

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 12 December 2017

Name	Subject/Comments
Public Forum – 10.00am	
Owen Cartledge	PSR17/073 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Sunset Committee
Maureen Searson	QON17/006 Comparative Pool costs PSR17/073 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Sunset Committee
Peter Coggan	QON17/006 Comparative Pool costs PSR17/073 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Sunset Committee
obo Roger Gribble	QON17/006 Comparative Pool costs
Coral Anderson	PSR17/073 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Sunset Committee

Owen Cartledge speaking

12 Dec. 2017

on Batemans Bay McKay Park Sunset Committee

Good morning, My name is Owen Cartledge, a resident of Malva Bay. Welcome to everybody.

I wish to speak about community engagement particularly with reference to BBMPSC.

On 29 April 2016 Mayor Brown unexpectedly announced the purchase of a strategically significant precinct, the BBBC. On 22 Nov 2016 Director Usher stated "the BBMPSC will oversee community engagement at this site."

In May this year I met a member of the sunset committee and said "Whats going on?" She/He said that "as part of the consultation process, members were ~~not~~ not allowed to talk, but I'll let you into a little secret. The ESC consultants have delivered unacceptable plans, and now 12 months after the purchase, the ESC and sunset committee are back to square zero and starting again."

On 29 August 2017, Council considered Options 1 + 2. I assume Option 2 was the first failed attempt.

The community engagement policy of the ESC is well documented in the Annual Report and in Council papers in February 2017. The words look wonderful but the actions of Council

often seem at variance with the policies. 2
This Council often seems unable to distinguish
between community signals and community noise.
Something seems terribly wrong.

EXAMPLES.

1. In October 2015 or 2016 a community meeting
was held at the Soldiers Club on a Saturday
afternoon. One of the usual suspects lodged
42 questions on behalf of himself and others.
The wall of the Soldiers Club was lined with
42 ESC answers. There were actually very few
answers, just bureaucratic and political responses.

2. The purchase of the BBBC was conducted
in secret with no community engagement. The
same Mayor proposed to Sydney that improved
capital value should be used for rates assessment.
Again, no community engagement. This Mayor
then tried to stall the removal of BB
parking meters on the grounds that ESC had not
consulted the community. Hypocrisy at its best.

3. About 20% to 30% of landowners have sea
level certificates attached to their land titles.
Council decided initially that it was easier not to
communicate for fear of spooking these people.

The greatest jump in community
engagement has evolved over the last year with a new
on line fearless media replacing far more restricted
presentations from traditional print media.

The recently tabled Annual Report, was 3
highly commended to the community by our Mayor, as
a good read, outlining the challenges and achievements
of the ESC. I went looking for answers to
some of these ^{above} issues and found nothing.

My positive recommendation flowing
from the above concerns is that the ESC
needs to appoint a professional change agent.

The appointee could look at Council culture
and community engagement. The position could move
the ESC from operating on a geological time
scale to something faster. The person could
encourage a future flow of NOMS from
councillors. Elected members of Council would be
assisted to govern in a proactive manner. Instead
of contemplating efficiencies of scale through
the MOU with Bega Valley, a change agent
could initiate action. Rather than talk about
efficiency and effectiveness along the lines
proposed by Percy Allan, a change agent
could encourage and implement such reforms.

Many of you would hesitate about
an expensive new staff member. However with
staff turnover at 9% p.a. funding for apples
to replace oranges would be a sinecure. Indeed
to fund the ^{extra} maintenance needed for a 50m
pool would only cost 3-4 staff positions.

4

Council needs a long term future plan in order to respond to unexpected grant money (eg. poles & wire money). Quick responses on large projects may see expensive infrastructure mistakes.

To me, something seems wrong, I have watched the Vardon, Thomson, Brown and Innes Councils and in all cases community engagement was and is ^{often} inadequate and defensive.

Maureen Searson

Presentation to Council 12th December 2017

Agenda item PSR17-073

This presentation is related to Council seeking expressions of interest to fill the vacancy left by Chamber of Commerce President David McLaughlin.

The original terms of reference for the Sunset Committee were in relation to Council's purchase of the Bowling Club site and targeted to the business community. Aren't the terms of reference now obsolete given that the opportunities for the development of the Mackay Park Precinct have now been decided on.

As the Bowling Club site is now not included in the Mackay Park Precinct development, wouldn't Council's terms of reference need to change?

There are problems with the terms of reference that relate to the current Sunset Committee.

For example -

- Council will refer matters to the Sunset Committee for consideration
- Council will decide on any actions resulting from the Sunset Committees recommendations
- Council will manage external consultants

In other words, Council will control the input into the Sunset Committee meetings and will control what is said publicly. Is this an open and transparent process when the community have been denied any input?

Moreover, are the terms of Reference in this case upholding the Local Government Act 3.1.2 where "Government and the officials and agencies of government exist for the public, serving the interests of the public?"

