

ATTACHMENT 1

TWEED SHIRE SOCIAL PLAN – 2006 REVIEW

CONSULTATION REPORT

Consultation of the Community:

On 29 November community feedback was requested through a full-page insertion in the Tweed Link about the current Social Plan Strategies, and changes to the quality of life being experienced by people in the community. A wide range of community organisations (about 80) were also canvassed directly by letter for feedback. Subsequently, a further notice targeting young people was inserted in Tweed Link to try to attract responses from this group.

Responses at the closing date, 27 January 2006, included 34 submissions by letter, email or telephone.

Major Issues

The separate issues raised in these submissions can be categorised as:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Transport | 24 issues |
| Young People | 13 issues |
| Affordable Housing | 10 issues |
| People with a Disability | 10 issues |
| Employment | 7 issues |
| Older People | 5 issues |
| Children | 4 issues |
| Women | 3 issues |
| ATSI People | 1 issue |
| Cultural & Linguistically Diverse People | 1 issue |
| TOTAL | 78 issues |

Themes within the Issues

Within the issues, particular recurring themes can be identified that need to be addressed.

Proposed Actions

Actions to address the themes contained in the submissions, are proposed as follows. Some Actions may be already in progress, others may be new proposals for which support, partnerships or funding sources may need to be explored:

Transport

- **Lack of awareness of information about transport services:**

- The feedback included people who were unaware of existing services, and this implies need for better ways of providing information.

- o **Actions:**

- o - *Updating and promoting the Network Access Guide more widely,*
 - o - *Promoting 'how to use public transport' to older people no longer able to drive, but unfamiliar with bus systems (currently proposed as a Healthy Ageing promotion during 2006),*
 - o - *Promoting the new regional 'Going Places' website.*

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- **Transport service improvements**

- Many requested greater route coverage and frequency, and extended hours of operation, particularly for work travel and education, which is a significant problem for young people; and for older people who may rely on public transport for all their travel needs.

- o **Actions:**

- o - *The PTWG will work with operators to encourage new and extended routes, greater frequency, and services at times to meet people's needs,*
 - o - *The PTWG will investigate preparation of a proactive Network Development Plan for public transport, in cooperation with operators and MoT.*

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- **Footpath system improvements**

- Less mobile people are having difficulty accessing public transport and using the footpaths, either in wheelchairs, on scooters or on foot.

- o **Actions:**

- o - *The Social Plan advocates greater investment in the footpath system, and a higher standard of amenity (seats, shade trees), as a higher priority than road improvements for vehicles,*
 - o - *Footpath 'black spots' will be improved with a combination of Council, RTA and CPTIGS funding, but progress has been slow due to inadequate funding priority.*

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- **Improved transport options for non-drivers**

- Feedback from people no longer able to drive indicated a need not only for user-friendly public transport, but a range of 'mobility management' options such as subsidised taxi schemes.

- o **Actions:**

- o - *Roll-out of the regional 'Mobility Management' pilot scheme expected to begin in 2006, which will provide a staffed enquiry office for community transport-type services for transport-disadvantaged people,*
 - o - *Investigation of the feasibility of a subsidised taxi scheme similar to the scheme operated by Gold Coast Council for local trips for transport-disadvantaged people.*

- *Investigate family concession tickets to help mothers with children.*
- **Assistance to enable sight-impaired and people with other disabilities to use the transport system**
- People with a disability have special needs that are sometimes overlooked.
 - **Actions:**
 - *- Take advice from representatives of disabled people about design matters to include aids and avoid obstructions on footpaths and at bus stops,*
 - *- Advocate for local commercial centres within walking distance to residences to give people with a disability more independence to access services (this is part of a wider advocacy for more sustainable urban design).*

Young People

Isolation due to inadequate transport for work, education and recreation

Most young people are seriously disadvantaged by being unable to access educational courses, training, work opportunities and social activities and events.

Actions:

- *The PTWG will address the issue of adjusting timetables for work and early/late travel, and weekend recreational travel, in considering up-coming timetable reviews,*
- *The PTWG will investigate in collaboration with Community Transport, the PT Development Project and MoT how to better serve youth needs,*
- *Actions proposed for the following issue will also assist this issue.*

Lack of activities and educational opportunities for young people

This issue overlaps with the previous issue; there is inadequate attention given to the funding and organisation of activities that focus primarily on youth, particularly under 18s.

