

Shoalhaven City Council – CCB Executive Meeting – Thursday, 30 May 2024 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Ulladulla Civic Centre, 81B Princes Highway Ulladulla

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The questions below were provided by CCB's at the CCB Executive meeting on 30 May. Responses have been provided by the relevant Directorates.

CITY DEVELOPMENT

Q: Can the answer to sea level rise issue be supported by the link to the acclaimed scientist, Prof Roger McLean and his successor from Water Research Technology

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-05/bengello-beach-longest-sand-monitoring-study/103057228>

<https://www.vrra.org.au/wp-content/uploads/VRRANewsletter2.pdf>

See Page 5 - Shoalhaven is one of only 2 Councils in NSW who perform its own monitoring of the dunes.

A: Research work such as this relates to the ongoing monitoring of dunal systems. Bengello beach is a great data set and the mentioned article states – *"We don't yet see a very clear signal of sea level rise, but my sense is that it's going to appear in the next 50 years."*

This statement is in relation to the Bengello beach dune erosion and accretion life cycle in response to Sea Level Rise, not the tidal gauge records across NSW, Australia, and internationally that show a clear increase in Sea Level on the decadal+ records.

Q: Can consideration be given to providing a list of all CMP and assigning a Priorities preference no to each (based on highest risk allocated priority 1) of the actions in the CMP so there can be a piecemeal approach to allocating Council's money to CMP Actions?

Is there a "use by" period to spend CMP grant money?

A: As per the Coastal Management Act (2016), all CMPs require a business plan that prioritise the implementation of management actions, and the associated costs. Individual Coast & Estuary Grant projects have their own project lifecycle developed by Council and the State Government through the project initiation.

Q: Is the State Govt going to follow the methodology they used for the Coastal Zone Management Plans, i.e. State Government said there were 15 hot spots across NSW who would receive grant funding, or has Council been informed it will be first in first out for the approval of grants.

A: State Government Coastal & Estuary Grants are the main funding mechanism for Stage 5 – CMP Implementation and are a competitive grant application that are assessed on their merits across NSW. Grant applications for CMP Implementation should score favourably.

Q: In CMP 3, there was a risk table for Hyams Beach. In that risk table, one was for high traffic and beach erosion and one for lack of amenities. That has dropped out of CMP 4 and we were told that was added into the Council Asset Plan. What does that mean?

A: Tourism and amenities at Hyams Beach are to be assessed through the relevant Asset Management Plans for the Asset Class, or the existing Hyams Beach Masterplan. Unfortunately, the CMP does not have

the scope nor budget to address all documented CMP risks across the Open Coast and Jervis Bay.

Q: Who do CCBs contact if beach access tracks are overgrown?

A: The relevant District Engineering Officer.

CITY FUTURES

Q: Can the PAMP give high priority to the importance of obtaining views of the water from the pathways, be it on foot or on bike?

A: The PAMP and Bike Plan are high level strategic documents and typically does not delve into that level of detail. Walking in coastal areas is valued, we know people love views. However, for all projects, often a number of competing factors need to be considered, which is why funds are typically allocated to a design process in the first instance (to allow individual projects to be designed to achieve their objectives, in consultation with the local community, whilst minimising the impacts on the local environment).

Q: Can consideration be given to displaying Hold My Hand signage at the end of beach accessways and road heads?

A: Signage can be helpful to reinforce key road safety messages and is often more effective when in conjunction with a broader road safety campaign, however even signage needs to be funded and maintained, and this needs to be considered in the annual budget context.

Council's Road Safety Officer (RSO) also does terrific work in that space, and often collaborates with neighbouring Council's and Transport for NSW and can sometimes attract grant funding for relevant and targeted road safety campaigns. We'll make sure your suggestion reaches our RSO.

Q: Can a table be provided within the DPOP reflecting the no. of employees per function at the end of each year for the last 7 years together with the cost of wages, salaries?

A: Council is unable to provide this information. To provide this information would utilise an extensive amount of HR staff resources.

Q: With the land sales strategy, do council have a full list of the assets they own and is that on the land sales strategy? Do CCB's have access to that information? Is there a list of saleable items, non-operational land (vacant land)?

A: Council has a land register which provides information on every parcel under its care, control, and management. Council opened the online survey to provide the community an opportunity for feedback on all of the land being considered in the land sales program. The survey tool also included a map for clarity around land being considered for sale and land under investigation. The survey was extended until 5pm 14 June 2024.

