities) and use management; Supporting Dunecare groups to manage coastal vegetation

Significant projects/works: Review and update DuneCare Plans of Management; Deliver priority actions from Waterways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan including: Repair and replace waterways infrastructure damaged in March 2017; Replace Tumbulgum Boat Ramp jetty; Upgrade Commercial Road Boat Ramp car park; Improvements to Kennedy Drive Boat Ramp car park; Kingscliff Foreshore Revitalisation Project – seawall; Develop Tweed Coastline Management Program; Implement Tweed Coastline Management Program

Item - Deliver priority actions from Waterways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan - Replacement/repair of the Tweed Heads boardwalk at the Anchorage Island

Conclusion

It is recommended, that following council's conditional approval on the 18th May 2017, the funding of \$30,000 to repair the superstructure of the Anchorage Island Boardwalk should be included in council's 2017-2018 Budget. Council is also required to consider the establishment of a reserve to fund removal of the existing facility and replace it, if it is intended that a facility should be maintained in this location for anything in excess of five years. Alternatively, if the Council grant application for funding of \$685,000 is successful then Council: Establishes a reserve to fund maintenance of the structure in perpetuity.

1.1 Natural Resource Management -1.1.4 Environmental Sustainability

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.16/17]

What we deliver: Corporate, business and community awareness, engagement, and education initiatives; Corporate sustainability strategies; Corporate environmental projects, monitoring and reporting; Community environmental reporting.

Significant projects/works: 1 Revision of the Tweed community and Council Climate Change Action Plan; 2.Facilitate energy efficiency projects and renewable energy installations at Council facilities in line with the Renewable Energy Action Plan; 3 Tweed 'Living for the Future' Home Expo; 4 Community engagement activities about energy and climate change 5 Climate change adaptation actions implemented consistent with the Tweed Climate Change Action Plan.

Comment - Item 1. Revision of the Tweed community and Council Climate Change Action Plan

I request that council consideration be given to the following in regards to a climate changing:

- There is a need to encourage renewable and sustainability industries. Instead of depending on the construction industry, there is insufficient investment in industries, providing sustainable products and services, research and development and world class digital technology.
- Adaptation to climate change, potential inundation of built assets because of sea level rise

Tweed Shire Council's two sewage treatment plants are located on the shoreline of the Lower Tweed River Estuary and its nearby Terranora Creek. Both sewage treatment plants are likely to be affected by rising sea levels.

As is the practice in the large city of the Gold Coast, consideration should again be given to the relocation of these sewage outfalls to an ocean outfall.

Such an outfall should reduce pollution in the mid and Lower Estuary reaches of the Tweed River and its Broadwater coastal lakes.

The Kingscliff sewage treatment plant outfall also includes discharged marine aquaculture waste

1.1 Natural Resource Management -1.1.6 Waterways (Catchment) Management

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.20]

What we deliver: Water quality monitoring; Waterway protection and restoration; Strategic planning for waterway conservation and management; Community engagement and education.

Significant projects/works: 1 Rous River Rehabilitation Project, Chillingham to Boat Harbour; 2 River Health Grants Program implementation; 3 Deliver actions from Tweed Estuary Management Plan; 4 Annual production and distribution of a Tweed catchment water quality report; 5 Oxley River, Eungella Stage 2 Erosion Control.

Comment Item 3 - Deliver actions from Tweed Estuary Management Plan

In regards to this item, I have advised Tweed Shire Council in my submission dated 7th November of the following:

Water quality, including catchment inputs to the estuary, and the impact upper catchment and floodplain runoff has on ecosystem health

Comment - Water Quality in a climate changing

Daily News 29 April 2003 Headline reads: - '**River Health declines**'

"A Report card on the state of the Tweed River has shown a decline in the estuary health levels since last year. The investigation undertaken by The University of Queensland Marine Botany Department included updating the findings of the Waters of the Tweed educational initiative, which was produced by Tweed River Committee in 2001 and 2002. The author of Tweed Estuary Health Report, Nicola Thomas, said that the updated findings showed a slight decline in estuary health in the time since the last update.

“By examining more data collected while the Tweed River was last in flood, we have found a greater concentration of sediments and nutrients in the area around the river’s mouth than was first predicted,” Ms Thomas said”

Comment

It is considered that our climate changing is likely to adversely affect the already ‘poor’ water quality of our two Broadwater coastal lakes and creeks, that discharge and affect the water quality of the mid and Lower Tweed River Estuary.

The following matters should be considered:

- *Due to the influence of climate changing and the highly dynamic nature of estuaries, monitoring was recommended in 2001 to be ongoing and to detect any long-term trends in condition. This should be actioned as a priority and reported Tweed Shire residents.*
- *I am concerned that Council has departed from the analytical method of the University of Queensland Study (2001) of measuring the sewage delta Nitrogen of the Terranora inlet system to using another method that might not be as efficient to detect a unsatisfactory change in water quality affected by council’s Terranora Creek sewage outfall.*
- *An easy to read annual Report Card on water quality for the Tweed River is required and one similar to the Gold Coast management program: The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP), managed by Healthy Waterways. Such a report would be more understandable by residents.*
- *In respect the specific progress of our Tweed River’s water quality or the statistics of our water usage or wastage, the current ‘State of the Environment Regional Report is considered unsatisfactory. This report provides little useful information as to measure any progress.*

Improved water quality in the Lower Tweed Estuary would also help Tweed Heads ‘poor’ performing oyster growing industry in the Terranora Broadwater.