Actions:

- *Investigate with the education sector whether more training courses can be run locally,*
- *Implement the Youth Needs Analysis, particularly regarding the emphasis on promotion of youth events as part of Council's policy,*
- *Develop a stronger focus by local community organisations and employers on engagement and employment of young people (one example suggested was music clubs in the villages).*

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Homelessness due to family breakdown or dysfunctionality

Reports indicate an increasing population of young people from age 12 upwards not living at home for a variety of reasons, but living transiently with friends, or independently.

Actions:

- *Advocate for a full time Youth Development Officer or planner position facilitating partnerships or consortiums to raise funds for youth housing,*
- *Seek partnerships with the Office of Community Housing/Centre for Affordable Housing/NGOs for a funded case management position for provision of housing,*
- *Support NGO applications for funded case management positions.*

Anti-social behaviour, mainly by young males,

Older people are reporting aggressive behaviour by teenagers in residential areas that creates a perception of insecurity.

Actions:

- Continue to implement programs in the Community Safety Action Plan,*
- *Adopt the Better Communities Crime Prevention Strategy for the remainder of the Shire and implement its community strengthening programs,*
- *Work with the education sector, youth service providers and community organisations to reduce the proportion of young people not engaged in either education or employment,*

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Neglect of young men's issues, and lack of role models for them.

Lack of services and information for young men and boys, who often do not have male role models and mentors.

Actions:

- *Work with Education and youth service providers to assist single parent or other families find suitable role models and mentors.*

Affordable Housing

Escalating prices and rents,

Housing stress has increased markedly in recent years in Tweed.

Actions:

- *Facilitate planning provisions to allow splitting of large houses into flats, or addition of 'granny flats', or development of boarding houses, rather than discouraging them,*
- *Lobby for increased housing assistance grants for low-income people and people employed in essential services,*

- *Discourage discriminatory bank and real estate practices that disadvantage single parents wanting to buy or lease housing.*

Lack of affordable housing for low income groups,

Combined with the previous issue, there are few developers building for the lower-priced market.

Actions:

- *Seek to increase the proportion of affordable housing in new developments, including duplexes, medium density flats and apartments, manufactured home parks and caravan parks,*
- *Review planning mechanisms to allow affordable housing projects,*
- *Investigate partnerships with community organisations to build affordable housing,*
- *Support NGO lobbying for funded case management positions to assist low-income applicants.*
- *Allow discounts for affordable housing as a % of units in developments,*
- *Lobby to increase the proportion of public housing in Tweed from around 3.5% up to the State average of 5.5%.*

Address the social effects of lack of affordable housing, including longer commuting, less community participation, dysfunctional households or homelessness.

Actions:

- *Ensure new release areas have a mix of housing types, including a large proportion of affordable types, and have mixed-use service centres within walking distance.*

Lack of short-term crisis housing.

Accommodation for individuals, families and children in temporary crisis situations is inadequate.

Actions:

- *Support community organisations and agencies to provide more temporary accommodation options.*

People with a Disability

Insufficient capacity of disability support services such as home care, services for problem gambling, information in forms suitable for the sight-impaired, and adaptable housing.

Actions:

- *Work with the Dept of Ageing, Disability & Home Care and other Government agencies to maintain levels of service for a growing population, many with a disability (23% of total regional population),*

- *Promote opportunities for employment of people with a disability, in Council and elsewhere,*
- *Improve information distribution to sight impaired people,*
- *Consider the effects of widespread availability of gambling machines,*
- *Consider the needs of people who are frail aged, but otherwise do not have a disability,*
- *Promote the adaptable design of affordable housing on a wider scale.*

Accessibility of the transport system, including footpaths; access to buildings, and shopping centres located within walking distance.

Actions:

- *Ensure footpaths are also adequate for scooter travel,*
- *Ensure footpaths are safe for sight impaired people, and not cluttered with signs and poles,*
- *Investigate ways to assist sight impaired people to use public transport,*
- *Investigate housing designs suitable for sight impaired people,*
- *Encourage commercial premises to become accessible for the 23% of people with a disability,*
- *Ensure local shops and services are within walking distance for people with a disability.*

Employment

Restricted work travel opportunities outside main towns.

The public transport network does not enable people to work in other towns, nor adequately serve 'a region of villages'.

