

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 27 October 2015

Name	Subject/Comments
Agenda Items – 10.00am	
Peter Hickman	NOM15/008 Eurobodalla Business and Community Forum
Alan Rutherford, Batemans Bay Chamber of Commerce	NOM15/009 Refugees Welcome Zone
Linda Chapman	NOM15/009 Refugees Welcome Zone [no submissions received]
Bernie Richards	NOM15/009 Refugees Welcome Zone
Trish Hellier	NOM15/009 Refugees Welcome Zone
Tom Noonan, Red Cross	NOM15/009 Refugees Welcome Zone
Phil Hardy, President Catalina Club	FBD15/073 Road Closure – Miller Street, Batemans Bay
John Wakelin	FBD15/073 Road Closure – Miller Street, Batemans Bay
Peter Bernard	FBD15/074 Relocation of Emergency Helipad; and FBD15/075 Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 – Referral to Audit

Good morning Councillors and Staff

I am Peter Hickman, President of Maloneys Beach Residents Association and co-convenor of the Eurobodalla Business and Community Forum. I have some 25 years' experience in Local Government, 21 years in senior management roles at Sutherland, Sydney, Gosford and Ryde.

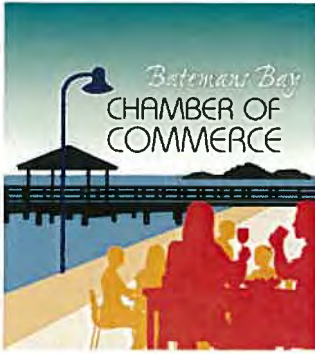
The Forum has a single charter which is to assist Council complete it's reform agenda, through coordinating support from the community and business in the local government area.

Council does not exist for its own benefit; Council only exists to provide governance and services to the community and associated service providers that are not provided by other levels of government. It must do this efficiently and effectively while making sure the community is aware of what it is doing and why. There is no place for idealism and implementation of personal agendas in this service provision, without the full support of the majority of the community. Staff who do this should consider their positions and careers in Local Government.

Council's Strategic Plan should be forged by the community with the guidance and assistance of the professional staff. This Plan should provide overall direction for all decisions made by the elected Council. Staff and elected members, representing the community, must bear the Strategic Plan in mind when making its decisions. There are occasions when this does not occur, and it is the responsibility of those generating the "Reports" to bring this to the attention of Councillors, so they may consider this, and its outcome. If there are policies and processes which will conflict with the Strategic Plan, these must be changed.

Councillors who make decisions without comprehending the detail of material submitted to them, are not serving the community. I believe that a comprehensive briefing process should be in place for complex reports, such as the one for the Draft Rural Lands Strategy. However, the material included in and supporting this should be of some quality, which is the responsibility of staff. Councillor's lives can be made more simple with appropriate Committees and delegation of mundane or simple regulatory processes to staff.

I have been encouraged by recent changes to the way this Council has been operating, and I hope it is not just a "ticking the boxes" change. Examples are Staff meeting regularly with community groups to discuss current issues and, Council is conducting community meetings in the major centres. There are plans to review the Plans of Management for parks, which date back to last century (usually this is done every 5 years).



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19 October 2015

Dr Catherine Dale
General Manager
Eurobodalla Shire Council
Vulcan Street,
MORUYA NSW 2537

Dear Catherine,

RE: REFUGEE WELCOME ZONE

Following the recent announcement by the Federal Government that it would undertake the resettlement of 12,000 Syrian refugees, several Chamber members thought that it might be a good idea to resettle some in our area. A quick ring around of local businesses resulted in the offer of 8 jobs, providing the impetus to discuss the issue at a general Chamber meeting.

At our general meeting on 7 October 2015, the Chamber members passed a resolution supporting the creation of a refugee welcome zone in the Eurobodalla. There are 124 local government areas that have become refugee welcome zones since 2002. Eurobodalla Shire Council is the only local government area in the south east of NSW that is not a designated refugee welcome zone.

Chamber members believe that it is not only socially responsible for the Shire to become a welcome zone, but that there are tangible economic benefits associated with the intake of refugees. This includes the inflow of state and federal funds used to support the resettlement process. On the community side, there is the benefit of increasing the cultural diversity in the Shire.

