

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 13 June 2017

Name	Subject/Comments
Public Forum – 10.00am	
Kathryn Maxwell	PSR17/032 2017-2021 Emissions Reduction Plan
Allan Rees	PSR17/032 2017-2021 Emissions Reduction Plan
Sue McKenzie	PSR17/034 Batemans Bay Mackay Park Precinct - Short Term Interim Use and Disposal of Equipment
Susan Pryke	IR17/038 Eurobodalla Pathways Strategy 2017
Charles Sturt	IR17/039 Naming of Corrigans Beach Reserve Inclusive Playground
Kerry McCutcheon	CAR17/018 Dog Recreation Areas - Batemans Bay
Coral Anderson	CAR17/018 Dog Recreation Areas - Batemans Bay Also presenting on same item on behalf of Dr Beth Miller (Casey's Beach Veterinary Clinic) who is unable to attend today's meeting.
Robert Loftus	CAR17/018 Dog Recreation Areas - Batemans Bay
Kaylyn Welsh	CAR17/018 Dog Recreation Areas - Batemans Bay CAR17/019 Dog Recreation Areas – Nelligen
Peter Cormick	CAR 17/018 Dog Recreation Areas - Batemans Bay

Eurobodalla Councils Emissions Reduction Plan

- SHASA supports the actions already taken to reduce emissions and make electricity savings for the Council. In particular installing solar systems on a number of Council facilities and commencing upgrading street lighting to LEDs.
- SHASA has also benefited from the support provided by Mark Shorter to its work.
- SHASA strongly supports the actions in the 2017-2020 Emissions Reduction Plan. In particular undertaking a feasibility study into installing a 5-10MW solar farm, helping to facilitate a network of electric car charging points, and continuing to upgrade street lighting to LEDs.

TARGETS

- SHASA also supports the targets. Council is on track to meet its commitment to reduce emissions by 25% by 2020. A new corporate energy emissions reduction target of 80% by 2030 has been established. An additional target will be to source 100% of Council's electricity from renewable energy by 2030. *We would like Council to have a target of 20% of its with solar systems by 2020.*

COUNCIL ASSISTING BUSINESSES AND HOUSEHOLDS

- As explained earlier with the significant increase in the cost of electricity we believe the Council has a critical role to play in encouraging businesses and households to install solar systems.
- Council has shown excellent leadership and support to reduce water usage by businesses and households and we believe this should be extended to help them reduce

*Kerthyn Maxwell
Chair, SHASA
27 yrs experience
working in the
area of
sustainability
community
development &
landscape*

electricity usage. It is in all of our interests to increase the resilience of our businesses and households. SHASA believes the Council should also set targets for business and households eg 20% of households have solar by 2020.

SETTING UP A FACILITY TO RECYCLE FOOD WASTE

- SHASA supports the action to investigate and support methods to divert household or commercial organic/food waste from landfill. We recommend the Council look at joining the City to Soil Program which has been implemented or will be trialled by Armidale Regional Council, Goulburn, Mulwaree, Lachlan, Palerang, Queanbeyan and Harden. You will only every get a small percentage of businesses and households doing their own composting. These bigger facilities do it properly and turn a waste product into a valuable compost for gardeners and farmers.

5-10MW SOLAR FARM FOR THE EUROBODALLA

- As you would be aware all the current Council solar installations are only providing between 10-12% of the Council's electricity needs. Establishing a 5-10MW solar farm on Council land would provide Council will all its electricity needs. SHASA believes that if the project is found to be feasible that it include 1MW community funded component. That is members of the community are able to invest in the solar farm and receive a dividend each year to help towards their own electricity bills. There are already two community organisations in NSW facilitating community investment in solar – Clear Sky Investments and Repower.

- Clear Sky Investments was established in 2013 by Sydney's Northern Beaches Energy for Eternity and already have 15 community funded projects with a total investment of \$2m.
- Repower Shoalhaven also organise community funding of solar projects. So far they have organised community funding for 10 businesses in the Shoalhaven. Clear Sky Investments and Repower enable organisations to install a solar system at no up front cost and pay for the system through savings in electricity. After 7-10 years the business owns the system.

ELECTRIC CARS

- A major source of emissions for the Council is their vehicle fleet. In addition to supporting the establishment of a network of electric charge points we need the Council to demonstrate leadership by installing an electric charge point at its Admin facility in Moruya and start purchasing/leasing electric vehicles – say 2 a year. That way business and households get to see electric vehicles in action. Actions speak louder than words.