Actions:

*Ensure public transport schedules allow for work travel between all towns in the Shire, especially arrival before 8.00am,
Expand transport opportunities for residents in villages and rural areas,*

Training issues about local availability of courses.

There is limited opportunity for training without re-locating from the Shire.

Actions:

- *Expand the range of work training courses available locally,*
- *There are opportunities to expand environmental work training available in the Shire,*
- *Increase flexibility and support for young people and people with a disability to be released from school to undertake work training in preparation for employment.*

Older People

Limited range of transport options for people who cannot drive,

There is a significant problem of reduced mobility for people who can no longer drive, who are cut off from community participation and essential services unless alternative transport is available.

Actions:

- *Ensure residential developments for older people are well served by public transport, eg, Winders Place, Noble Park Estate,*
- *Investigate possible subsidised taxi schemes similar to the scheme operated by Gold Coast Council,*
- *Undertake promotions to increase familiarisation of older people with using public transport (as currently proposed as part of Healthy Ageing),*
- *Establish a 'mobility management' system to coordinate and promote available transport resources.*

High cost of housing and travel.

Older people typically have limited disposable income.

Actions:

- *Ensure there is a range of affordable housing options,*
- *Refer to actions in the previous item.*

The Generation Gap.

Insecurity is created for some older people because of anti-social behaviour by teenagers, or lack of communication between younger and older people.

Actions:

- *Ensure teenagers are either employed or in education full time, and not excluded from participation in the community,*
- *Investigate possible ways to increase interaction between younger and older generations, such as 'uncle' and mentoring projects.*

Children

Availability of childcare places.

Places are reported to be difficult to obtain.

Actions:

- *Review the availability of childcare places in Tweed.*

Missing male role models for primary school boys

Some boys do not have influential male contact, leading to social problems.

Actions:

- *Support 'uncle' and similar mentoring schemes for boys.*

- *Investigate the possible role of sporting organisations, or 'music clubs' on a village basis, to increase social participation.*

Family stability issues affecting children.

Children are at risk when family life becomes violent, or families split.

Actions:

- *Ensure there are crisis centres that are safe and peaceful for mothers and kids,*
- *Aboriginal families are sometimes unstable, and need culturally appropriate assistance.*

Women

Availability of support services for women, including crisis centres/refuges.

Council and the Women's Service can work together.

Actions:

- *Promote a 'new mothers package' of information in Tweed,*
- *Council should be represented on the Tweed Valley Committee Against Domestic Violence, and help to carry out safety audits.*

Transport difficulties participating in community activities.

Women's roles are made difficult when transport services are inadequate.

Actions:

- *Ensure community centres, local shopping centres and recreation facilities are well served by public transport.*

Access difficulties to many buildings, and for people with disabilities.

Women are particularly disadvantaged by inaccessible buildings.

Actions:

- *Carry out an audit of buildings not accessible by people with a disability, women with small children, prams or shopping bags.*

ATSI People

Availability of family and child support services.

Families need a wide range of community services, and Aboriginal families need their own style of community living.

Actions:

- *Actions listed under the headings above also apply to Aboriginal communities in many cases,*
- *A project for an Aboriginal meeting place as part of the Jack Evans Boat Harbour development has been proposed, which would be a sacred space in pure Aboriginal style,*

- An innovative project for 'cluster homes' with shared garden space to enable small community groupings would help to alleviate isolation and be more affordable, and should be investigated.

Cultural & Linguistic Diversity

Availability of community information.

Access to information is the main aid needed by the CALD community.

Actions:

- Continue the multi-cultural group established by the CALD project in 2005, and further develop information channels.

ATTACHMENT 2

TWEED SHIRE SOCIAL PLAN – 2006 REVIEW

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

34 Submissions received at closing date, 27/01/06

Issues raised in Submissions:

24 Transport issues

13 Young People

- **5 Older People**

10 People with a Disability

10 Affordable Housing

- **4 Children**

- **1 ATSI People**

- **3 Women**

- **1 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity**

- **7 Employment**

Total 78 Issues

Summary of Submissions.

This list of submissions is categorised according to the issues covered, from which the total number of issues raised is calculated.

Transport/Young People:

Name: Charmaine Sinclair, Terranora, 20/12/05 (by email).

Topics: Transport – lack of bus service and footpath on Terranora Rd, causing isolation for young people.

Actions: Provide advice about existing bus service.
Refer footpath issue for consideration.