The Chamber would urge Council to take the first step towards the resettlement of refugees by becoming a refugee welcome zone.

Yours faithfully,

Allan Rutherford
President

Following on from what Gabi and Linda have said about declaring Eurobodalla a Refugee Welcome Zone, it is also important to note that refugees are not simply a "drain" on resources. In fact, people from refugee backgrounds and their descendants make important contributions to Australia's economy and society. We have many successful people in the local area who have come from a diverse range of migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Research has shown that refugees, once they have the opportunity to establish themselves, do make important economic, civil and social contributions to Australian society. Australia's refugees and humanitarian entrants have found success in every field of endeavour, including business, the arts, sports, media, science, research, civic and community life. Former refugees are very entrepreneurial, being more likely to set up their own businesses than other migrant groups. They play an important role in facilitating the development of trade and other links with their countries of origin. Former refugees value the education of their children very highly, with the proportion of young refugees attending an educational institution being higher than other migrants and even than people born in Australia. They make substantial social contributions to Australia through volunteering, promoting community development and engaging in neighbourhood activities and events.

"Syrian and Iraqi refugees will come from a range of backgrounds, work experience, level of skills and qualifications and English language proficiency." (NSW Government Website – quote from Peter Shergold, new NSW Coordinator-General for Refugee Resettlement)

Syrian/Lebanese people have migrated to Australia since before 1880s until the then government started to restrict movement into Australia. As an historical note, after WWI, Greater Syria was broken up into Syria and Lebanon. At that time the terms were interchangeable. Many early families with Syrian/Lebanese roots settled around the larger area of the NSW South Coast (and especially Braidwood) and assimilated extremely well, with many becoming successful business owners...(more info in "A Thematic history of Lebanese settlement in NSW") study available on nsw.gov.au official website.

An excellent example of a Lebanese family assimilating well and contributing immensely to our own local community is the Nader family, who migrated from Lebanon during the depression in the 1920s. Their son, local businessman John Nader (OAM) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2009 for his community service. Mr Nader's inspiration to serve Moruya was inherited from his mother and father who established their family in the town in 1929. Mr Nader was quoted as saying "We've been here all those years and we've got to be able to pay back some of what the town has given to us. I am very grateful for what Moruya has done for us. My brother and I worked for Moruya ever since and will do so until we die." The Governor General at the time, Ms Quentin Bryce also reflected on Mr Nader's passion for the community and said "You've given so much to your community through so many organisations. That's the backbone of our country - volunteerism and community service," she said. (from Bay Post articles
<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/1031286/community-work-never-enough/> &

<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/1032636/big-day-out-for-john-nader/>)

John Nader is also highlighted as a success story on the ESC website. He is quoted as saying "I have invested in Moruya because it's a community with heart. It embraced my parents when they arrived from Lebanon in 1929, and it's still the same." Mr Nader completed the development of the 22.5 ha North Moruya Business Park, which is the shire's only 4A industrial land. His business, Mordek, is based here. They are the largest manufacturer of metal roofing, sheds and cabins south of Sydney, with smaller plants at Nowra and Queanbeyan and employed 39 people at the time the article was written for the website. Mr Nader says he continues "to invest in technology ready for the turnaround in the industry when we can produce four small homes a day at Moruya". This is a successful, innovative and ongoing contribution to the Eurobodalla economy.

Eurobodalla is a "Small Business Friendly Council" and has launched projects like Renew Eurobodalla to support the growth of our local business community and bring new life to our empty shop fronts and office spaces. Making this a "Refugee Welcome Zone" can only further stimulate the local economy and enrich the area. "A diversifying market mix means there are opportunities to establish new business activities around Eurobodalla's uniqueness, developing small business enterprises such as manufacturing, creating goods for a niche market, or expanding upon the existing businesses and services." *ESC Council website.*

The draft Discussion Paper Local Food (Oct 2015 ESC website) states the South East Food Plan has also identified 10 barriers to increasing production and consumption of local food in the area, including lack of consistent supply, not enough producers and lack of motivation. Strategies to increase local food production, improve local food supply and increase local food consumption are being considered. Migrants and refugees have successfully contributed to farming and food production in Australia for many years. They've also brought with them many diverse gourmet delights, from the humble Chico Roll, to pizza, to delicious hummous, which Syrians contentiously claim as their own. (Many Syrian refugees come from farming backgrounds too.)

