

## 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 26 February 2019

Name	Subject/Comments
<b>Public Forum – 10.00am</b>	
Lei Parker	CCS19/006 December Quarterly review
Trish Hellier	CAR19/003 Creative Arts Strategy
Judy Glover	CAR19/003 Creative Arts Strategy

Lei Parker – the December Quarterly review

Councillors,

I read with interest the December Quarterly review knowing there is much to be learned from such reports.

Of Interest I discovered from Council's report card that it had FAILED in Innovation and Proactive Leadership as per the Community Strategic Plan 2017 – One Community, the Delivery Program 2017-21 and Operational Plan 2018-19.

My question is "Does the **FAIL** belong to the Councillors, the General Manager and her Executive Team, or all of you combined?"

If it was a students report card we would expect a bit of discussion around the dining table to establish what the problem is and how we might be able to improve on this in the next quarter.

The problem here is that there is no dining table, no apology or explanation given, and certainly no statement of how this FAIL might be improved on. Council relies on no-one reading these reports.

I also found in the December Quarterly review a new commitment by the General Manager to two more years of the Customer Service Benchmarking Australia Mystery Shopper program at a cost to ratepayers of \$59,300

Councillors, you might remember the announcement in March 2017 that Eurobodalla was judged the top Council in Australia for customer service general enquiries ahead of Blacktown City Council in second place and City of Perth in third.

**In truth it was ONLY judged the top council of those client councils bench marked by CSBA and NOT compared to all 405 Councils across Australia.**

Immediately prior to the General Manager's performance review in 2017, ESC announced that it was judged top council in Australia for customer service - "a National Achievement."

Further inquiries by a ratepayer resulted in CSBA confirming that there were only 24 PARTICIPATING COUNCILS in CSBA's program for that quarter. A written request to Council to correct their erroneous public announcement garnered the response: "As this information is correct and council was judged the top council for that particular quarter in a national benchmarking report, we do not intend to make any public correction...."

No doubt Councillors see the merit in such a program as it is indicated in the report that you have now budgeted for it.

I also seek explanation of the internet use as reported in the December Quarterly Mayoral and Councillor Fees and Expenses Statement.

Of particular interest is the Mayor at \$2363, Cr McGinlay at \$1776 and Cr Pollock with a phone/fax/internet bill of \$1259 for the quarter.

These figures present a massive spike from the previous quarter yet there is no explanation given to ratepayers. Without explanation I find the figures to be outrageous and worthy of questioning.



December Quarterly Mayoral and Councillor Fees and Expenses Statement

Attachment 4

Councillor	Councillor Allowance	Conference / Delegate Costs	Travelling Expenses	Phone / Fax/ Internet etc	Training / Skill Development	Other Costs	Total
Cr L Brown	9,895	606	2,769	545	3,460	0	17,275
Cr L Innes	31,480	692	-1,061	2,363	0	6,739	40,212
Cr Constable	10,041	3,241	880	344	0	0	14,507
Cr Mayne	9,895	911	1,760	863	0	0	13,437
Cr McGinlay	9,895	0	1,961	1,776	0	0	13,632
Cr Nathan	9,895	545	1,122	359	0	0	11,921
Cr Tait	9,895	0	895	390	0	43	11,223
Cr J Thomson	9,895	2,565	3,516	449	0	98	16,522
Cr Pollock	9,895	0	1,377	1,259	0	0	12,531
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,786</b>	<b>8,560</b>	<b>13,228</b>	<b>8,348</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>6,880</b>	<b>151,259</b>



September Quarterly Mayoral and Councillor Fees and Expenses Statement

Attachment 4

Councillor	Councillor Allowance	Conference / Delegate Costs	Travelling Expenses	Phone / Fax/ Internet etc	Training / Skill Development	Other Costs	Total
Cr L Brown	4,948	0	807	168	3,460	0	9,382
Cr L Innes	15,740	0	3,089	854	0	8	19,690
Cr Constable	4,948	0	170	138	0	0	5,256
Cr Mayne	4,948	0	924	294	0	64	6,229
Cr McGinlay	4,948	0	507	517	0	0	5,972
Cr Nathan	4,948	0	0	145	0	0	5,092
Cr Tait	4,948	0	356	130	0	42	5,476
Cr J Thomson	4,948	2,304	1,321	142	0	98	8,813
Cr Pollock	4,948	0	660	469	0	0	6,076
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,320</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>7,833</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>71,986</b>

In my capacity as *The Beagle* editor I would class myself as an internet Super User.