Transport

Name: Elaine Olsen, Acting Manager, Australian Red Cross, TH Branch, 19/01/06 (by Letter),

Topics: Lack of information on bus routes, 'hotline' suggested, More bus routes needed for increased population.

Actions: 'Mobility Management approach supported, Access Guide to be produced.

Transport

Name: Jeff Rogers, Terranora, 13/12/05 (by email).

Topics: Inadequate weekend service on route 605, Tweed Heads-Murwillumbah, in view of growth in the area, needs of young and older people, and tourism opportunities.

Need for footpath along Terranora Rd between McAuley's Rd and the Post Office/store, in view of pedestrian hazards and growth.
Need for 'cat's eyes' along Terranora Rd in unlit and winding sections during bad weather.

Actions: Discuss weekend bus service with Surfside Bus Lines for consideration in new timetable.
Refer footpath and 'cat's eyes' issues for consideration.

Transport

Name: J. Brunner, Sec, Tweed Chamber of Commerce & Industry, 18/1/06, (by Letter).

Topics: Lack of a Tweed Heads Transit Centre is affecting businesses in Bay St because passengers have no facilities.
The Chamber has reduced vagrant numbers in Chris Cunningham Park and Tweed Centro, and will be happy to assist a similar outcome for Bay St Interstate Bus Stop.
Proposes a meeting to look at other options for interstate coaches.

Actions: Arrange meeting to discuss the issues raised.
Progress planning for improved Transit Centre.

Transport/Affordable Housing

Name: Margaret Reynolds, Sec, Mary McKillop Conference, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Murwillumbah, 20/01/06 (by Letter).

Topics: Escalating rent and home prices affecting the whole Shire, with families on benefits experiencing many difficulties,
No crisis/overnight male accommodation causing the problem of people sleeping in parks; particularly the mentally ill,
Need improved transport between Murwillumbah and TH/Gold Coast/Kingscliff, essential to open up employment and education opportunities, and health access; present bus services not suitable for workers, leaving too late and finishing too early.

Actions: Consider transport suggestions at PTWG and discuss with MoT.
Consider ways of making housing more affordable, with developer incentives.

Transport/Affordable Housing

Name: Lisa Crook, Kingscliff, 12/12/05 (by email).

Topics: Transport – bus service Coast to Murwillumbah.
Affordable Housing – not affordable for people on an ordinary wage; biased towards resorts and apartments, rather than public housing.

Actions: Continue discussions with MoT towards a Coast-Murwillumbah bus service.
Establish Tweed Futures Expert Panel on Community Development & Housing, and adopt an Affordable Housing Strategy, as proposed in the current Social Plan.

Recommend to Council that it requires developers to provide a proportion of more affordable housing in developments.

Transport/Older People

Name Elva Burgoyne, Banora Point, 20/12/05 (by letter).
Topics Lack of bus service to Palm Lake Resort, Winders Place and isolation of people aged 70-80 years; also reference to Gold Coast Council \$2.00 subsidised taxi service.
Actions Discuss with Surfside Bus Lines inclusion of Winders Place service in new timetable.
Refer subsidised taxi issue to PTWG for consideration.

Transport/ Older People

Name Nancy McPhail, Kingscliff, 2/12/05 (by letter).
Topics Need for a bus shelter in vicinity of Noble Lakeside Estate to assist elderly residents without cars.
Actions Refer shelter issue to PTWG for consideration.

Transport/People with a Disability

Name: Marian McDonald, Banora Point, 7/12/05 (by letter).
Topics Infrequent/unreliable public transport service, causing inability to enjoy the benefits of Tweed culture and recreation facilities.
Loss of home care service (cleaner) following death of husband.
Actions Discuss with Surfside Bus Lines the frequency of service.
Refer cleaner issue to COPS for investigation.

Transport/People with a Disability

Name: Mrs H P Hosking, Tweed Heads, 2/12/05 (by letter).
Topics: Wharf St footpath between Twin Towns and Centro Mall narrow and hazardous for scooter users.
Actions Refer footpath issue for consideration.

People with a Disability/Transport

Name: Yvonne Hartley, West Banora Point, 27/01/06 (by email).
Topics: Access by blind people to public transport,
Need for local services within walking distance.
Actions: Investigate specific footpath and identification of bus stop solutions,
Reinforce need for local shopping centres.