Locally, the Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma Chambers of Commerce and a number of local businesses are supportive of making Eurobodalla Shire a Refugee Welcome Zone. They have pledged pathways to training, education and local business opportunities, business mentoring and networking, and there will even be some specific jobs created. (Alan Rutherford to talk more specifically on this?)

What John Nader and his family have done for this community alone is typical of most refugees and migrants who want to become "good Aussies". Some of my new arrival friends are more "Aussie" than other aussies I know who were born here! They want to give back to the community that provides them haven and a new start. By definition, refugees are survivors. They have survived because of their courage, ingenuity and creativity. These are qualities which we value in Australia. If we assist newly arrived refugees to recover from the

experiences of their past and rebuild their lives in Australia, we will reap the benefits of the qualities and experiences they bring to our society.

Sources: http://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/01_2014/economic-social-civic-contributions-booklet2011.pdf

http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/_pdf/economic-social-civic-contributions-about-the-research2011.pdf

IGNITE: A new report was launched yesterday (Monday 26 October 2015) by the Sydney Business Chamber. It examined a program called "Ignite" which helps people from refugee backgrounds set up businesses in Australia. The results show the model is effective and could be expanded to include Syrian refugees in regional areas.

The report found refugees were making a significant contribution to the local economy where they have resettled and that the program could assist entrepreneurs who might lack the capital or knowledge of Australia to get a business off the ground.

"Refugees can make an impact on business. They can fend for themselves. They can create employment," said Jock Collins, a professor of social economics at the University of Technology Sydney's Business School and author of the report.

"Refugees themselves will make an important contribution to Australian society and, through this example of entrepreneurship, to the Australian economy and the Australian business sector," he said.

The report found that while some refugees are skilled entrepreneurs, some people may lack capital in Australia or their qualifications may not be recognised here.

Professor Collins said the Ignite program had effectively helped refugees access what they needed to start a business.

"It's a model that, for very little money but a lot of goodwill and generosity on the part of sort of experts who are volunteers to support these businesses, can in fact help a lot more newly arrived refugees establish a business against all the odds," he said.

ABC Report: Business program helping refugees become skilled entrepreneurs could benefit Syrian intake: report <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-24/mahdi-jahangirzadeh/6882070>

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Just some of the many Australian high achievers who once were refugees include scientists Sir Gustav Nossal and Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, 2009 Victorian of the Year Dr Berhan Ahmed, painter Judy Cassab, comedian Anh Do, filmmaker Khoa Do, author Nam Le, academic Associate Professor My-Van Tran, Dr Anita Donaldson, poet Juan Garrido-Salgado, painter and restaurateur Mirka Mora, actor Henri Szeps, broadcasters Les Murray and Caroline Tran, Australian Rules footballer Alex Jesaulenko, footballer Atti Abonyi, swimmers John and Ilsa Konrads, newspaper editor Michael Gawenda, architect Harry Seidler, business people Sir Peter Abeles, Larry Adler, Ouma Sananikone and Judit Korner, public servant Tuong Quang Luu and politicians Jennie George and Nick Greiner.

Current Opinions on Immigration (including Refugees and Asylum Seekers)

- October 20 2015
- Finding No. 6507
- Topic: Public Opinion Special Poll
- Country: Australia

Today 57% (up 22% since July 2010) of Australians support an Australian population of over 30 million in 30 years' time – a stunning increase from only five years ago. Only 9% (down 15%) support a population of under 25 million, a further 23% (down 9%) support a population of 25-30 million and 11% (up 2%) can't say.

A clear majority of Australians 69% (up 11%) support immigration (of 210,000 in 2013/14) remaining the same 37% (down 10%) or increasing 32% (up 21%) while 26% (down 14%) want immigration levels reduced and 5% (up 3%) can't say.