1.2 Asset Protection -1.2.2 Stormwater Drainage

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.22]

What we deliver: Ensure adequate stormwater drainage infrastructure is provided with new infrastructure works or developments; Design, construct and maintain stormwater network assets.

Significant projects/works: 1 Complete stormwater network asset surveys; 2 Undertake condition surveys of stormwater pipes and pits; 3 Develop and prioritise a forward works program for stormwater asset repairs and replacement based on condition survey results.

Comment: Ensure adequate stormwater drainage infrastructure is provided with new infrastructure works or developments

Background

Please note aerial photo attachment, showing stormwater drainage pollution to the Cobaki Broadwater, May, 2017.

The 2009 EHMP Health Report advises:

The current condition of ecosystem health has been described as Fair – Poor (IWC, 2009), with data suggesting the streams are moderately to highly stress and the system is on the threshold of major impacts.

Chlorophyll *a* targets are already being exceeded on occasion. If no action is taken, there are likely to be detrimental impacts on the ecology of the Broadwaters such as compromised health and loss of seagrass, and subsequent impacts on aquatic fauna and higher order fauna including bird populations

The health of the system is currently impacted by: Recycling of nutrients from sediments and nutrients from STP effluent tidally moving upstream to the Broadwaters; Urban stormwater, particularly from the Western Drainage Scheme; Rural catchment runoff.

Significant work needs to be undertaken if the current health of the system is to be improved. The pollutant of greatest concern to ecosystem health is dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) loading as it is the primary driver of phytoplankton biomass (chlorophyll-a, an indicator of algal blooms).

To keep the chlorophyll-a concentration low enough to ensure a healthy functioning ecosystem, it is necessary to **reduce total catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) loads by approximately 30%** in both the Terranora and Cobaki Broadwater catchments.

During recent heavy rain events, vast quantities of nutrients have been deposited in the Lower Tweed River Estuary via the Cobaki Creek and Cobaki Broadwater. Tweed Shire Councillors are aware of this sedimentary pollution of Cobaki Broadwater as they have been shown satellite images of large sedimentary plumes entering Cobaki Broadwater following heavy rainfall events.

Conclusion

With Northern Water Solutions Pty Ltd (NWS) on behalf of Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd (LM) proposing the construction and operation of a WWTP and reticulation network for the Cobaki Estate development, a review of the Cobaki Lakes development's drainage of stormwater might be considered.

1.3.1 Rubbish and Recycling Services [Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.24/25]

What we deliver: Rubbish collection, disposal and recycling services; Adequate facilities and planning to minimise service interruptions and to cater for current and future demand; Disposal service for special waste including e-waste, oil, batteries, domestic chemicals and paint, fluorescent bulbs and tubes; Community education and engagement to support the use of the various resource recovery options.

Rubbish Disposal Services

In this matter, the present council arrangement for Tweed residents and business needs to be improved with the installation of a local rubbish transfer station and an area that provides for the storage of cut vegetation. Transferring rubbish to distant Councils Stott's Creek waste facility is unsustainable being inconvenient, time-consuming and fuel costly to Tweed Heads residents and small business.

For years there had been land available at Tweed Heads for such a use (Lot 319 Reserve 59360, 37.5ha, neighbouring the Gold Coast Airport). The subject land has been leased by the NSW Government to The Gold Coast Airport for a reported annual rental of \$130,000.

Comment - Adequate facilities and planning to minimise service interruptions and to cater for current and future demand

Conclusion

If some part of land leased to Gold Coast Airport is not now available for council purposes, then council should provide another central site for such necessary infrastructure.

Comment - Community education and engagement to support the use of the various resource recovery options.

Tweed Shire Council is introducing a new 3 Bin Collection Service for urban residents, including: a weekly organics collection service (green-lid bin) for all food scraps and garden waste; one garbage (red-lid) bin, and one recycling (yellow-lid) bin.

The three Bin Information package advises:

Tips & hints for your recycling

- Check online to view our A to Z Recycling Guide for further detailed information

Comment

- *The online site to view Tweed Shire Council's (TSC) (A to Z) Recycling Guide for further detailed information is not currently available.*
- *Has council considered recommendations made on the ABC Program, 'War on Waste' which recommends that authorities take a firm stand on the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags that are finding their way into the ocean, sometimes from landfill sites.*

- *It is noted that Tweed Shire, unlike some other councils will not recycle crunchable plastic items. Australia uses some 13 million plastic bags each day and 1 billion disposable coffee cups.*
- *Even though disposable coffee cups are mentioned as a non-recyclable item the TSC Recycling Guide, specific education is required for the general public and fast food and drink companies who elsewhere, continue to place this item in the recyclable bin..*

1.3.2 Sewerage Services

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.26/27]

What we deliver: A high quality sewerage service with minimal interruptions and impacts on the community, Community education and engagement to support non-potable water reuse, Planning and capital works to improve levels of service and cater for growth

Key Performance Indicator Measure: 4 Percent of sewage recycled 15%

Comments: Strategies and plans:

Items: 2 Update Strategic Business Plan and actions;
6 Review and expand wastewater policies and procedures.