Older People/People with a Disability

Name: Yvonne Corrigan, Psychologist/Team Leader, Northern Rivers Gambling Service, 12/12/05 (by email).
Topics: Problem gambling affecting Tweed pensioners and persons with disabilities, the correlation between the number of gambling machines and the number of problem gamblers, and Responsible Gambling Strategies.

Actions: Increase Council awareness of problem gambling by recommending statistics on numbers of gambling machines and numbers of problem gamblers be published.

Older People/Transport

Name: E.M.Hilson, Banora Point, 11/1/06 (by Letter).

Topics: Lack of information and support for frail aged people who are only physically frail, not mentally.
People plagued by destructive teenagers, situation deteriorating, need for Community Safety Action Plan.
Need for information on local community activities; and Lifestyle/Culture & Recreation activities; and good transport access.
Transport access for older people who don't drive; not sufficient options, eg, no access to Greenway/Machinery Drive area from Tweed Heights. Infrequent and slower than in 1992; bus shelters and seats a major priority for weather protection.
Housing stress because 2br house rent is a minimum \$240/wk, public housing waiting list 6-8years unacceptable.

Actions: Provide full acknowledgement, and review individual support situation.

Progress planned safety, transport and housing strategies

People with a Disability/Affordable Housing/Employment/Transport

Name: Blind Citizens Australia, Tweed Valley Branch, 7/1/06 (by letter).

Topics: Lack of access to Council information that is only provided in print, not large print, audio cassette, audio CD, or Braille, on request.
Lack of accommodation/housing catering for the needs of blind people.
Need for a pedestrian safety policy, in view of increasingly cluttered footpaths.
Need for improved footpath access to bus shelters, sealed and clear of obstructions.
Need for improved opportunities for employment of people with a disability by Council, and in the Shire generally.

Actions: Investigate improvements in information for blind people.

Investigate housing, employment and pedestrian safety issues.

Transport/People with a Disability

Name: (by letter?)

Topics: Public transport stops in Norman St, West Tweed, are unidentified and access is hazardous for less mobile people.
Footpath along Kennedy Drive is hazardous, not wheelchair accessible, and is also used by cyclists.

Actions: Liaise with Surfside Bus Lines to improve passenger facilities/information.

Seek improvement of footpath in Kennedy Drive/Norman St.

Transport/People with a Disability

Name: Joy Pacey, 1/12/05 (letter)
Topics: Footpaths outside Retirement Villages and Nursing Homes of adequate standard for residents on foot, wheelchair users and scooter riders to have an extended range of travel.
Actions: Review and prioritise footpath access to existing and proposed Villages and Nursing Homes.

Transport (access to health centre)

Name: Don McDonald, Pottsville Community Association, 12/12/05 (by phone).
Topics: The health centre proposed for Crown Land adjoining the Neighbourhood Centre in Pottsville is not proposed in the current Social Plan. The Association has communicated with the General Manager, NCAHS about including it on their works program; at present the nearest centre is at Kingscliff (written submission expected).
Actions: Progress partnership intentions with NCAHS to develop the site for this and other community purposes.

Young People/People with a Disability/Employment

Name: Rachel Smith, On-Q Human Resources Limited, South Tweed Heads, 23/01/06 (by Letter),
Topics: Traineeships less supported by NSW than Qld; information needs, Transport difficulties, Increase in psychiatric disabilities in Tweed, Employment opportunities in Tweed.
Actions: Liaise with On-Q re. employment and transport issues.

Young People/Transport/Employment

Name: Renee Leniart, Uki, date?, (by Letter).
Topics: Inability to access employment because of transport, Suggested transport service needs, Lack of activities for under-18s, with suggestions,
Actions: Investigate suggested solutions for transport (bus arrival times suitable for workers) and youth activities (hang out spaces, as recommended in Youth Needs Analysis).

Young People/Transport

Name: Margaret Walsh, Banora Point, 2/12/05 (letter)
Topics: After school and holiday social activities for 12-24 years – more facilities such as skate board and bike ramps needed. Mid-afternoon service needed on Route 605 Tweed-Murwillumbah bus route – gap is too long.
Actions: Refer activities request to Recreation Services, Advise Surfside Buslines about service request.

Employment/Young People/Transport

Name: Name Withheld - Kings Forest, 21/01/06 (by Letter).
Topics: TAFE course for apprentice electrician (too young to drive) not available locally, only at Wollongbar or Ashmore, Queensland TAFE requires a Queensland address,
Actions: Discuss issue with TAFE.