Importantly, more Australians believe immigration has a positive effect on Australia 37% (up 4%) than a negative effect 31% (up 1%) while 19% (down 2%) believe immigration has little effect and 13% (down 3%) can't say according to a special Morgan Poll conducted over three nights last week with a cross-section of 647 Australians aged 14+.

Not surprisingly, a vast majority of Australians support both Skilled migrant immigration (89% cf. 8% oppose) and Family reunion migration (79% cf. 16% oppose).

In addition, the negative debate about Muslims and Asylum seekers has had little impact on how Australians consider these types of migration – 65% of Australians support Muslim immigration up from 54% support in July 2010, while 28% of Australians oppose Muslim immigration.

A large majority of Australians support Asylum seeker immigration (71% up from 52% support in July 2010) while 21% of Australians oppose Asylum immigration.

Roy Morgan Opinion Poll dated 20 October 2015 -

Good morning Mayor Brown, Councillors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery and those who are comfortably Live Streaming at Home. My name is Patricia Hellier from Bateman's Bay.

I have come here today to speak on Item No. NOM 15/109 being a proposal for a "Refugee Welcome Zone in the Eurobodalla" and I hope to be able to provide a balanced perspective on this issue.

While I believe I understand the reason for the proposal I have to question the logic of it given the area that we live in with high unemployment and very low permanent rental accommodation. Only last week I spoke to a real estate agent who told me that he had 2 houses advertised for rent and had 40 applicants apply.

I note in the previous proposal from EBCF they have mentioned the "Dropping off the edge 2015 that identified Eurobodalla as one of the most disadvantaged area in the State" – for those of us that live in the area we do not need a report to confirm this.

Bear with me as I will attempt to describe an example of what I have observed as "local disadvantaged" that I believe should be taken in consideration with this proposal being put before Council.

In March this year while collecting names on a petition at the Moruya Markets a resident suggested to me to go to the Moruya Airport Camp Ground and talk to the number of locals living there.

On arrival I found various forms of camping from comfortable to what I can only describe as primitive and this I believe was quite unacceptable in 2015 especially given that there were children involved.

I spoke to a number of these people most of whom told me that they were hoping to get housing accommodation after the Easter holidays even if it was only FOR a 6 month period. Now these people ranged from some that had become unemployed to others that had jobs but had to relocate in the December because of the holiday rentals.

Amongst those living there was a daughter of an ex councillor living with her partner and their son, an unemployed Dad raising 2 children, some had casual employment at the weekends that they said would only last while the tourist were around. They just did not have accommodation.

There were one couple there whose story will always haunt me. They were sleeping in the back of their station wagon, they had a make shift tarps taped together as a tent – they had moved out of a rented house in December and had been living in different houses with friends and families and had been at the airport for 2 weeks – they had a little girl aged 2 –both her hands and arms were bandaged. Apparently at night they had a camp fire for cooking and the child new not to go near the fir – but unfortunately one morning she fell hands first onto coals that were still hot – this child had to be flown to a Sydney Hospital. The mother told me their possessions were being stored in different friend's houses in the area and it was very hard to live like that especially with a child.

In Batemans Bay there is a lady in Surfside who leaves her downstairs area unlocked at night as she knows a lot of what she describes as "the regular street kids who sleep under the bridge". She has a bathroom area downstairs, she provides towels soap etc for the kids who "come and go" she

provides clean clothes for them in plastic bags, they leave there soiled clothes in a bag, she washes the clothes for them, and leaves their clothes in a bag for the next time they return.

There is another lady in the Bay who regularly has kids come and stay with her after having disputes with their parents she called it "couch surfing".

There are many parents desperate for their kids to get jobs in the area, and this was raised a number of times at the meeting on the 9th May.

Our Community is already struggling, what system will be put in place to see the refugees have a meaningful contribution to the community? What social issues may arise due to the pressure of a new group in the community?

I have read an article that stated "The refugees we are accepting into Australia are the ones who have borne the greatest pain".