Comment: Re Cobaki Lakes residential development Why has it taken 25 years and not yet added to our economy?

Background

The Planning of the 5500 lot Cobaki Lakes residential development was approved by Tweed Shire Council in 1992. The developer, Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd (LM) has sold no lots to date, despite having completed considerable earthworks for lots and roads.

Had the land had been sold, construction of buildings would have added considerably to our local economy.

The provision of water and sewage services at the Cobaki Lakes development is reported as one reason for the absence of sales for this slow development.

The developer initially offered to provide on-site sewage and water provision, which council rejected, which may have been on account of Tweed Shire Council's Water Demand and Sewage Treatment policies.

Northern Water Solutions Pty Ltd (NWS) on behalf of Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd (LM) is currently applying for a decentralised system licensed under WIC Act, which proposes the construction and operation of a WWTP and reticulation network for the Cobaki Estate development, at Cobaki.

If approved, NWS could hold an IPART Network Operators and Retail Licence under the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (WIC Act) NSW issued by IPART NSW

The Cobaki Estate development site is owned by LM which has appointed NWS to be the Private Water Authority providing an integrated water scheme to service the development.

Comment

As this application is being considered by IPART it is time for Tweed Shire Council to consider whether it is sincere about the recycling reclaimed water from its Banora Point Sewage treatment plant.

Tweed Shire Council's State of the Environment Report 2010 / 2011 reports, that 7238 ML of the 8726 ML of reclaimed water was dumped annually into the already nutrient rich Tweed River, with only 4.8 % of reclaimed water being reused.

As an example of water conservation in a large NSW development, Sydney Water is continuing the expansion of Australia's largest residential water recycling scheme in the Rouse Hill area in Sydney's north-west.

The scheme started in 2001 and over 19000 homes are now using up to 1.7Mm³/yr. of recycled water for flushing toilets, watering gardens, washing cars and other outdoor uses.

On average the Rouse Hill scheme has reduced demand for drinking water by about 40%. (Australia's urban and residential water reuse schemes by John Anderson)

Our community has the desire for increased water recycling, and the above mentioned proposed water treatment reuse, now subject to government and Tweed Shire Council approvals that could authorise this proposed infrastructure.

The proposed licence for NWS proposes: - 100% of wastewater generated can be recycled back to each house and used for sustainable effluent irrigation of public spaces; No discharges of surplus recycled water to waterways; Advanced Water Treatment Plant sized to treat approximately 60% of wastewater flow for recycling at each house; The 40% of surplus effluent managed by irrigation of open space irrigation areas.

Conclusion

Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd is currently making an application for an IPART Network Operators and Retail Licence for its 12,000 person Cobaki Lakes development and is advancing a further application for their King Forest 10,900 person development.

The following items should be considered by council:

- *Is it about time for council to improve their low percentage of reclaimed sewage water use (now between 5% and 9%) from their Banora Point Sewage treatment plant to several other major neighbouring developments off Fraser Drive, and now under preliminary construction? The annual dumping of more than 7238 ML of reclaimed water into the already nutrient rich Terranora system of the Tweed River and using so little of its treated reclaimed water is not sustainable.*
- *To apply the successful experience of using recycled water for flushing toilets, watering gardens, washing cars and other outdoor uses learned from the Rouse Hill area and the Olympic Park housing project? (Sydney Olympic Park Authority Annual Report, 2014–15, P., 24)*

1.3 Utility Services - 1.3.4 Water Supply

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.26/27]

What we deliver: A high quality water supply service with minimal interruptions and complaints; Community education and engagement to support water efficiency; Planning and capital works to improve levels of service and cater for growth.

(F) Tweed Shire Council Draft Strategies and plans

Review and expand wastewater policies and procedures: Water supply security - feasibility of link to SEQ; Water efficiency and demand management review; Progressively implement integrated water cycle management funded actions; Review and expand water supply policies and procedures; Investigation of Bray Park Weir improvements.

Comment

Tweed Shire Council published a Report dated 1, March 2010 on the consultation with the Community Working Group (CWG), established by Tweed Council, which was to determine a preferred option for augmentation for the future Tweed Water Supply.