Young People/Employment

Name: Claire Masters, Tweed Landcare Inc, 26/01/06 (by Letter).
Topics: Landcare provides recreational, educational and social opportunities for young people, Development of ecologically sustainable local employment for young people, by Council,
Actions: Investigate opportunities for youth employment in environmental improvement.

Employment/Young People/Transport

Name: Samuel K Dawson, Murwillumbah, 30/01/06 (by Letter).
Topics: Three applications for employment with Council rejected, and lack of encouragement to work on preservation of the pristine environment, Lack of social and recreational activities for young people in Tweed, Absence of reliable, affordable public transport a major issue, especially in rural areas.
Actions: Investigate Council youth employment opportunities, Investigate solutions to lack of transport and lack of young people's activities.

Young People/Children/Accessibility

Name: Greg & Gretel Jones, Murwillumbah, 2/12/05 (by email).
Topics: Knox Park not well maintained and subject to vandalism, educational opportunities and recreation for teenagers lacking, childcare places hard to obtain, and poor accessibility of local banks.
Actions: Liaise with Recreation Services Unit on park programs. Promote existing policy to encourage tertiary education facilities. Investigate childcare place availability. Liaise with Access Committee on access to banks.

Children/Young People

Name: T & D Wybrew, Burringbar, 5/12/05 by (letter).
Topics: Suggestion to initiate music clubs in villages for children and young people to be trained, with benefits of development of talent lasting a lifetime, team spirit, civic pride and avoidance of the aggression in sports activities and cost of sports facilities.
Actions: Refer proposal to Cultural Development Officer.

Young People/Older People

- Name: Heather Boniface, Banora Point, early December (by phone).
- Topics: Anti-social behaviour by teenagers is creating fear in older residents; lack of security for older residents because of easy access along canals; discussion of fencing rules; lack of entertainment for teenagers and discussion of graffiti walls as an outlet.
- Actions: Reinforcement of 'community strengthening' Social Plan emphasis, and support for increased community activities, Community Centres and such organisations as Neighbourhood Watch.

Children/Young People (men)

- Name: Brian Hill, Church Minister, early December (by phone).
- Topics: Men are not included as specific group in the Social Plan. Young men are being neglected, male role models are often missing, and there is resentment among primary school age boys who do not have a father in the family.
- Actions: Men are assumed to be included in all seven mandatory groups in the Social Plan, even as partners in the Women's group, but increasing the visibility of men's issues will be investigated. A specific aim to highlight male role models for the Children and Young People groups will also be investigated.

Affordable Housing

- Name: Male, 60 years, early December (by phone).
- Topics: Affordable housing; pressure of rising private rentals causing difficulty for people who are not working and cannot get loans to purchase; having to share to afford the cost; facing a 14 year waiting list for public housing; need to build more public units.
- Actions: Establish Tweed Futures Expert Advisory Panel on Community Development & Housing, and adopt an Affordable Housing Strategy, as proposed in the current Social Plan. Recommend to Council that it requires developers to provide a proportion of more affordable housing in developments.

Affordable Housing

- Name: G Cooney, Tweed Shire, December, (by letter).
- Topics: Unaffordable housing; experience of ordinary people being forced to move out of Byron Bay by the cost of owning or buying housing, which is being repeated in places such as Fingal, Kingscliff, Cabarita and Pottsville. Inequity of forced removal, hardship of increased commuting, and weakening of the community by reduced participation; role of Council to address the issue.
- Actions: As for previous item.

Affordable Housing

Name: Tammy Jones, Banora Point, 6/01/06 (by letter).
Topics: Unaffordable cost of housing for a single parent, even with rent assistance. Prejudice of real estate agents and bank loans departments against single parents renting or buying homes. Inability of Housing Dept. to provide housing. Difficulty in finding part-time employment to fit in with needs of parents with children.
Actions: As for previous two items.

Affordable Housing

Name: Barbara Waters, Murwillumbah, 13/1/06 (by Letter).
Topics: Lack of affordable housing in Murwillumbah area - \$290/wk for a 3br unit - benefits of NC Community Housing Co. housing. Need for single storey units for older people, located near the town centre so that tenants feel part of the community.
Actions: Pursue partnership housing schemes with NC Community Housing Co, and similar well-located schemes.

