

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 November 2016

Name	Subject/Comments
Agenda Items – 10.00am	
Trish Hellier	NOM/009 Batemans Bay Bridge PSR16/046 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct Redevelopment IR16/045 Local Traffic Committee No 2 for 2016-17

Good morning Deputy Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery, those people at home comfortable Live Streaming and my Mum watching over me from above – My name is Patricia Hellier from North Batemans Bay.

Item No. 16/009 Bateman Bay Bridge -As I have stated we live at North Bateman's Bay and have done so for over 16 years when we purchased our property we knew that there were regular times when traffic stopped for the opening of the bridge and have always known the approximate times so if we had an appointment in Batemans Bay we always allowed for such delays.

As a child my family holidayed in Bateman Bay from the late 50's early 60's, I was one of those fortunate children that experienced crossing the Nelligen River by the Punt. Hours would be spent waiting in line for the punt and many a man enjoyed a schooner or two at the Nelligen Pub while us kids had to wait patiently, and on sighting of the punt there would be a loud scream from all the kids "Dad the punt is coming, the punt is coming" and a steady stream of men flowed out of the pub, those were the days before the Breathalyser. In the year 1963 30,000 vehicles used the punt, and in 1964 the Nelligen Bridge was opened.

My family camped at the council caravan park at Hanging Rock and life was a lot simpler, when we needed to pick up ice for our esky my Dad would fish on the bank on the north side of the bridge. I remember clearly the highlight for me was sitting waiting patiently to see the bridge rise. My own children have enjoyed the experience of sitting watching the bridge and now I have sat with my grandchildren and they get great delight watching the Merinda Ferry leave the wharf and travel under the bridge and watch it come out the other side on its way down to Nelligen.

As we are all aware on Saturday the 8th October there was a problem with the bridge, I have been told that many people took advantage of an offer by an owner of a house boat to ferry them across the river to Batemans Bay and later back to their cars. A hairdresser in the Bay has told me they normally close at 12 noon, that day they were kept busy until 4pm, many businesses experienced an increase in trade and income that day.

I have undertaken some research and found in their busiest times the Merinda attracted 120 Coaches filled with people in a one year period. I have spoken to a proprietor of an accommodation outlet who has told me that a number of their guests from overseas especially those from the UK come to Bateman's Bay to enjoy the experience of travelling on the ferry and to watch and film the raising of the bridge and I know that businesses in Nelligen experience an increase in revenue due to the ferry stopping at the village.

I believe the logistics of the Merinda having to leave from the west side of the bridge will be a near impossible situation, there will be an issue of the fuelling of the vehicle, an issue of parking on the west side of the bridge, and then of course there is the selling of the tickets and cooking of the meals at the Boat Shed to be taken into consideration. Whilst some take for granted the opening of the bridge and see it as time consuming interruption of their day many see it as one of this town's tourist attractions, I am pleased to be a family that 4 generations have had the pleasure of witnessing the bridge open and I am hoping that it will be retained until the new bridge will be completed, my understanding from a statement from Mr Warren Sharpe at the last Council meeting is the Marine vehicles have a precedent over any other vehicles therefore I ask you the Councillors to think seriously in relation to this matter. Thank You

Good Morning Mayor Innes, Councillors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery and those people at home comfortable Live Streaming at home and my Mum watching over me from above, my name is Patricia Hellier from North Batemans Bay.

Item No PSR16/046 Batemans Bay Mackay Park, whilst I congratulate the recommendation that has been brought to the meeting today I believe that the recommendation for this site does not go far enough. In my submission in June this year I made many recommendations including that this area could be used as a "bus interchange" for both the local and interstate buses services including a shuttle bus service for the area. I note in this recommendation there is a tourist information centre and I am hoping that there will be a kiosk attached should there be a bus interchange created for the use of bus patrons etc.

You may have noticed that more recently the parking area of the old Bowling Club site has been used for the parking of caravan, fifth wheelers, motor homes and many large vehicles I would like this committee to consider a "dump point" facility to be placed in an appropriate area on this site. On the ABS Motor Vehicle site 556,848 caravan and motor homes were registered up to 2011, and increase since 2008 of 34% and in the last 12 months there has been 127,000 new RV registered.

