

Date: 3 July 2007
Contact: Pamela Allibone
Location: Surfers Paradise
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Your Reference: PN83403/221/16
Our Reference:

LIBRARY - GENERAL
TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL
FILE No. LIBRARY - RICHMOND TWEED
Doc. No.
RECD - 5 JUL 2007
ASSIGNED TO: RAYNER M
HARD COPY IMAGE



Mr Mike Rayner
General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Dear Mr Rayner

From 1986 onwards there have been a number of meetings and exchanges of correspondence between officers of Gold Coast City Council, Tweed Shire Council and representatives of Richmond Tweed Regional Public Library Service (RTRLS) to address reciprocal and possible joint-use arrangements for the provision of library services to Tweed and Coolangatta residents due to the close proximity of the Tweed and Coolangatta library service points.

Whilst the potential rationalisation of services between the LGAs has been the focus of these exchanges, the disproportionate use of Coolangatta Branch Library by Tweed residents has also been raised on a number of occasions.

Figures collected over the years indicate significant patronage of Gold Coast City Council public library services by Tweed residents. In March 1986 there were 1,957 Tweed Shire residents registers as members of Gold Coast Libraries and only 227 Gold Coast residents registered with the Tweed Shire. At 30 June 2006, these numbers were 5,736 and 1,278 respectively. That is almost 47% of registered members at Coolangatta Branch Library are Tweed Shire residents. Additionally, almost 51% of loans issued by Coolangatta and about 50% of holds collected at Coolangatta are for Tweed residents. These percentages have been consistent over the past three years.

In November 2006, officers of Tweed Shire Council, Gold Coast City Council and the Richmond Tweed Regional Public Library Service met to discuss the imbalance of reciprocal membership. A report detailing a range of options that were explored to address this issue was recently prepared for Gold Coast City Council's consideration.

On 8 June 2007, Council Resolution # HC07.0531.013 determined:

That the reciprocal library membership arrangements between Tweed Shire Council and Gold Coast City Council cease as of 30 September 2007;

That an annual membership charge of \$120 plus GST for interstate residents' full use of Gold Coast City Council library services be introduced.

As Tweed Shire Council is the only interstate Local Government Authority (LGA) with which the Gold Coast City Council has had reciprocal library membership arrangements, this resolution means that Tweed residents would now have the same access to GCCC library services as residents of other interstate LGAs.

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The annual membership charge is based on the operational costs of service provision to existing Tweed residents who are members at Coolangatta Branch Library and the 2007-08 draft operational budget.

While it is Council's intention to advise existing reciprocal Tweed residents who are current Gold Coast City Council library members of this Council decision and their options for continued use of Gold Coast City Council library facilities, please contact me if you would like to discuss Council's decision.

Meanwhile, unless you advise me otherwise, officers of Gold Coast City Council will make arrangements to meet with Tweed's Manager of Museums and Galleries, Mr Gary Corbett, and officers of RTRLS to progress the administrative/operational implications of Council's resolution.

Yours sincerely



Colette McCool
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
For the Chief Executive Officer