CONCLUSION

- Councillors should view allocating funds to implement measures in the Emissions Reduction Plan as an investment that will ensure that it does not have to spend ever greater amounts of money on electricity and fuel costs. There are few other areas of Council that provide such a high return on investment.
- Thank you again, for the opportunity to present to Council this morning.

Emissions Reduction Plan 2017 – 2021

Eurobodalla Shire Council

Presentation by Eurobodalla 350.org, 13 June 2017

Eurobodalla 350.org supports the draft Emissions Reduction Plan 2017 – 2021.

We are pleased with the reductions in emissions that council has made in the previous two Greenhouse Action Plans, and that this has also resulted in a very substantial saving in electricity costs. Council should continue on this path and make further reductions in our emissions.

Climate change is already affecting Australia and the Eurobodalla. The Great Barrier Reef is suffering a second year in a row of coral bleaching due to high sea temperatures. Sea temperatures here are also rising. Records from Moruya Heads show a significant rise in air temperature since 1910 along with lower rainfall and milder winters. Our farmers are also seeing adverse changes in the climate. Bee keepers tell us that the gum trees flowering is all out of sync and oyster farmers are worried about rising water temperatures.

The threat to our agriculture and fishing is also an opportunity to change to clean energy which will bring down electricity prices.

There is a wide consensus on the need to act to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The Business Council of Australia, the National Farmers' Federation, the CSIRO and the electricity generators all want a plan to make that change.

Eurobodalla 350.org is part of the world wide climate action group 350.org. 350 parts per million is the safe upper level of carbon dioxide (equivalent) in the atmosphere and we have already reached 400 ppm. That is a measure of how serious the situation is and how we need to act immediately.

Our members want the council to lead the community in this change. Our members want Eurobodalla Shire Council to promote and assist citizens to move to renewable energy, the council to divest from fossil fuel investments and to power itself from 100% renewable energy.

There should be a priority on the feasibility study for a solar farm with battery storage. This has the potential to make big savings in electricity costs and emissions. The council should be part of lobbying for changes to regulations to make a fairer system for people and communities generating electricity.

The Emissions Reduction Plan is a good policy which should be adopted. Councillors should be proud of what they have achieved so far and be determined to continue the good work.

Allan Rees
Eurobodalla 350.org
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Addressing council 13 June 2017 re interim use of the Bowling Club for community/arts use, for PerfEx and Batemans Bay Arts community

(SMackenzie -Vice president and Alternate Member of Sunset Committee -13June 2017)

I am speaking today on behalf of PerfEx, as an alternate member of the Sunset committee, plus, through meetings, joint submissions and consultation over the last year, the general Arts community of Batemans Bay.

We come here today to address three points:

- **Potential interim use of the Batemans Bay Bowling Club pre development of a Performing Arts/Community Centre**
- **Response to suggestions that its contents be cleared**
- **Costings – including the missing offsets**
- **Community transparency on this issue**

I shall address the last first.

Community transparency on this issue

Last Wednesday a member of council staff came to address a gathering of Arts people in the Bay on the subject of the re-development of Mackay Precinct and the proposed development of a Performing Arts/Community Centre in the interest of community communication and transparency. Yet he did not mention this issue of clearing the Club out and its possible demolition, nor that the report was on the Council Agenda for today, 6 days later. So, while we appreciated that gesture, we need to get across to Council that to ensure trust with the community, all relevant information needs to be communicated, and in a relevant timely fashion.

Report: Response to suggestions that the Batemans Bay Bowling Club contents be cleared

The report to be presented today has some concerning elements in it that negate the idea that nothing is off the table and that all options are being considered. It is clear that Council preference is to dispose of items in the Bowling club, 'from shade structures ... to memorabilia and cutlery/crockery.' It asserts: 'Proceeding with the disposal of these items will not compromise a future decision on the short-term interim use of the bowling club.' But they certainly **WILL compromise interim setup options and costs** by duplicating

costs of setup, as these are essential items to the viability of that interim use. It also implies steps towards making the building unusable and, as such, preferences to demolish the Club, as yet without any replacement.

Potential interim use of the Batemans Bay Bowling Club

Gutting the building or clearing its contents also implies Council has a preference to not have the community use the Club in the interim before re-development occurs. So, too, does its consideration of an interest by RMS to utilise the site as a construction depot while building the new bridge.

We feel Council should not hold up this cultural facility development, possibly for years, just because of this. We do not know how many years are involved. It is a community building and should not be rented out like this when there is clear community interest in utilizing it now. It would also be terrible if the Club was demolished without at least a guarantee that a new and acceptable building was imminent. We would be left with a vacant, or sold, piece of land and still no Arts precinct.