At the conclusion of the CWG workshop the Community Working Group made the following recommendation:

The CWG (2010) Caveat

- At the last meeting of the Community Working Group (CWG) on the 1 March 2010, a majority of Community members signed a formal statement: “We strongly urge Council to commission an independent expert review of the need for additional water supply, prior to the commencement of detailed planning or environmental impact assessment of the preferred water supply option.”
- In their final letter, The Community Working Group requested that Tweed Shire Council seek an independent review of the Option selection process; that the water demand management strategy and water selection process was in line with national and international performance standards, appropriate to our environment; projected population growth was accurate; and that the impacts of climate change scenarios be carried out.
- Although many reports were referenced during the water augmentation project many considered that the Council Water Project was an ‘In house’ affair with selected project consultants, and therefore an external independent review of the whole project would be beneficial to council. The CWG had considered that the Water Project Team had not built a convincing business case for either Dam option without considering an adequate reduction in Tweed Shire’s demand for water including reuse and new supply programs.

- The new water sensitive cities concept, adopted by other NSW water authorities, has embraced a range of water management techniques, including stormwater harvesting, flood management, urban water recycling and reuse programs, urban rainwater harvesting and other urban water use efficiency programs.
- Members of the Community Working Group for the augmentation of Tweed District Water Supply (2010) were rightly concerned. Council, by utilising just another water consultancy (Hydrosphere Consulting), has bypassed the 2010 CWG's request to specifically get an independent reviewer, such as the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney or some other independent expert and to do an evaluation on water options/Demand Management Strategy at the same time.

Tweed Shire Council's water policies remain much the same as in the past and with a water supply objective that provides: No storm water harvesting; a small increase in the reuse of reclaimed water; no use of household grey water, or other major water savings in their planning for future use.

In the Tweed Shire Council IWCM Strategy – Random Telephone Survey Jetty Research of Feb 2013 the following response was noted to Question 10:

“There was widespread support for three prompted alternative water sources. Some 93 per cent supported using rainwater from residential tanks for toilet, laundry and outdoor taps, while 89 per cent agreed with the use of locally harvested stormwater, and 66 per cent were supportive of treated wastewater or sewage for these purposes”.

Conclusion

Now that Council has adopted the raising of Clarrie Hall Dam as the preferred option for the augmentation of the Tweed District Water Supply our community requests councillors to consider again, the above community concerns.

It is noted that Minutes of the 16 March 2017 record the following motion which was successfully voted down by councillors resisting community concerns and the sustainability of our future Tweed Shire water supply:

[NOM] Independent Review of Tweed's District Water Supply and Demand Management Reports 2010

121 Cr K Milne Cr C Cherry Council Meeting Date: THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017. RESOLVED that:

1. A comprehensive independent review of Council's Tweed District Water Supply, Demand Management and Drought Management reports be undertaken, as a matter of priority, to determine if those recommendations are still relevant, if new technological advances are available or now affordable, and to give further peer reviewed consideration for the most ecologically sustainable, climate change resilient, cost effective and socially acceptable long term water management and augmentation options available.
 - a) Such a review should include, but not be limited to, consideration of the full range of demand management, drought security, and supply options available.
 - b) This review to be undertaken concurrently with the progression of the current planning processes and land acquisitions for the raising of the Clarrie Hall Dam wall,

2 The community working group that was previously established to consider the water augmentation options be reconvened (with the exception for new Councillor representatives, and any vacancies to be advertised), to recommend the terms of reference for the review, recommend the selection criteria and weightings for selecting a preferred consultant for the review, and as a project reference group for the review.

The Motion Carried

FOR VOTE - Cr R Byrnes, Cr C Cherry, Cr R Cooper, Cr K Milne AGAINST VOTE - Cr J Owen, Cr W Polglase, Cr P Allsop

THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICE OF RESCISSION LODGED ON THIS ITEM BY COUNCILLORS J OWEN, W POLGLASE AND P ALLSOP FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 APRIL 2017.

1.4 Managing Community Growth - 1.4.1 Strategic Land-use Planning

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.50]

What we deliver: Preparation, community engagement, assessment and maintenance of the Tweed's Local Environmental Plans, Development Controls Plans and other Strategic Land-use Policy; Preparation and management of Tweed's built heritage programs and information services; Preparation and management of Tweed's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Program; Preparation and management of GIS spatial mapping and data for land-use planning.

Significant projects/works 1 Scenic Landscape Strategy; 2 Kingscliff Locality Plan; 3 Dunloe Park Release Area Planning; 4 Implementation of Rural Villages actions (subject to Council endorsement); 5 Locality Planning for Tweed Villages and localities (subject to Council prioritisation); 6 Murwillumbah main street heritage program; 7 Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan; 8 Fingal Head (Heights) DCP Review; 9 Tweed Local Growth Management Plan (subject to Council endorsement); 10 Sustainable Development Program (subject to Council endorsement); 11 Voluntary Planning Proposal Policy; 12 Major update of E planning and business systems to adapt to and implement NSW State Government Planning Reforms; 13 Urban and Employment Land Strategy – Review (subject to Council endorsement) 14 Murwillumbah Regional Locality Plan (subject to Council endorsement); 15 Implementation of Rural Land Strategy actions (subject to Council endorsement); 16 Implementation of Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan.

Comment - Community Life in Tweed - Provision for cultural buildings in Tweed Heads Central

There is much conversation, publicly and in the press, that while Murwillumbah has several museums, a public art gallery, and provision for a 'Down Town Gallery' supported by Council funding, there is a lack of provision for similar cultural facilities for the recently declared regional city of Tweed Heads which has a high population of residents and tourists.