What support structure will you have in place for those who have experienced trauma? Do we have enough psychologists/psychiatrist and hospital beds to provide the care for those who maybe experiencing such trauma. Qualified Life Coaches can support people through adjustment stress. Will the Life Coach be local to these people's cultures and needs? Will they understand their cultural values and bias, are they also trained in mental health or will they only work with those who are not at risk? I have attached a copy of an article called "Anyone can be a Life Coach, so is it time to ask, who is really coaching you?"

What risk assessment will be conducted to see what types of trauma these families may have experienced? How are you going to identify those at risk of violence or adjustment stress? How will you support them through cultural difference in adjustments etc?

Given the mental health is a huge issue generally in Australia – it is commonly known that help for this condition is not readily available especially through Medicare and particularly in this area.

How will you ensure there is no divide of "US v THEM". What support will be given to the local community to learn the culture of these people so there is no division and how will you help the locals change their mindset about different religions and beliefs that are unknown to us.

What type of skills will these people be bringing with them – i.e. are they already trained as doctors teachers etc. or will the community be providing the training, if so, is there enough support in education services to train them.

What support will be given to the refugees to fund business, will you be training them to start up their own business so they become self sufficient? And where will the funds come from?

I note in this proposal that there will be 8 jobs pledged by the Batemans Bay Chambers of Commerce for those refugees who it appears will be living in Narooma. I note that there is travel being provided but logically is this really going to work given the distance?

I also have to wonder what is behind the pledge for accommodation by De La Salle Brothers in Narooma.

Are there really any qualified people in the area to cope with workshops to cover anxiety, depressions and other mental health issues, can we guarantee that these people are going to get qualified people to conduct these workshops.

Will these people need an interpreter? What language service will be available to help these refugees? Are there enough spots in the local schools for the children? Will you have an English and second language support person in the schools to help integrate the children into the Australian school system.

Will there be local community centres for them to go? What religion beliefs do they have? Will we have to build mosques or other buildings to support their cultural beliefs?

Will the Eurobodalla be able to provide all of these services?

Councillors there are many ways to help refugees.

Is it practical to locate them in an isolated area? Or would they be better off in a more highly populated area that can offer them the ongoing support that they will need and possibly area that may have better connections to families, extended families, friends and their culture and easy access to experienced, qualified professional help.

Councillors please ask yourselves is Eurobodalla genuinely equipped to help these people rehabilitate.

Have we access to the qualified people to accomplish this?

How many of you councillors are personally prepared to guarantee that these refugees will received the qualified professional help they many need?

THANK YOU.

Good morning Mayor Lindsay Brown and honorable councilors.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Tom Noonan and I am the local Red Cross representative for the south coast. I also grew up in the Eurobodalla, just south of Central Tilba, and it is with great pride that I stand before you today to read this statement on behalf of Red Cross.

Red Cross Statement of Support to turn Eurobodalla Shire into a Refugee Welcome Zone

Red Cross warmly welcomes the motion to make Eurobodalla Shire a Refugee Welcome Zone.

This motion has demonstrated our Shire's wonderful way of expressing our caring nature to people whose choice to leave their home country is forced on them as a result of conflict beyond their control.

This motion is truly a historical landmark in shaping the direction of our community's future generation into becoming more culturally diverse.

A large body of evidence shows that refugees contribute in many meaningful ways to the economic, socio-economic and cultural landscapes of any community they choose to settle in.

Your conscious effort to make our Shire a Refugee Welcome Zone shows our thoughtful consideration in upholding the core values of our community; the values of fairness, empathy, and integrity.

This motion will help to ensure that refugees are well supported and that their strengths are valued, nurtured, and harnessed to help them reclaim their dignity and sense of safety and secure living. Our show of care and support to them will be a great source of stability in their settlement, which will only lead to their productive contribution towards a more robust Eurobodalla Shire.

According to the Refugee Council of Australia, there are more than 120 local governments nationwide which have declared themselves Refugee Welcome Zones. These local councils have taken pride in having their communities enriched by the cultural diversity that refugees from various corners of the world have brought with them.

Brisbane City Council has acknowledged that diversity of the community is one of the nine qualities that most Brisbane people value about their city.