I would like to ask Council why does the replacement for the Sunset Committee vacancy have to be from the 'business community'? Isn't a priority for Council, to include someone from a major pool user groups to sit on the Sunset Committee?

It is logical...and self-evident that someone from a sporting group, school or swimming organisation be included on the Sunset Committee. At least someone who represents those who will utilise the facility on a daily basis.

Good morning

I'm Peter Coggan from Malua Bay. Following on from Roger Gribble's position, the focus here on the Question on Notice should be: *that Councillors have failed*

1. ~~You~~, the Councillors, ^{you} have made the decision to demolish Batemans Bay's 50 heated outdoor pool. Please explain. This is a pool the community has enjoyed for 50+ years - *It services a community that has 78% of Eurobodalla's population.*
2. Once it's gone Eurobodalla is left with one 50m pool at Narooma - a community that has 7% of Eurobodalla's population.
3. Why is the Batemans Bay 50m pool the target?
4. Why not focus on the construction and running costs of all the additional new facilities proposed for Mackay Park complex? Or even look to demolishing one or two cricket pitches and ovals or even a hockey field or two? *If you fear 'the mythical future gen. gap'*
5. Councillors, you need to be seen to be doing due diligence on all of the costing aspects relating to the Mackay Park concept plan already submitted for the grants before it's too late to include the 50m pool ie comparative costings with a 25m pool and the costs of the other five water bodies. *\$13 million to build & \$600,000 to run a 50m pool*
6. If the 50m pool is not in the concept plan, how can it be funded? *Compassion LET'S GET SERIOUS. It can't be ADDED at the DESIGN STAGE*
7. Councillors, you have taken the 50m pool away. Why? You are the decision makers who have the power to stop this retrograde process. *Give ^{the 50m pool} it back to our community it's a free gift.*

8. I appeal to you to reflect on your oath that you swore on when you took up your position as a new councillor. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 - SECT 233A**

Oath and affirmation for councillors

Quote from

I swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in

the best interests of the people

I will faithfully and impartially carry out the

functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

I also refer you to

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 - SECT 232

232 The role of a councillor

(d) to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community,

(e) to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body,

Also N.B. that

(2) A councillor is accountable to the local community for the performance of the council.

9. Reflection will remind you that you should listen to the community that you represent and that you are not just a rubber stamp for council bureaucrats who obviously in this case prefer Narooma to Batemans Bay as the location of a 50m pool complex.
10. You are seriously in error in demolishing the 50m pool and not replacing it with like.
11. We are still awaiting a review of the figures which the mayor has assured us would be taking place. We have been advised that Minister Constance is also undertaking this exercise.

The Design stage is too late. It has to be done now at the concept plan stage to allow a 50m pool to be compared with a 25m pool and the other 5 water bodies and facilities in OTUMI Plan. THANK YOU, Peter Coggan.

Referencing the question from Clr Phil Constable.
QUOTE, 'discussions regarding replacement and other costs, such as maintenance, relating to Council's swimming pools, in particular in relation to how they compare to the Mackay Park development concept relating to the aquatic element.' **UNQUOTE**.

The response provided assumes accuracy and openness in declaring expenses, unfortunately the response in no way interprets the real thrust of the Clr,s question!

Doubts about actual, current and competitive cost estimates may permeate all aspects of any "new build" projects. That is why BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) for one, and many other similar focused buildings cost reports, including estimates for swimming pool projects.

These are readily available sources of true and accurate cost estimates gained from a number of recently built projects.

The thrust of the Clr question was to understand the differential in costs for construction and running costs for a 25m or 50m pool. This short course versus long course debate hinges on the councils interpretation of the people's voice. This interpretation is as critical as the actual veracity of the cost estimations themselves. Having already incorporated the wider use requests from the community, by providing designs for associated water based activities. **Great!**

I now reference a document listed within todays' agenda from the councils Warren Sharpe OAM and I quote verbatim, ""**Batemans Bay is a regional growth centre with great potential**"" The same document goes on to

with great potential. The same document goes on to reference, and encourage even applaud Batemans Bay growth and all the infrastructure elements that go together to demonstrate a growing, developing regional driver.

SO?

How does this sit with the concept of building a paddling pool, when the job can be done properly, and just once. By building a 50 mfr pool we remove the need for additional swimmers, many just normal trainers and some top flight competitors to drive straight past Batemans Bay in search a suitable swimming environment further up or down the coast. Ulladulla or Moruya/Narroma. Does that sound like, **quote ""Regional growth centre""**? — Warren Sharpe.OAM.

Yes 'Short course meets', and even the "Worlds" are held in a short course format. However it is worth noting that Competitive short course pools are 25mtrs square. (10 lanes @ 2.5mtrs each.) (or 62.5% of an 8 lane 50 mfr pool.)