The transfer of the Tweed River Museum to Murwillumbah is an example of how the Tweed Shire Council planning currently minimises the growing requirements of our regional city of Tweed Heads.

Conclusion

Future planning is required to update the needs of a growing and populous Tweed Heads and to provide for its cultural requirements.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Cobaki and Terranora Broadwater Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CATBACHMP) (Fox August 2006) advises:

'A group of (midden) sites known collectively by the Aboriginal name "Murraba" is located partly within Commonwealth land on the northern shore of the Cobaki Broadwater'.

During the construction of the Tugun Bypass by the NSW and Queensland governments and many constructions at the Gold Coast Airport, hundreds of thousands of isolated artefacts were located by the construction authorities with Aboriginal community assistance on the "Murraba" landscape.

These Aboriginal Cultural Heritage artefacts, collected between 2004 to date, remain bagged in some Gold Coast Airport storage area with the undertaking that these items would be locally exhibited in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Museum.

If this matter has progressed I am unaware of any proposed cultural display in this area of concern.

The CATBACHMP made the following statement: "Non-archeological places of significance to Aboriginal people have been overlooked or remain unidentified, due to limited research and a lack of recording of this type of site on site registers. This also stems from the emphasis on archeological sites and lack of consultation with Aboriginal authorities.

Conclusion

It is now time for Tweed Shire Council to remedy this inaction and to proudly exhibit Tweed Shire's Aboriginal items of proud Cultural Heritage.

3.1 People 3.1.9 - Local Emergency Management

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.57]

What we deliver: Support services and facilities to the Rescue and Local Emergency Management Committees, Asset management of buildings accommodating emergency service organisations; Maintenance of the Rural Fire District Service Agreement with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Comment

Re-establishment of Murwillumbah Unit SES Accommodation; Re-establishment of Tweed Heads Unit SES Accommodation

On March 30 & 31 NSW SES issued Emergency Alerts on mobile phones and telephone: 'Further water rises are expected people in low parts of TWEED HEADS must evacuate immediately. www.gov.au Tel 132500.'

It has been reported that many aged people were fearful about their safety even though flooding was not likely in their area. One aged person was reported to have paid for expensive overnight accommodation because she could not reach the SES recommended place of refuge, because of flooding near Kingscliff.

It would appear that some of these alerts could have been sent by an outside regional SES agency, which may have not had accurate data of floodable areas.

The Tweed DailyNews of 31st May, 2017 reports: "At Cudgen Leagues Club, residents were critical of the SES alert system, claiming it created panic, particularly among the elderly population and people new to the area. They said evacuation areas were too broad and argued that there was no point sending people from the wider Tweed Heads area to the Kingscliff evacuation centre, when one of the "first places to go under was Chinderah". "SES flood forum facilitator Rebecca Riggs said the meetings were very productive, with the next step to find solutions to the problems".

Conclusion

There is a need for council to contact the local SES about this community concern?

3.1 People 3.1.12 Tourism [Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.60]

What we deliver: Promotion and marketing of the Tweed region national and internationally, Provide Destination Tweed member services and tourism, product development, Visitor Information Centres. Support Destination Tweed to develop food tourism products

Projects 2017-18: Delivery of Tourism Promotion Services

Lack of tourist walking literature, and maintenance of council parks, boardwalks

The 12 month continued closure of the Tweed Heads Boardwalk at the Anchorage Island is an instance where council has failed in its annual maintenance of its boardwalks.

The closure has resulted in the loss of a much used boardwalk which was used by tourism and residents, both as a walking circuit and a children educational experience.

Other local boardwalks in the Lower Tweed Estuary show similar signs of neglect.

With elderly residents and tourists always seeking a pleasant walking experience for health and enjoyment there is a lack of suitable walking trail literature at Council's tourism centre.

There is also the need for elderly residents to have seating available at destinations, where there is a scenic view on Tweed's many urban walking trails.

Conclusion

The Tweed Shire Council's tourism body should consider publishing walking literature similar to the Gold Coast publication "Discover the Tweed Coast - Visited Tweed Heads Lately?

Read on and discover the beautiful Tweed Coast', <http://walkingthegoldcoast.com/tweed-heads/discover-the-tweed-coast>

Presently there is an emphasis on Tweed inland tourism and does not provide adequately the necessary tourism literature for the daily usage of local tourists and residents

3.2 Places - 3.2.7 Parks and Gardens [Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.69]

What we deliver: Well maintained, accessible and suitable parks and gardens: Encouraging physical activity and 'nature play'

Project 2017-18: Finalise and adopt shire wide Open space Strategy; Development and implementation of a Playground Action Plan; Replace playground Fingal Head; Install seniors exercise equipment John Follent Park, Tweed Heads; Install new playground Arbor Place, Murwillumbah

Comment - Keith Curran Park Reserve at the Anchorage Island

The Tweed Heads boardwalk at the Anchorage Island, constructed by council more than 20 years ago and located in the Keith Curran Park Reserve has received minimal maintenance and has been unnecessarily closed for 12 months. Residents have been told that if this park often neglected, needs to be properly maintained and budgeted funding is required.

