

North Stradbroke Island Township Meeting Notes

Date: 18 August 2018

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Dunwich Hall

Governmental and other representatives: Mayor Karen Williams; Cr Peter Mitchell; Cameron Costello, CEO QYAC; Kim Richards MP, State MP for Redlands; Don Brown MP, State MP for Capalaba; Mark Robinson MP, State MP for Oodgaroo; Jeff McAlister, DDG Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games; Gerard Noon, Redland City Council (facilitator).

Apologies: Minister for State Development, Cameron Dick; Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Anthony Lynham; Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and the Arts, Leeanne Enoch; Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Partnerships, Jackie Trad; Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Commonwealth Games, Kate Jones; Federal Member for Bowman, Andrew Laming MP; and Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Technology, and Minister for Sport , Mick de Brenni MP.

Community attendees: Approximately 115 people attended.

Welcome to Country.

Council responses to pre-lodged questions

The panel responded to questions posted prior to the Township Meeting via the Yoursay project page, and provided updates on the following topics:

Amity SEMP

Mayor Karen Williams spoke about the Amity Point Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) initiated by Council to address complex ongoing erosion hazards at the Amity Point shoreline.

She said it has been prepared with direct involvement of local residents, experts, and key stakeholders.

She advised that the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science (DES) will be requested to review the plan prior to presentation of the final report to Council, and it is on track for final review and presentation to Redland City Council (RCC) in 2018.

She advised that Council will also work with the Community Reference Group on the draft 'SEMP Implementation Plan'.

Fire Management

Mayor Williams spoke about the 8 burns planned for 2018, and how 5 had been prioritised. She advised that weather permitting, the 5 prioritised burn blocks would be prepared in the coming weeks.

She read out the list of priority locations:

- Behind Allure Resort Pt Lookout – 1.2ha
- Behind Fire Station Pt Lookout – 5.5ha
- Baker Court Pt Lookout – 8.5ha
- Donahue Street Pt Lookout – 3ha
- Tramican St Pt Lookout – 7ha

Mayor Williams advised that Council has been communicating closely with QYAC in relation to burn activities for the 2018 Burn Program, and in relation to the Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) Fire Management Strategy for NSI.

She also advised that Council engaged Ten Rivers & QYAC/QRA for fire planning throughout SMBI; that QYAC and QFES will assist Council with these burns, and that details of burns are available on RCC website under the Burn Program.

Parking

Cr Mitchell discussed the proposal to regulate parking areas at Toondah, Dunwich and One Mile.

He advised that no decisions regarding time limits etc had been made, and that Council will come back to and engage with the community if and when such details are proposed.

Animal Management

Cr Mitchell spoke about animal management and advised that Council had no priority to ban cats or dogs, and that Council had received no petition seeking to ban dogs.

He said that Council would consult with the community should stakeholders and residents want such a ban in place but as yet no approach had been made by the public.

He mentioned Council programs designed to educate the community with regards to keeping pets and wildlife safe, and increased communication with island residents regarding responsible pet ownership.

He also mentioned programs targeting visitors travelling to NSI with dogs on the vehicle barge to remind them of their obligations.

Councillor Mitchell also spoke about how Council's compliance presence increased over school holidays to manage the increase in parking and animal management issues that occur during this time.

He also spoke about communications that had had been sent to Real Estate Agents advising of the requirement to ensure appropriate enclosures are present for 'pet friendly' advertised holiday homes, and that Officers would continue to review advertised properties to ensure they were compliant.

He said that 3% of the city's animal management complaints related to NSI.

NSI Economic Transition Strategy

Mayor Williams spoke about Project 13 – Location and Interpretive Signage, advising that it was the only project in the NSI ETS that Council had the lead on.

She encouraged those at the meeting to take part in the engagement activity at the back of the hall and vote on the types of entry statements that appealed to them.

She also advised there would be more engagement opportunities for this project that would deliver city entry statements at Amity Point and Point Lookout with an entry statement to come later for Dunwich once the Master Plan was completed.

She advised that Project 17 – Quandamooka whale watching permit was complete, and that the project lead was the Department of National Parks, Sport and Recreation (with QYAC as partner).