However, the majority of Australian swimming competitions demand a long course format, preferably in a "fast pool".(for those not sure how to achieve this needs, deep water, more lanes (10), buffer lanes, good gutter systems, good lane lines, and the always assumed elements of water temp at 26deg C + OR - 1 deg. (FINA guidelines) and the expected quality and well maintained water.)

Non of these elements add cost, yet all add value and in todays modern swim environment, why, would you encourage the use of inadequate design practices.

A 50 mtr pool with a 25 mtr buffer ability is basically standard practice for new builds in Australia today.

50 mtr pools force endurance outcomes, hence it is seen as the norm.

50 mtr pools develop rhythm linked to longer distances and encourage a cadence at a steady rate, hence it is seen as the norm.

50 mtr pools, typically 36 to 40 strokes is seen as the preferred swim pattern, hence it is seen as the norm.

AND finally you can do everything with a 50 mtr pool that you cannot in a 25 mtr pool.

The above assertions come from references of Swim Team 101/ Ryan Wood Active. com/ Alex Kostich/ AIS etc.etc.

YES, I agree that construction cost will be greater, but typically a 30% uplift, for a much greater gain from 25 to 50 mtrs.

YES, Operating cost will be greater but, again at a marginally increased rate, as once water temperature is reached, there are real saving gained from THE greater volume of " at temperature" water, Finally, supervision costs on a hourly basis are a marginal additional cost, for a larger pool.

However, the match against the greatly increased target market, has time and time again has demonstrated the viability of building the correct solution in the first place.

So many good elements of the overall design that exists really do encourage the correct size pool to be built initially.

really do encourage the correct size pool to be built initially.
Lets do the job properly once.

Thanks for your time.

PS I have read and timed this and can do it in 5 mins

Roger's email

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Roger's email

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PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM PSR17/073 – Mackay Park Sunset Committee

Good morning,

My name is Coral Anderson from Caseys Beach in Batemans Bay and I've come here today to speak on the matter of a replacement for the vacancy on the Batemans Bay Mackay Park Sunset Committee that has occurred following President Batemans Bay Business and Tourism Chamber's sudden resignation. It is noted that half of the community representatives on that committee have publicly supported the reasoning behind this resignation.

I draw to your attention a few points regarding the appointment of the sunset committee members:

During August 2016 Council called for expressions of interest from individuals involved in community or business groups to participate in a Sunset Committee for the Batemans Bay Mackay Park precinct. The criteria for the selection of community representatives is involvement in a community or business group that is related to the following potential development outcomes within the precinct:

Conference or convention facilities, tourism accommodation, arts and culture, seniors living, tourism and recreational facilities and aquatic centre.

Note: It appears that individuals from the swimming community, the sporting community and/or schools were not considered eligible for nomination onto this committee and therefore no one from these groups/organisations nominated. It is also noted that at the time the committee was formed, no one in the community realised that it was Council's intention to couple two very different facilities under the one roof and in the process replace our existing 50m pool with a 25m pool.

The following representatives were appointed:

- **Jeannie Brewer - PerFex**
- **Jean Baker - Batemans Bay U3A**
- **Lyn Woolridge - South Coast Pastel Society**
- **Carolyn Harding - Batemans Bay Indoor Aquatic Centre**
- **Jason Funnell - businessman/community representative**
- **Brad Rossiter - community representative**
- **Alan Russell - community representative**
- **Mathew Hatcher - community representative**
- **David Maclachlan - Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce**

Note that nine representatives were appointed and not eight (as per the Terms of Reference) and that not all of them attended the meetings as is evidenced by the Minutes of Meetings, in fact, one member of the committee has attended the first meeting only.

According to council's own website, Council has consulted with the community over many years on a range of projects related to aquatic, arts and cultural facilities. Soon after purchasing the bowling club site in 2016 Council asked the community for ideas about it's future uses ie uses for the bowling club site and not the swimming complex site.

Council claims that it is committed to ongoing engagement with the community throughout the design and development stages once funding is obtained. But it may be too late 'once funding is obtained'. Despite reassurances from the mayor, once the funding has been finalised it will be very difficult to change the concept plans. This advice is set out clearly on NSW Sporting Infrastructure website and confirmed by Mr Ken Egan, Director, Facilities Strategy and Planning at Sport Infrastructure Group, NSW Office of Sport. His words were if any changes were to be made to the concept plans then 'sooner rather than later is better'. This advice was also confirmed by Minister Constance office.

It appears that the current Sunset Committee has broken down and is dysfunctional. I therefore suggest that the current motion before you be amended to read:

THAT Council resolve to:

- 1. Disband the current Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct Sunset Committee and seek a more informed and effective group;**
- 2. Change the terms of reference in relation to selection criteria to include members of the swimming community, the schools, sporting clubs and relevant stakeholders;**
- 3. Amend the Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct Sunset Committee Terms of Reference to allow public attendance at future meetings thus ensuring compliance with Council's Community Engagement Framework.**