

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 9 February 2016

Name	Subject/Comments
Agenda Items – 10.00am	
Peter Cormick	NOM16/001 Araluen Road

PUBLIC FORUM 9 FEBRUARY 2016 – PETYER CORMICK
ITEM NOM16/001 ARALUEN ROAD

Councillor Harding is asking council to note two matters of fact: namely,

- the role of a councillor to represent the interests of ratepayers and residents, according to the LGA; and
- the non-disclosure by staff to councillors of certain information concerning a recommendation by Coffey Geotechnics, in 2010, at the time that councillors were required to make a decision concerning the subject of the recommendation.

As well, she is asking that council note:

- the legal implications should a personal injury be causally connected with the failure by council to consider expert advice; and
- the benefits to residents of Araluen Road of the imposition of managed load restrictions on the road.

On these 'points to be noted', there is surely no argument. If any councillor believes that these points *are* arguable, I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss that point of view.

Councillor Harding has also asked for councillors to resolve to require a report be prepared that will update that provided by Coffey Geotechnics in June 2009 – almost seven years ago – on the sections of road proposed to soon be used by logging trucks. It may be that such a report exists but that councillors have not yet been made aware of it. In any event, I can't imagine why any councillor would object to such information being made available, so that council can be confident that the important arterial Araluen Road is not unnecessarily vulnerable to damage by extraordinarily heavy vehicles – such as logging trucks, which, fully laden, weigh in excess of 40 tonnes.

And finally, on the most important governance matter of full disclosure of relevant information to councillors, Councillor Harding asks no more than for councillors to require an explanation of why the recommendation by Coffey Geotechnics, that is in question, was not disclosed to councillors at the time they were required to make a decision on the very subject of that recommendation. Surely, no councillor who is committed to open and accountable government can possibly vote against that motion.