Conclusion

If there is no funding budgeted for this urban park, please make provision for the funding of this park and others not included in council's budget.

Comment Finalise and adopt shire wide Open space Strategy

Open Space Strategy

The Tweed Valley Weekly dated 25 May 2017 expresses community concern about the differences between the original 2014/2015 Report and the 2017 Report calling for the Tweed Shire Council to be more open and transparent with their current administration of this strategy.

Re: Jack Evans Boat Harbour premier Regional Park at Tweed Heads

There is considerable community expectation that the harbour and park should remain relatively free from commercial activity and remain scenic and park-like.

Our community has recently expressed its concern about its unnecessary commercialization, when a Fun Water Park was proposed for our regional park and harbour.

If council planners have thought that placing such a structure on public land was a good idea, why have they not zoned a 'Dreamworld type' area on private land for the Tweed Shire as a business and tourism opportunity?

Planning such an area would assist in retaining the scenic beauty of our Tweed Heads premier regional park of Jack Evans Boat Harbour and also provide job opportunities in a designated location.

3.3 Moving Around - 3.3.2 Construction Services

[Draft - 2017/2021 Delivery Program and the draft 2017/2018 Operational Plan P.73]

What we deliver: Efficient, high quality construction to meet community needs; Project and Construction Management Services

Comment - Project and Construction Management Services

The Echonetdaily reported on 7.April 2017 that: 'Tweed Shire Council's general manager Troy Green has fended off claims that most of the shire's eight-million-dollar plus fleet of trucks and other plant destroyed during last week's historical flood which devastated Murwillumbah, could have been saved. Council's fleet of trucks and loaders is insured, with the expected value of loss is \$8 million, The Tweed Valley Weekly of 25th May reports that insurance reimbursement totals \$4.67 million subject to change. Their news article continues: 'Replacement Indicative Costs equals \$6.15million, which equates to a shortfall of \$1.48 million.'" The good debt part is that council will have new equipment but at an early financial cost and much inconvenience.

Conclusion

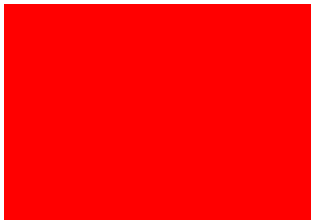
Our community considers that council should immediately find a new council depot above flood levels for the storage of the Shire's plant and vehicles.

I request that council considers this submission and acknowledges receipt of this communication.

Yours sincerely



Richard W Murray





Sent: Thursday, 1 June 2017 10:18 PM

To: Corporate Email

Subject: Dear Mr. Green and Councilers

The residents are worried that the Tweed Coast especially Pottsville are going to have our Rates increased in the Council's lasted Draft Revenue Policy and Statement.

It should be the same for everyone .

The Tweed Council want to put up the rates ,but you do not give much back to Pottsville .

I have been paying rates for over 20 years in Pottsville and the Council has not given anything here for the Youth as they have nothing to do only get into trouble .

We need a Skate Park ,BMX Bike track ,Youth Hall,in the future +a Swimming Pool.

We also need to get the Black Rocks Sports Ground resurfaced and get some sport played on it ,such as cricket ,net ball ,running track are a couple of suggestions .Many of our youth have to travel away to play sport and train as there is no home ground for them .

All that is built in Pottsville are houses.

Sincerely,

Shirley Gill

Submission re-the Draft 2017/2021 Delivery Program and Operational Plans

This submission is intended as an objective and constructive critique and should not be regarded as implied or explicit criticism. Nothing in this critique is directed to any Council officer. The aim of this critique is to point out ways for the Council to better inform and relate to the community.

Generally, the Tweed Shire Council (TSC) provides services effectively and efficiently. Overall ratepayers seem to get value for money. Certainly, in recent years there has been a growing appreciation of the attention Council is affording to residents and ratepayers in the Tyalgum District.

In making any critique this time it is acknowledged that the 2017 flood will have had a substantial adverse impact on Council and its ability to fulfil the delivery program. Therefore, this critique is not going into a line by line analysis of the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan or the Budget.

However, because of the flood it is noted that there may be additional funding and support received from state or federal sources.

[RECOMMENDATION] Therefore, it seems appropriate that a supplementary amended Delivery Program should be produced as those questions are resolved and changes are made to the intended Delivery Program.

Because of the foregoing, this critique is more general and only uses specific matters to give examples of problems identified in the Integrated Planning and Reporting System including the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Delivery Program (DP) and the Operational Plans (OP).

Nonetheless the TSC is not perfect and from a user/ratepayer perspective it would help if some changes were made to various administrative practices. Appropriate administrative changes may help ratepayers understand the processes used, they may provide a greater sense of engagement and would probably increase some administrative effectiveness.