The Bass Coast Shire Council in Victoria has stated that one of the most successful programs it has been involved in includes the support of family sponsorships of Karen people.

The City of Marion in South Australia runs the annual 'Marion Celebrates' Festival; a large community festival with the theme 'Many Cultures, One Earth'. This festival attracts approximately 7000 people, highlighting the richness of cultural diversity in their community.

Sydney Good Food Month showcases 'Flavours of Auburn'; an annual culinary culture and heritage event of Auburn's multicultural community.

The Launceston City Council in Tasmania, historically populated by people of European and Anglo descent, prides itself on its strong community spirit of cultural diversity and has welcomed an increasing number of refugees over the past 10 years from Bhutan, Sudan, Nepal and Burma.

These are just few of the many wonderful narratives on the contribution of refugees in creating a vibrant economic, social, and cultural Australia.

These local councils have been successful in bringing out the best in refugees by developing policies and other initiatives that help to foster their contributions to the wealth of community culture.

By opening up to the prospect of developing our Shire where refugees are graciously embraced and acknowledged as an equal partner in community building, you will be assured of looking forward to a place of cultural diversity where people live with a

strong tradition of promoting prosperity based on social cohesion and respect for human rights and dignity.

May this motion be approved for creating a better and culturally diverse people of Eurobodalla.

Red Cross is strongly supportive of the people of Eurobodalla in this amazing direction of the Shire. Over many years of service to help refugees rebuild their lives in a country like Australia, Red Cross has nothing but admiration for their contribution in nation building.

Thank you very much.

27 October 2015

Submission to Council

Re: Proposed Road Closure – Miller Street, Batemans Bay

I thank the council for the opportunity to present a statement on Club Catalina's behalf. What council has done is simply look at the matter from the aspect of what is commercially best for them. We submit this is not the sole consideration in this matter.

A 6 metre right of way is insufficient to the Catalina Country Club ('club'). A full size road is necessary for the club to carry out major construction works on our land. The alternative entrances referred to in the council's report are inadequate for this purpose and if forced to use them the club would be required to cause significant damage to the course proper. If the 6 metre access is granted, council also raises the possibility of resident complaints when the time comes to use this avenue.

It is not appropriate for council to dismiss the possibility of a residential sub-division happening on club land because some of the land is flood prone. Much of our land is not flood prone, and it might be that the course would be re-configured to take this into account but still requiring full road access. Additionally it makes no sense that Miller Street is OK for development, but our abutting land is apparently not.

The club acknowledges council should not be forced to hold the street area just in case the club requires access. That is the reason the club asks for the opportunity to purchase the area. It has always been a principle of dealing with disposal of public land that the public authorities must get the best possible price. In this case, there are at least two possible purchasers. Hence, we submit the best way for council to maximize the return is to submit the block to public auction.

Thank you

Phil Hardy
President
Club Catalina

27th October 2015

Fact sheet on the process of endeavouring to purchase the unformed portion of Miller St. for Town House and Apartment development on behalf of the Bay Investment Growth.

- A member of the Investment Group offered his parcel of land at 30 Golf Links Dr. for re development. This land adjoins the unformed portion of Miller St.
- A discussion was had as to the possibility of purchasing this unformed portion of road so as to square up what was a triangular block of land to enable a more enhanced development not just in scale but overall a more balanced development.
- Council took us through the process of what was required to obtain approval to purchase and advised us of what would be appropriate in terms of meeting the requirements of the adjoining owners.
- A valuer approved as appropriate by Council was engaged to provide a valuation report to Council at the Groups cost. Council forwarded the valuation to the Group, it was deemed acceptable so we moved on to the next step.
- Plans of the proposed development were prepared by Architects Edmiston Jones to something like a pre D A stage to allow us to hold discussions with the adjoining neighbours. Those being the Catalina Country Club, Mr. and Mrs. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Antolin.
- All three were contacted directly. I met with the then president of the C C C a Mr. Kim Odgers and walked him through the proposal. I met twice with the Antolins and several times with the Millers. I heard nothing further from the C C C however after due consideration and some changes to the proposed design both the Millers and the Antolins agreed.
- The finality of the negotiations was that we would provide a 5.5 metre private access/driveway with a pedestrian walkway down the northern side of 900mm. The access/driveway would be accessible to all parties as a registered right of way and would be constructed to accommodate heavy vehicles as required by the C C C for Golf Course maintenance. It is worth noting that 5.5 metres is not far short of a standard road width and could accommodate two-way traffic.
- The proposed closure and purchase of the unformed portion of Miller St. was advertised in accordance with requirements and from our point of view we have followed a very formal, ethical, transparent and somewhat costly process and find it baffling that the C C C would object without even giving us the opportunity to work in with them on any future requirements. And to this end we actually obliged without any consultation by providing the access as described above.
- Our development would take place in early 2016 and provide this area of Batemans Bay with a much needed lift by the way of a quality development with Architecturally designed Town House and Apartments of various sizes sizes that will suit a broad cross section of our community.