Sewerage

Mayor Williams updated the group concerning the Point Lookout sewerage project and advised that tenders for the construction of gravity sewers at Pt Lookout were at present being evaluated, and that this process was expected to be completed by the end of August.

She said it was difficult to advise of commencement or completion dates with tender and contractual processes still underway, but that works were planned for this financial year.

Mayor Williams said that initial works involved gravity pipes, a standard accepted method for sewerage, and that all of the pipelines have also been effectively designed in the road space.

She said that individual households will be engaged when works are about to begin and individual letters will be sent to each owner. She also advised that once the work was completed, a further letter would be sent explaining that the new sewer service was available to be connected to and that the owner would have an increase in their water and sewerage charges as a result of being able to connect to the sewer.

Mayor Williams advised that a survey of unsewered areas was carried out last financial year to inform design of the current phase of work, and that the design of remaining Point Lookout areas was on hold as the project was not funded for 18/19.

She also said that QYAC would be engaged as required for cultural heritage inspections.

Dunwich Master Plan

Mayor Williams advised that through the NSI Economic Transition Strategy, the State Government had committed to preparing a Master Plan for Dunwich.

She said that the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning has established a project Steering Committee consisting of State, QYAC and Council officers to oversee the Dunwich master planning work, and that the area proposed for inclusion in the master plan has been extended to now include One Mile.

It is expected the community engagement activities and master planning work will be commence shortly.

One Mile Structure Plan

Kim Richards MP said that the State was working with QYAC to organise a meeting with One Mile residents and the Quandamooka community, and that the meeting will provide an opportunity for the State to outline the proposed project and listen to the community.

City Plan Ministerial condition to amend land zoning

Mayor Williams advised that the Minister required Council to amend the zoning applied to a small number of properties on NSI.

She advised that the Minister also conditioned Council to rezone a portion of the Vance mining lease from a Conservation zone to Community Facilities zone, and advised that this zoning amendment was intended to support a potential new cemetery being provided on NSI.

Mayor Williams advised the new City Plan zoning amendments will take effect on 8 October 2018.

Toondah Harbour

Mayor Williams spoke about the Commonwealth Government's decision to assess the proposed Toondah Harbour project under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

She said that process would likely be completed over the next 2 years, and address all potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed development during its construction and operational phases.

She said environmental, construction and traffic impact management plans would be developed as part of this process.

She encouraged residents to stay involved.

Planned works on NSI, including:

Installation of safety barrier fencing at South Gorge, Point Lookout

Mayor Williams said that works were initiated because the asset was ageing.

She advised that the procurement phase was complete, that QYAC was awarded the contract, and construction was in progress.

Review of Cylinder Beach, Point Lookout Master Plan

Mayor Williams spoke about the review of the Cylinder Beach, Point Lookout Master Plan, which would respond to community values, degradation of amenity, environment, cultural heritage, changed management of land/activities and aging assets.

She said the community and other stakeholders would be given the opportunity to provide input into concept finalisation and prioritisation.

Pedestrian Link – Snapper Street, Point Lookout

Mayor Williams spoke about the Pedestrian Link – Snapper Street design project, and how it would provide boardwalk and viewing areas at key points along the trail connection and integrate new trail connections to improve pedestrian safety from Frenchman's Stairs to Cook's Park.

She spoke about other key project objectives including the need to ensure the natural landscape character was preserved, while encouraging walking and appreciation of natural attractions.

She said the project was scheduled for design in the 18/19 financial year, and that Council was currently preparing a design brief for quotation by external design consultants.

Mayor Williams said that Council and the designers will engage with key stakeholders to determine the design framework and principles for the trail connection.

Outdoor Shower Headland Park, Point Lookout

Cr Mitchell spoke about Council's investigations to determine if a shower was required in this location, and if so identification of the best location for an outdoor shower at Headland Park.

He advised it was planned for construction in the 18/19 financial year pending consultation outcomes.