Community expectations v's Council's obligations

There was criticism of the Community Strategic Plan for various reasons, none the least being that it did not properly reflect the community's priorities and aspirations. Apparently, some surveys were carried out with some online(?) and others in ad hoc interviews. However, the ad hoc interviews seem to have been focused in the coastal and Murwillumbah areas and the Western rural corridor does not seem to have enjoyed that same facility. Though this is efficient for Council it does not allow some communities to participate or for the Shire community to aggregate, consolidate and prioritise collective issues of concern. [RECOMMENDATION] Surveys - whether ad hoc or online need to be published to advise the community of the Council's interim findings and to provide community with further feedback particularly in relation to prioritisation before the CSP is finalised and published.

Another major concern was the focus in the CSP on pictures/graphics rather than substance as to the identified needs and priorities of the community. Also, the CSP would have been a good means/opportunity to spell out how the Council needed to resolve the competing and prioritisation differences between community expectations and the obligatory and unavoidable requirements of Council.

Council explained that when the Draft Delivery Program, the Operational Plans and the Budget were handed down, the contentious and unresolved issues in the Strategic Plan would be explained and reconciled. With the greatest respect, that hasn't happened.

This situation leaves many Strategic Plan issues unresolved and unexplained while moving on to critiquing the Delivery Program etc. While the CSP remains contentious, discussion about the DP, the OP and the Budget badly fractures any chance of an effective Integrated Planning and Reporting System.

The legislation requires the Council to apply a Community Engagement Strategy which helps to guide the Strategic Plan, the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan and the Budget as part of an Integrated Planning and Reporting system. The reporting system is supposed to show/prove that the strategic plan objectives have been achieved and their rate of effectiveness in application.

In fact and practice, there seems to be a considerable disjunct between all elements of this Integrated Planning and Reporting system.

Important: At a local level, the disjunct between the CSP and the DP is very obvious. What was promoted and acknowledged (through community engagement) as a local requirement at the CSP level is, in some instances completely absent from the DP. This raises the very important factor of prioritisation by Council – that matter is dealt with later.

It may be that Council may be completely compliant with the requirements. However, from a user/ratepayer perspective it does not appear that the system is integrated and it does appear that there is a considerable disjunct between these elements.

There are legislative requirements which are intended to provide information that would help users/ratepayers engage more responsibly with Council and provide the sort of information necessary to assess the functions of Council.

From a user/ratepayer perspective it does not seem that some of these requirements are being met. Clearly these requirements would be a considerable burden on the council's administrative processes. However the requirements must surely help the Council to prioritise functions and would undoubtedly help the community to appreciate what the council achieves.

Legislative requirements:

There is some sympathy with Council in respect of the legislative requirements. Some elements of the process are clearly defined and others somewhat ambiguous. However, what is discerned from the legislation is that there is a hierarchy in the planning and reporting processes. In the planning stage there appears to be (strategic) "principal activities" which are then split into various (operational) objectives. In the reporting stage there are outputs (what was done) and outcomes (how well it was done). This critique follows that modality.

1. The Local Government Act (428 Annual Reports) requires that "*a council must prepare a report (its annual report) for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed*" quoted from Act.

Firstly, there does not seem to be any "principal activities" specified in the DP or OP in either the annual report or the end of term report. Consequently, there can't be any report on the effectiveness of principal activities anywhere.

It follows that if Council is not identifying “principal activities” nor detailing their effectiveness standards in the Delivery Program, then such information cannot be contained in annual reports as is legislatively required.

Secondly neither the annual or term reports seem to list achievements/efficiencies in implementing the DP over any period.

2. The Local Government Act (404 Delivery Program) requires that “*the delivery program must include a method of assessment to determine the effectiveness of each principal activity detailed in the delivery program in implementing the strategies and achieving the strategic objectives at which the principal activity is directed*”, quoted from the act.

AND - The Planning & Reporting Manual p96 (4.7 Determining assessment methods) states “*Council will need to develop methods to determine the effectiveness of the Delivery Program. The methods will focus on both **outputs** (the things we did) and **outcomes** (the results of what we did – Did it work? Was it beneficial?)*” quoting directly from the Manual.

e.g. “OUTPUT (aka the product) - build a concrete bridge across X-Creek with the capacity to reduce through traffic on Y Road by 50% of its current (2016) usage.
OUTCOME (aka benefit) Bridge built at 5% more than expected costs and 6 week later than planned (increase costs/time caused by weather event) – has reduced through traffic on Y Road by 65% compared to 2016 usage.

OUTPUTS it seems, are services and/or infrastructure by organisational units. Outputs appear to require set targets of product quality, quantity, cost and, timeliness etc. In each functional area, it seems that similar/related matters could be bundled into (say 5-10) principal activities.

OUTCOMES appear to measure the benefits and effectiveness or otherwise that the community perceives to have occurred. Through the Community Strategic Plan, the community wants a specified outcome and the reporting system identifies whether the outcome was achieved and how effective the outcome it has been.

With respect, these types of ‘methods’ do not appear to be in any reporting process. Therefore, it is not possible to assess if the product (Output) has been achieved. There is no way for the community to assess the benefit/effectiveness (Outcome) of that item in the Delivery Program.