- I am led to believe that the C C C would like to retain the road so as to allow them access should they wish to sub divide off a portion of the Golf Course for residential development. Our view on this would be that the C C C have several access points and in fact there is one a little further up Golf Links Dr. Another view though none of our business would be that there are much better options for the C C C to offset the costs of remaining viable into the future. The fairway Seventeen development would be a testament to this approach.

Thank you for your time and happy to answer any questions.

John Wakelin on behalf of the Bay Investment Growth.

**Mr Mayor. Through You to the General Manager. (27th October 2015)
Item FBD15 /015 Draft Financial Statement**

**1.0 Did IPART make any comments concerning the Delivery
26/10/2015 Program 2013 -17 and Operational Plan and Budget 2015 -16?**

2.0 Were the Councillors advised of these comments and were all documents subject to an external audit, given that you have told IPART that you have no audited asset registers from which reliable infrastructure cost projections could be made. If so, would you please make the audit reports available to me and the public, or confirm in writing that the cost projections are just your best guesses.

3.0 Included in the “base case” document mentioned above with respect to investing, is a figure of \$30M as proceeds from sale of assets for the year 2013-14. Could I be advised what assets were sold and the revenue from each asset.

4.0 Madam General Manager, do you consider that this is a questionable figure, being equivalent to 1/3 of total revenue of \$91M and being replaced with new assets to the value of \$64 million. By any chance, have the council chambers been sold and reinvested in retirement villages purchased in fear of being declared “Not Fit for the Future “ ? I assure you that amalgamation will not happen so please do not commit suicide as carried out by the composer of the song “Don’t Worry “.

5.0 Madam General manager what progress has been made with regard to the sale of any of the reclassified lands for which you have been given council approval to sell, at up to 10 per cent below market value. This land is estimated to have value of some \$10 M. I also note that a major \$1 million land sale has not occurred in Bateman Bay.

6.0 It is also noted that very few reports , if any, have come to council from that elusive “Real Estate Sales?” section of council, since the reshuffle of its management . A great shame, as in my opinion the sale of public lands should be openly reported, and the proceeds held in a reserve account for special purposes.

7.0 Madam General Manager, I refer to several conflicting council documents concerning the investment of asset sale proceeds for the same 2013-14 financial year. One shows proceeds from assets sales in the order of half a million dollars with \$31M in asset purchases * - The other shows \$30m in asset sales and \$64m in purchases (the SRV Case). ** Madam General Manager, were both these council documents subject to an independent audit or questioned by any councillor , IPART or any one else ? If Not! Why Not?

8.0 Figures relating to the special rate variation still reveal the equivalent of two out of every three dollars collected in rates and

**annual chares goes in full time employee costs averaging some \$ 74,600 per employee (based on Council's "myth buster statement")
*** which raises far more questions than it attempts to answer .**

- 9.0 I note also that significant budget amendments have been made to the figures for the quarter ending 30th June 2015. Were any of these major adjustments revealed during the many SRV and / or amalgamation discussions with the Government?**

26/10/2015

Note .There was no attachments to this presentation so it was not possible to quote any figures from the draft financial statements.

**Figures * and ** Quoted from Previous Council Budget documents
*** Calculated from "Myth Buster "**