I have a further suggestion to this Council there are many areas in Australia including roadhouses, outback pubs and service stations are now capitalising on the camping industry and are providing areas for these vehicles especially for the larger vehicles to stay. Many smaller towns have opened up their showgrounds which is generating incoming into the town; we have Mackay Park, Moruya Showground, and the Moruya Race Course which all remains vacant at various times of the year. I know the Milton and Bungendore showgrounds have opened up their showgrounds and have provided powered sites and I have recently spoken to couples who have told me they are regularly stop at Milton and by pass the Batemans Bay area as the caravan park a very expensive and they only pay between \$22.00 to \$25.00 a night for a powered site in a showground, these people spend money in the various towns, many outback area provide power for a gold coin donation. There is only 170,000 power and unpowered sites in Australia, the caravan and camping visitors spend \$7billion while travelling Australia, 90% of all visitor night in this sector are spent in Regional Australia, making this sector a large economic contributor to regional Australia .

85% of Australian population have experience a form of "camping" at least once in their lifetime and 88% surveyed believed that every child should have this experience. The Real Richness Report Study completed in 2011 concluded that campers are happier, more engaged, optimistic and satisfied, than non-campers, and those families that go camping feel closer and wealthier.

FUN FACT – In 2010 Campervans, Motor Homes alone have travelled approximately 607 million kilometres in Australia, equivalent to driving to the moon and back 790 times.

Councillors this is an untapped resource in this shire and this shire should explore and capitalise on.

Thank you.

Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd November 2016 Patricia Hellier

Thank you Mayor Innes – 1R16/045 Local Traffic Committee

I wish to take this opportunity to draw attention to a statement that I read out on the 26th April 2016 – Agenda Item 1R10/016 Local Traffic Committee

At this meeting I made recommendations to the Committee and at the time Clr. Danielle Brice asked me to forward my recommendations to her which I did.

Given that we are approaching the Christmas period I would like to raise my continued concerns with the new committee and I would hope that they will make the time to contact the RMS in relation to the Princess Highway North Batemans Bay – the issue is as follows:

The current speed limit on this stretch of highway is 100k's when approaching Surfside at the corner of Berrima Parade and the Princess Highway on many occasions as you reach the top of the rise the traffic into Bateman's Bay can be at a standstill –

For the benefit of the new Councillors I will share with you an experience I encountered a few years ago as I was heading home north on the Princess Highway, I could see the traffic south was stopped and because I am familiar with the road I dropped my speed, a semi trailer heading south came to the rise at Surfside and tried to stop due to the traffic being at a standstill, resulting in the empty trailer he was towing jack knifing across the other side of the road ahead of me, luckily for me I was able to pull over to the side of the road in time to avoid an accident. I reported the incident to the Bateman's Bay Police and for sometime the police patrolled this area in busy times. Easter that year barriers were erected on the highway to form one lane just prior to Berrima Parade, the speed limit was reduced and there was a flashing sign, unfortunately the last couple of years in the holiday period this did not occur – there has been some minor accident, this I believe could potentially be a disaster waiting to happen.

The speed limit on the Princess Highway is 100k's then drops to 60k's near the Lincoln Downs Motel, I believe the speed limit should be dropped from the turn off at Long Beach or at the corner of Cors Parade to 80k's permanently, then the turn off into Surfside should be dropped either to 70k's or even 60k's to the area near Lincoln Downs Motel.

I have previously contacted the RMS over this situation but my calls were not returned. I observed as Mr Sharpe stated at the last Council meeting the RMS conducting an observation period on the traffic flow at Easter this year at the roundabout at the junction of the Princess and Kings Highway, this does not address the issue at the corner of the Princess Highway and Berrima Parade.

I travel this road on a day by day basis and I believe my recommendations warrant consideration.

I note approaching Moruya the speed limit drops from 100's to 80k's eventually down to 50k's

Thank you.