

**EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

All members of the community who have registered have been advised that they have a **maximum of seven minutes** to put their case.

Ordinary Meeting of Council on **25 August 2020**

| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Subject/Comments</b>                  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Public Forum – 9.30am</b> |  |
| Bernie Perrett (NMS)         | PSR20/021 Requests to Waive Tipping Fees |



# Narooma Mens Shed

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Eurobodalla Shire Council Meeting. Public Forum 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020-08-20

My name is Bernie Perrett and I am President of the Narooma Men's Shed.

**Issue** We have requested ESC review the charges incurred for removal and disposal of contaminated waste from our leased building site.

Thank you to Mayor Liz Innes, Council staff and Councillors for listing our issue for mention.

**Context of this request is important to record.** After some seven years of work and a long and protracted D.A. procedure, due to the back to back with Roads and Marine Services, we began our community project this year.

Early in 2020 I proposed the full closure of NMS at our old rented site in Glasshouse Rocks Road. This decision, though proven necessary, has had major emotional and financial outcomes. We stopped the rental bleeding of over \$1000 a month by effecting a full closure cancelling the private lease by over 2 months. This entailed shifting and storing our whole complex. This shifting business costs money.

We have had no income at all since the early March closure.

Our hand to mouth existence ended. All our means of providing for day to day expenses was lost and we had a number of ongoing recurrent costs which ended up reducing our building monies. We had raised over \$85,000 from our own hands for our build. We started to eat into our building fund.

The Men's Shed movement is all about men's health. In 2020 good news has taken a holiday. Our build became our symbol of hope for a better future. Many members, psychologically challenged by the fires have been debilitated by the COVID 19 crisis. Our Shed once thrived on the close contacts with other men and camaraderie has now been reduced to the phone call, Facetime or Zoom meetings.

This year of all years, amidst drought, catastrophic bushfires and the pandemic we started to rehabilitate the RMS sloping site. Day 2 of excavation an historic contaminated dump was uncovered. The contractor removed that section of the dump on our site and organised for the proper disposal via Brou Tip.

The build continued following the huge blowout in site costs. After we reviewed the major cost items we are now close to lock up and fit out is proceeding. Our 'best shed' has become elusive as we pared back costs. Although able to meet the demands of the D.A. and C.C. and of the acquittal demands of grants from State and Federal Governments we are short of funds to meet our ideals and community access goals.

This shed is quite a distinct design and purpose and we have, as a group sought to build with the goal of providing this small south coast town and region with a quality community space. Our goal of opening up this new facility to the community, via community days, offering up space for other NFPs is built into our design. Many NFPs have sought our help with meeting space, (away from pubs and clubs), teaching and symposium areas and recreation space. We could have foregone these goals but we hold on tight to the vision. Our wider vision has added to our costs. Our community goals would be enhanced by a positive response to our request re waste disposal.

I commend to you the recommendation attached to the Executive Summary. I also commend to you our new shed. We have held on to our vision and need help now to push us over the finish line.

The NMS committee is fully aware of the pressures on all Councils up and down the east coast after such a season of disasters and we commend the ESC in all it does for our regional area and its continued support for our Shed.

We intend to add to our community with a quality facility open to all.

Thanks for the time to present this background paper.

Bernie Perrett

President

Narooma Men's Shed

21 August 2020