Also, if these methods of assessment are not included in the Delivery Program then surely the council is being left open to criticism under the act.

User/Ratepayer perspective

There is user/ratepayer difficulty in reconciling features through the Strategic Plan (CSP) to the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan and the Budget. The Strategic Plan should reflect the community’s priorities and aspirations and those should then flow down through the programs and plans.

Example: The CSP refers to “3.2 provide places, sports and facilities” However it is NOT possible to go to the Development Program, Operational Plan and the Budget and identify where those plans address the priorities and aspirations.
The CSP Target (outcome?) is “increase use of sports and recreation” – However “Increase use” might be achieved without more places, sports and facilities. Perhaps in some cases it may simply require better access, utilisation and/or management.

The problem for users/ratepayers is that there is nothing in the CSP or in the other plans that explains whether the “increase use” will be best achieved by spending more money on places, sports and facilities or simply providing better access, utilisation and/or management at a cheaper rate.

It seems in this example that the Planning Objective/product (output) required “provision of places, sports and facilities”. Whereas the CSP target/benefit (outcome) was “increase use of sport and recreation.” Providing places, sports and facilities does not necessarily mean an increased use of sports and facilities. There appears to be some misalignment with what is being done by Council and whether it effectively and efficiently would meet the priorities and aspirations of the community.

Local Perspective

As indicated above, the issue of priorities of the community seems at odds with the priorities of the Council. The community is seeking short term, self-interest socially beneficial infrastructure and well-being facilities. Conversely the Council is planning for long-term structural, organisational and maintenance infrastructure issues, most of which are completely unknown to the users and ratepayers. Therefore, it is inevitable that the community’s shorter term priorities and aspirations are constantly competing against the Council’s longer term planning for more comprehensive services and infrastructure requirements.

Legislation requires that the CSP reflects community priorities and aspirations as the basis for the DP, OP and budget. This is somewhat problematic as the Council is required to do more than satisfy the proclaimed planning needs of the community.

[RECOMMENDATION] therefore perhaps there should be some delineation in the DP and OP between the aspired and prioritised services and infrastructure required by the community and the unavoidable and necessary services, infrastructure and maintenance which the Council is duty-bound to provide

The conflict resolves around priorities of the respective parties. It seems in most circumstances the Council determines the priority of what and when socially beneficial infrastructure should be constructed (e.g. parks, sports facilities, bus shelters, playgrounds, beach areas, walkways, cycle paths, halls, foot paths, public toilets and the like). This prioritisation is made by Council regardless of the priority determined by the relevant community - through community engagement, as reflected in the CSP.

If a community prioritised and aspired to get some socially beneficial infrastructure and that infrastructure was available from Council surely the community seeking that infrastructure should get it in preference to giving it to another community which had not asked for it.

Tyalgum has been seeking the renovation and upgrading of the local public toilet – the existing relic being barely recognisable as a public facility; meeting none of the requirements of a public toilet other than it flushes. Yet Tyalgum has been advised that we are about 65th on a list of toilets that need renovation. The question is; what criteria and research has been carried out that warrants the Tyalgum toilet being set down as 65th in need of renovation.

At Tyalgum, the public toilet services a new child’s playground, barbecue and picnic tables, a tennis court, and an increasingly large number of tourists arriving by car clubs, motorcycle clubs and tourism buses, In short it is a high use, tourism and local residential supportive facility. Yet this facility has been prioritised lower down the list than toilets which are not adjacent to any thorough way or only open at weekends for sporting events.

This seriously raises the question of how services and infrastructure are prioritised and on what basis in respect of the Development Program.

This then opens the question of equity. Though the Council Charter rightly highlights the need to provide facilities and resources on an equitable basis, it does seem that some locations are more equitable than others.

If facilities and resources are provided in a high-density area it is clear they should receive a proportion of those facilities at a higher rate than a low-density area. But the inequity rises when the low-density area gets nothing or very little.

When the CSP clearly indicates that a particular area (in this case, a low-density area) has consistently identified the need for socially beneficial infrastructure, i.e. a public toilet and foot paths, it seems that those priorities and aspirations must somehow be reflected in the Delivery Program, even if it is only at an equitable portion of what other high density areas are receiving. That would seem to be an exercise in equity. When that does not occur, there appears to be a clear breach of the Council's charter in respect of "equity".

It is easy to tie the issue of priorities and equity together. Council recently prioritised a footpath to be laid in an area towards the coast. There was no local community prioritisation or aspirations to have a footpath at that location. Consequently, when Council tried to prepare that area for construction of the footpath it was rejected by local residents. Rather than abandon the project, Council graciously and thankfully took preliminary steps to divert the resources to construct the footpath at Tyalgum. However, that was before the flood and now there is no certainty that the Tyalgum footpath will never eventuate.

This critique of the Integrated Planning and Reporting System is provided with the intention of highlighting concerns and offering suggestions to resolve those concerns,

Should the council require any clarification or further discussions on the matters raised herein, we would be pleased to provide that assistance at a mutually convenient time.

Kind regards

Peter Bennett
TDCA member
1 June 2017.