Women/Children/Affordable Housing/Transport

Name: Rosemary Larkin, Manager, TS Women's Service Inc, 27/01/06 (by email).
Topics: Lack of funding to deal with documented need for women's support services,
TSC involvement with the Tweed Valley Committee Against Domestic Violence, and safety audits,
Lack of affordable public transport options,
Lack of affordable housing, and identified need for additional two refuge houses,
Council strategies for preventing domestic violence.
Actions: Investigate supportive transport and housing options, and Council participation in Committee,
Utilise statistics in lobbying for support and funding.

Young People/People with a Disability/Women/ ATSI People/ Transport/Affordable Housing

Name: Maiyun Schepisi, Fingal Head, 16/1/06, (by Letter).
Topics: Neglect of teenagers; need a healthy gathering place in every suburb to organise their own initiatives.
Homeless youth 13+ whose parents can't cope, who wander between houses because there is no housing they can afford; need half-way housing with adults to supervise; urgent help needed.
Affordable housing needed for people with serious disabilities, to avoid starvation.
Need a carers system to help people with, eg, epilepsy; need more support.

Single mothers and kids need a crisis centre that is safe and peaceful.

Rent assistance has not kept up with rent and rates increases.

Aboriginal children sometimes need help where their home lives are full of alcohol, drugs, mental illness and violence.

An indigenous park at Jack Evans would be a wonderful meeting place, a sacred space in pure Aboriginal style.

Advisory boards need to represent a variety of Aboriginal family roots.

Evening bus services often don't go further than Tweed Mall – need to go to Kingscliff.

A family concession ticket would help single mothers with children to afford travel.

Financial stress caused by rent increases is getting worse; there is a lack of one bedroom or boarding places – need crisis home, cluster homes with shared garden space so that small community groupings can be formed.

Actions: Investigate possible cooperation with the author re: youth matters.
Investigate possible support for homeless and Aboriginal children, and single mothers.
Investigate transport and affordable housing issues.

Young People/Women/Older People/People with a Disability, CALD People/Transport/Affordable Housing

Name: Tweed River Regional Art Gallery (staff).

Topics: Negative responses in all the above categories.

Particular issues raised include:

need for a staffed, 24 hour youth centre,

need for a new mother's package of information about services,

transport difficulties in participating in community activities,

buildings inaccessible for people with disabilities or prams,

not enough information for non-English language people,

insufficient transport options for people who don't drive,

unaffordable housing,

urban problems of traffic/noise/parking/green space,

and domestic violence problems.

Actions: Attention to these issues in amendments to the Social Plan.

Other Relevant Submissions on Related Topics:

Young People

Name: Michelle & Mark Harvey, Banora Point, 15/12/05 (received by Leigh Abernethy in response to publicity about a skate facility)

Topics: Support for the proposed skate facility at South Tweed, that will provide more facilities for teenagers, including this family's 15 year old who stayed behind in Melbourne.

Young People

Name: SCU/NRRDB/CLIC Network, Education Roundtable 3: What sort of educational innovations are needed to enable a sustainable Northern Rivers Region? Group Report, Kingscliff, 1/12/05.

Topics: Equipping young people with skills, knowledge and attributes, The place of education in the regional economy, Building stronger learning partnerships in our communities. This Roundtable explores the idea of education as an eco-system, with references to social learning, life-long/life-wide learning, human connectedness, learning partnerships and 'design thinking'.

DRAFT LETTER TO SUBMITTORS Social Plan Review 2006

Dear(submitter),

Thank you for your response to the Tweed Shire Social Plan Review 2006.

The Council appreciates your efforts to provide feedback about what is happening in our community. This is perhaps the most important way to keep the Social Plan up to date and relevant. We can collectively be aware of changing circumstances and can maximise opportunities for improved community outcomes.

A Consultation Report of the issues raised in submissions is enclosed.

The Council will now assess the options available to address these issues:

- In some cases they will reinforce the strategies already in the Social Plan,
- In other cases your ideas may lead to new strategies or programs,
- In yet other cases, there may be changes or refinements in the way community facilities and services are delivered, either by Council or by other service providers.

At present we can only tell you what immediate actions we will take, as set out in the Consultation Report; we can't predict the longer term outcomes, or what support there may be from other agencies.

We will monitor developments; you can contact us at any time on 0266 702407 if you want to follow up any issues,

YF
MSP