I use on average 300GB of data a month with NBN at a cost of \$79 per month with a 1000Gb package including landline fee. *The Beagle* phone has a \$20 per month contract with Telstra for unlimited Australia wide calls and 3GB of data.

All up \$297 for three months (1 quarter) unlimited calls, 3000GB of NBN data and 9GB of phone data.

By comparison with the [September 2018 quarterly statement](#) there appears to be a marked increase in costs yet the considerable spike is given no explanation nor is there an explanation of the \$6,739 of "other costs" for the Mayor in the December quarter.

Can Council please advise why the Councillors internet costs are so high and what is the nature of the Mayor's \$6739 *Other Costs*.

A Council Quarterly review is published to inform the resident and ratepayer yet it fails to provide either satisfactory detail or explanation

Again there is no explanation of a massive spike in legal fees paid in this quarter compared to the last.

All the line item says is that \$262,504 of legal fees were paid in the December Quarter covering Rates recoveries, land sales, leasing contracts, Aboriginal Land Claim and Native Title and other general legal advice.

In the September 2018 Quarter the legal fees were only \$44,604. The spike has no explanation.

Council persists in only reporting by ledger line item. It would not be difficult at all to break down the legal fees into their categories of Rates recoveries, land sales, leasing contracts, Aboriginal Land Claim and Native Title and other general legal advice.

Might I assume the legal fees for the blocking of the GIPA request to NSW Sport as mentioned by a previous speaker can be found under the category of General Legal Advice. If so how much have the ratepayers paid to date?

Finally I seek clarity around the Training/Skills Development expenses

for Councillor Brown.

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*The Beagle* wrote to Council in November 2018 asking "Looking over the draft Annual report and the September review appears to reveal that an identical amount of \$3460 is recorded in Clr L Brown's expenses both for the 2017/18 FY and for the 2018/19 Sep Qtr., the former referred to as "professional development" and the latter "training/skill development".

Can Council please advise more details around what this training development is and why it is only Lindsay Brown who qualifies/undertakes the training and will this training be on going?

A Council spokesperson responded "The costs are for a course Clr Brown completed with the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees. Due to an annual limit of \$3,500 for professional development, the amount has been split over two financial years resulting in two equal amounts in 2017-18 and 2018-19."

"The training involves the interpretation of financial statements, investment principles, risk, and general governance matters. Under the Local Government Act 1993, Section 232 (1) (g) all councillors are 'to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain skills necessary to perform the role of councillor', the spokesperson said.

With the above explanation comes the question that if the costs are for a course that Clr Brown **completed** with the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees and paid for in two equal amounts in 2017-18 and 2018-19 why are we still seeing the fee appear in the December 2018 Quarterly Statement of Fees and Charges.

Good Morning Mayor, Councilors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery and those comfortable Live Streaming from home. My name is Patricia Hellier from North Batemans Bay.

I am here today to speak on Item No. CAR 19/003 Creative Arts Strategy. I firmly believe that art comes in various forms whether it be through a paint easel, dance, music, mural's, lighting, sculptures etc. and it might come down to one's own interpretation of art.

Whilst I agree with the strategy that is in front of you today, Councilors I would like to touch on just a few items.

ACTION NO. 15 - Use creative art to celebrate our local character and identity, including Aboriginal culture, in public spaces and facilities.

I would like to see this priority listed as HIGH rather than ongoing priority.

ACTION NO. 31 – Encourage the appreciation and development of Aboriginal arts and cultural heritage and its expression.

I would like to see this listed as HIGH rather than ongoing priority

ACTION NO. 32 – Work collaboratively to improve health and support healthy ageing through creative arts.