Council's Land Register information is available upon request as this is not currently available on our website.

This has been made available on Council's Get Involved page with details added to our FAQs and media releases as questions are addressed.

CITY SERVICES

Q: Can consideration be given to seeking sponsor(s) for a JCB Pothole Pro? e.g. like a govt bus you could promote their name on the sides of the plant.

All part of the promotion of the "Betterment program" – might need two or three sponsor on the same machine. Can some of the suppliers of major products be targeted such as tyres, fuel suppliers,

equipment hire, SCC Bankers, might share joint sponsorship?

Can Council's marketing team work on the most appropriate way to approach the major suppliers? This is a great opportunity for the marketing team to generate income from suppliers.

A: Unfortunately, not. Whilst this would seem at first consideration to be a good idea; Council has strict procurement policies in place.

Q: It was stated grants for Natural Disasters does not allow grant money to be used on betterment programs, i.e. grant money must be used to repair or replace an activity or asset back to functionality when the activity or asset was damaged or removed from operation. Is there a specific portion of the government approved rate increase of 4.5% which applies to betterment programs?

A: Council is able, on resolution of the elected body, to adopt a budget which utilises rates income to fund betterment programs and works. The challenge at this time is that the existing rate revenue is fully utilised.

Q: Can consideration be given for Holiday Haven to impose a betterment surcharge of \$10 a day on vehicle owners for a betterment program for a JCB Pothole Pro?

A: This too is at first consideration a good idea; however Holiday Haven is operating in a competitive environment and levying fees from visitors to be used on infrastructure (as important as this is) and not improved amenities at the park puts downward pressure on the amount of business attracted by Holiday Haven.

Q: Did SCC consider a special rate variation just to cover the betterment program for the repair of potholes including purchase of the JCB pothole pro?

Is it too late to request its inclusion in the DPOP submissions – how much would that add to each ratepayer's annual rate?

A: The Special Rate Variation that was considered by the Council would have increased the amount of funding available for betterment and pothole repair. It is too late for that to be considered in the 2024/25 financial year DPOP, as a SRV application needs to be made early in the calendar year.

Q: Can the JCB Pothole Pro be used on any type of road surface and what material is being put in the potholes?

A: The JCB Pothole Pro can be used on sealed road and uses hot mix asphalt to repair the pothole

Q: Regarding betterment and lobbying for change in the funding criteria, can Council extend the lobbying opportunity to add funding for drainage? As we understand it, Council do not have State Government funding support for drainage. Can they lobby for this? (Example with drainage issue in Sussex Inlet can be quoted).

A: Yes, Council is actively lobbying for Betterment including Drainage.

Q: Regarding damage to local roads in Bawley Point, there are trucks that use these local roads to service the local caravan parks with water and sewage. Is there a way for these trucks to be made to contribute financially to the repairs of the roads? Can caravan park owners contribute to revenue given they require water trucks to come in?

A: This is not possible, as levies associated with road use are collected through registration fees, fuel excise and GST receipts. There is no separate mechanism, other than rates to do this by local government. Levies have been applied in other areas to tourism operators, but these are not specific to a particular road use.

Q: Can Council take action to interface existing systems with the Snap, Send and Solve software?

Have other Councils using Snap Send and Solve already developed an interface?

A: Council has invested in recent years to improve its online customer service offerings through the implementation of the OneCouncil customer request management solution. This solution is available for customers to lodge requests 24/7 from any device or browser that can access the Internet. This solution was introduced in late 2022 and in recent months we are seeing 30% of all requests raised by customers in a self-service fashion using this system. In FY 23/24, customers created 15,275 requests themselves via the OneCouncil system compared with 2,131 requests recorded as having an origin of Snap Send Solve.

Council is aware that through a paid Snap Send and Solve subscription that we can integrate the app into the internal OneCouncil customer request system with Councils such as Waverley and City of Port Phillip having carried this out.

This initiative has been considered previously as part of Council's Information and Communication Technology Strategy under the 'Promote digital channels to create an exceptional customer experience' strategic objective but at the time was not pursued as the cost of this initiative would have added at least \$20,000 - \$90,000 per annum ongoing to Council's annual operational budget to support the subscription (depending on volumes of requests submitted) plus up front implementation costs and some reconfiguration of Council's internal OneCouncil customer request system. We would welcome any feedback from the community on how the implementation of this interface would benefit the customer experience provided by our team so we could re-examine whether a business case to support could be developed.