Planning and installation of Aquatic safety signs on NSI

Mayor Williams spoke about installation of aquatic safety signs on NSI, and that installation at priority sites was planned to occur prior to September school holidays.

She said the priority areas included Frenchman's and Deadman's Beach and North and South Gorge, and that further priority areas would be confirmed through consultation with SLSQ and local lifeguards and rolled out during the remainder of 2018/2019.

Junner Street, Dunwich barge ramp heritage seawall temporary repair

Mayor Williams spoke about the Junner Street Barge Ramp and Heritage Sea Wall repairs, advising that two inspections had occurred this year as had consultation with the Dunwich Museum, QYAC, SeaLink, Straddie Ferries, and Queensland Government.

She advised that the Queensland Department of Environment and Science provides advice and approves works that may impact on the Qld Heritage Register-listed convict seawall.

She said further inspections, and works would occur soon.

Landside development at Amity Point

Mayor Williams spoke about landside works at Amity Point, designed to improve safety for boaties and other users.

She said that Council would progress the project further in 18/19, with the intention to have it completed by 20/21.

Questions from the floor

There was a question from the community regarding the transition to tourism, noting the removal of swings and slides at Brown Lake and the poor condition of the access road, asking if it would be maintained.

QYAC CEO Cameron Costello said that the playground equipment had reached the end of its useful life, that Brown Lake will be National Park, and that with water levels dropping the lake needed to be managed. He said he hadn't heard anything about cutting the road off.

A member of the community questioned the removal of bins from Brown Lake.

A member of the community noted the need for fresh water security for the island and Redlands, and commented regarding SEQ Water's 2017 decision to not re-install the gates at Leslie Harrison Dam, asking what hydrological and environmental studies had been undertaken to assess the impact and sustainability of water sourced from Minjerribah.

Don Brown MP advised that only 2% of the whole grid comes from Leslie Harrison Dam. He said that to ensure the safety of homes which could otherwise be at risk of flooding, the dam walls would need to be doubled in width before capacity could be increased.

Mayor Williams said that Council would work with State Members to engage with SEQ Water about the extraction of water from North Stradbroke Island, and the state of Brown Lake.

A member of the community made statements concerning the Native Title Act. He said some people thought the Native Title Act was racist, that not all Aboriginal people accepted it, and that they were looking at a Royal Commission.

He said that there was another tier of government –ancient First Nation.

He said there was no right to develop land that hadn't been given over, and that sustainable planning was required.

He called for a fully independent inquiry into the extraction of water from the island.

He said that QYAC did not represent all Quandamooka.

He asked that we do what other governments have done and stay away from One Mile.

He said his people are buried at One Mile, and the issue of Aboriginal burial needed to be looked at.

He opposed foreshore parking and called for more effective fire management planning.

Mayor Williams said that Council had obligations under the Native Title Act and that Council would work with other levels of government to seek answers to dropping water levels at Brown Lake.

Kim Richards MP advised that community engagement on One Mile was coming.

A member of the community made statements concerning Brown Lake (Bummiera) noting that it was a sacred place for Aboriginal women.

She made comment regarding the poor state of the lake and questioned the idea of promoting the lake as a tourism destination while the lake was in the state it was in.

She said that her people moved to One Mile after they walked out of the mission. She said the Elders needed to be consulted.

A member of community made comment regarding the apparent lack of priority on fixing the road at the barge ramp.

He questioned why QYAC approval was required for installation of memorial plaques on seats located on Crown land.

QYAC CEO Cameron Costello said it was the first he'd heard of the memorial plaque request, and that QYAC had supported similar proposals in the past and certainly wouldn't have an issue recognising the efforts of Indigenous Service people.

A member of the community made comment concerning the opportunity that we now had to set a standard in working together, that other States and Councils would follow.

He referred to the good work done in this area in New Zealand.

He also asked when City Plan would commence.

Mayor Williams said that she believed that Redland City Council was a leader in Indigenous partnerships.

She said that Redland City Council was a leader in terms of having an acknowledgment of Indigenous Culture at the entrance of its main building, and that all of Council's endeavours in this space were undertaken gently and respectfully and in the best spirit possible.