This has been listed as LOW Priority I disagree with this given we have such an ageing population within our community and I believe this priority level should be reviewed at least to MEDIUM IF NOT HIGH.

ACTION NO. 35 – Pursue funding and investment in the creative arts.

This is listed as ON GOING I believe this priority should be upgraded to at least MEDIUM IF NOT HIGH.

ACTION NO. 39 – Implement marketing strategies for programs, venues and event across the shire.

This is list as ON GOING I believe this priority should be upgraded to at MEDIUM

ACTION NO. 45 – Seek opportunities to develop and showcase local Aboriginal creative arts and arts practitioners.

I am pleased to see this has been listed as a HIGH priority.

ACTION NO. 46 – Seek opportunities to engage arts practitioners, programs and events from diverse backgrounds as part of an annual programmed.

Given that we have such a diverse multicultural population in this shires I believe this priority should be upgraded from ongoing to HIGH.

Councilors in our travels we visited the town Kurri Kurri in the Hunter Valley, in 2003 the town received an Arts Grant and they commissioned 5 Murals, the town now has 51 Murals depicting various themes and one being the Australian Cockatoo. Blanks walls have been turned into picturesque scenery.

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For some time now I have looked at the 3 blank exterior walls at the toilet block at Albert Ryan Park and I have thought we have a blank canvas there and with the artistic talents that we have in this shire there is an opportunity for a creative Murals to be created in that space.

During summer the land at this park could be used for some budding talented musicians with various styles on music, why couldn't we have a Saturday night "Opera in the Park" or "Shakespeare in the Park" and just bring along your picnic blanket and sit on our newly relocated picnic tables and chairs, we could even have a light display creation, and use the magnificent rock as a back drop with varying presentations displaying aboriginal themes, the old punt, our current bridge and many other local features, we could always have various business owners advertisement space within a lighting feature (at a cost). Councilor why not make this park a tourist attraction given the disruption within the CBD with the bridge construction and the planned Aquatic Centre.

As I have stated Councilors Art forms comes in various way and is in the eye on the beholder.

Regards Trish Hellier

## Creative Art Strategy – MACS

MACS submitted feedback to the Council of Eurobodalla Shire's Creative Art Strategy in late 2018. We were happy with most of the Creative Art Strategy.

I wish first of all to congratulate the Council on the new Basil Sellers Art Space attached to the Moruya Library. It is a wonderful space and has the ability to hold exhibitions of high end artists in the Eurobodalla region.

Narooma is the only town in Eurobodalla Shire who do not have a multipurpose, community space. MACS is one of many community groups who would make use of such a building. MACS would like to see a Public Meeting called by the Council in Narooma to discuss a sustainable multi-purpose, community hall space to be developed in Narooma. An exhibition and performance space to be built on flat Crown land facing NATA oval. The public need to be consulted about this type of building as there are few options in Narooma for exhibition and performance space and needs to be utilised by the whole community. We are one of many community groups in Narooma who would benefit from this type of building.

MACS have more than 180 members and presently have studio space at 24 Glasshouse Rocks Narooma. This studio space enables us to provide space for textiles, Life drawing, mosaics and ceramics, drawing and painting. We share space with the Mens Shed and presently open 3 days a week. This will change in October to 7 days a week if required. We now have more space and better parking and welcome people with a disability to join studio or workshops if they wish to participate. Our members also partipate in local community festivals, such as Boats Afloat, the Narooma Oyster Festival and the River of Art Festival and Rotary Markets. MACS have also been involved with the Public school, the High school and the Yuin people.

MACS also run the Narooma Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and are open 7 days a week. We have a small gallery at the VIC to display our members art and craft. MACS members work as volunteers at the VIC. MACS members and members of the Narooma community work together to promote our town.

We noted in our submission Eurobodalla Shire has one of the largest older communities in NSW. Our studio fees are low for people on fixed incomes. Our experience has proved there is not profit in running workshops. MACS workshops aim to be cost neutral.

In summary MACS would like to be included in any future discussions about a sustainable, multipurpose community hall/space to be developed in Narooma. We also would like Council to organise a public meeting so discussion can be open to all of the community in Narooma.

Judy Glover, President, MACS