She said that Council was looking into how regional language could be implemented, and that QYAC was committed to consultation with their community.

Mayor Williams advised that City Plan would be implemented on 8 October 2018.

Jeff McAlister, DDG Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games spoke about the need for tourism destinations to play to their strengths.

He said that people wanted whale experiences and Aboriginal experiences.

A member of the community made comment regarding decisions that were being made about her Grandfather's Country.

She asked if the difference between historical connection and bloodline connection was understood.

A member of the community said he had come to the meeting to talk about how Dunwich and Amity Point could be improved.

He said that it had been many years since the hole in the boat ramp built by convicts had first appeared, and that now there were two holes.

He said the repair was a small job that was urgently needed, and that he'd seen a child almost get killed there.

Don Brown MP spoke about Leslie Harrison Dam, and the number of homes that rely on it.

He said that an upgrade wasn't a matter of choice, that we had seen a dam wall fail, and that the decision was made by the SEQ Water Board not government.

He said that if an independent study was required, it would be done.

He said he would take the question back to SEQ Water.

A member of the community spoke in support of QYAC.

He said that QYAC was not the enemy but was being treated as such.

He said that the Quandamooka people were frustrated ten years ago before Native Title, and that while there was still frustration, today QYAC through Native Title was putting the Quandamooka people in the driver's seat.

He said that the end of mining had split families, but QYAC was trying to work with their people.

Another member of the community spoke in support of QYAC.

He also said that water levels at Brown Lake were very low, and that SEQ Water's plans were to take the maximum amount of water possible from NSI.

He said that there was greater reliance on water from Straddie now than during the last two droughts.

Note: There was broad acknowledgement and support shown for concerns expressed by several speakers about the demands on, and sustainability of, the Minjerribah water supply. Mayor Williams committed to writing to Seqwater and asking for a full investigation into water being extracted from the island, this letter has since been sent.

A member of the community asked what had happened to the processing of green waste at the tip, and specifically if it was now going into landfill.

Mayor Williams said that she would take these questions on notice.

A member of the community suggested that a petition be prepared to demonstrate community support for stopping removal of water to the mainland.

She asked if there were any plans for the foreshore at Dunwich, and that this recreational area was presently being used as a car park, and shouldn't be.

She said that the swimming enclosure nets had oysters growing on them, and for the sake of avoiding oyster cuts should be looked at prior to arrival of the warmer weather.

She said that a new public toilet was needed at Dunwich.

She said that the protection from the weather at the One Mile jetty needed to be improved, so that passengers didn't get wet when it was raining.

Kim Richards MP said that consultation on the Dunwich Master Plan was not far off, and the community would have their say.

Since the meeting Council officers have inspected the swimming enclosure at Dunwich and schedule maintenance to remove debris from it.

A member of the community asked when the bike path to Point Lookout would be undertaken.

A member of the community asked what the pegs on Frenchman's Beach were for.

QYAC CEO Cameron Costello said that the pegs showed planned access to the whale facility noting that the plans provide for continued public accessibility

A member of the community spoke positively about the level of current tourism, and that he would like to see Cylinder Beach cleaned up.

He said that the Captain Cook Park area needed landscaping.

He said that more recycling bins were needed on the island.

Councillor Peter Mitchell said that extra-large recycling bins had been introduced on the island at no extra charge.

He said that he would take the request for more recycling bins on public land to Council.

A member of the community spoke about the idea of entrance statements and suggested that visitors only remembered three things: 1 where they get on the ferry / barge, 2 where they get off the ferry / barge, and 3 the middle.

He asked why the second lane in the barge waiting area hadn't yet been reopened.

He asked whose fault it was and when it would be fixed.

A member of the community said that Cultural Heritage and Environmental Impact studies were required for Brown Lake.

Meeting close

Mayor Williams thanked everyone for attending, advised that updates would be available on the yoursay project page, and that we hoped to have another session early next year.

Parking Station Questions

A number of questions that could not be answered on the day were added to the parking station. Responses to these are being uploaded to Council's Yoursay website when available.