We realise that Council must adhere to certain rules and regulations and optimise opportunities to apply for grants to facilitate Shire projects. However, this building and its use is **not just a practicality** and we feel its future should not be decided on fiscal notions alone.

The building is an **icon to the community; a representation of a hope and aspiration**, held for many years, to have a viable Performance/Arts/Community facility.

When the Bowling Club was operated by the Catalina Club it provided meeting rooms, community gathering spaces, activity spaces and event/conference capabilities, including a large auditorium for general community use.

These were lost to community use when, not very long after purchase and a refit, the Bowling Club was shut down. There are insufficient community spaces, even with the present community centre. Community (including Arts) activities have to make do, using schools, retirement homes, small community and Life-Savers' halls in further suburbs and towns, even Centrelink rooms. The local arts group, CABBI, struggles to fit their major exhibition into a school hall.

The Bowling Club was bought, supposedly in good faith, by the Catalina Golf club but then closed; now bought, hopefully, in good faith by council for the community. Consequently, the site and venue **also represent a community-**

perceived IOU that the community is waiting to be honoured. This was reflected by the trust placed in Council during the process of re-categorisation of the precinct to 'operational' land, opening the way for Public/Private partnerships (PPP).

Costs and viability

With the costings given by council in the report we are concerned that no significant offsets are recognised in relation to interim use.

The difference between demolition and interim use costs would reflect a Council investment that amounts to c.\$60,000pa for four years. Surely this is a viable and acceptable expenditure in our community's future vitality and commercial success, especially with the distinct possibility of this cost being offset by the sale of the tourist centre (and/or community centre) or by income from various other sources (through council/rates and support; State, Federal or community grants; community and business support; and commercial operations such as the proposed use now under consideration by council of the commercial, on-site kitchen; and other commercial activity within the building) .

We do not doubt operation of the site is financially sustainable, and even now we have a person linked to several arts organisations and business within the town, with experience in a similar project and marketing, who has expressed interest in managing the interim centre under sub/contract.

Further open and full Community/Council discussions need to be had before the viability of interim use can be effectively assessed, and seen to be assessed.

Quoting our Mayor **Liz Inness: This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us as a community**" and, yes we not only must consider **that it is affordable now and into the future**, but also **"that it meets the needs of the community" now and into the future.**

951 words

Council-provided estimates:

¹ Interim use	Costs \$K	Notes	Income	Demolition	Costs \$K	Notes	Income
recommission	90,000	incl aircon		Demolition	258,500		
renew/replace	344,000	over 4yrs		Temp car park	400,000		
operational costs	480,000	over 4yrs		Tender process			
				ongoing maint	16,000	over 4years	
Total	914,000			Total	674,500		
Off set by revenue streams and sale of tourism centre?			????				

a business operator recently approached Council with a request to utilise the commercial kitchen at the former bowling club to bake goods for use and sale offsite.

Susan Pryke

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13 June 2017

Safe crossing of Princes Highway in South Narooma

First, I would like to congratulate Council on a very comprehensive Pathway Strategy. The plans outlined for Narooma are excellent, with the exception of one thing: there is no mention of safe ways for pedestrians to cross the Princes Highway in South Narooma.

Those of us who live on the west side of the Princes Highway, south of Narooma Plaza, have to cross the Princes Highway to access the footpath, which is located on the east side. Finding a safe place to do so is difficult as sightlines are terrible and traffic is heavy, especially during summer months.

I include in my comments those who live adjacent the highway; tourists at the Farnboro Motel; and residents living on Gem Cres, Cole Cres, Old South Coast Rd, Dorothy Dr, Gareth Ave and Old Highway.

Included in the Pathway Strategy is a footpath along the service road from Old Highway to opposite Glasshouse Rocks Road. Without a pedestrian refuge on the highway at that point, however, the footpath will be of no use.

Students who cross Princes Highway at Old Highway to get to the footpath that leads to Narooma High School are in the most serious situation of all. The Pathway Strategy includes a footpath along Old Highway, which is great. But there is no mention of a need for a pedestrian refuge to help students get across the Princes Highway. It is a terrible crossing that puts lives at risk. If you are crossing from the east side to the west side of the Princes Highway in this location, there is NO VISIBILITY at all. You have to actually take a few steps onto the highway and look north to see if there is any traffic coming. This is because of the curve in the road and the embankment which block the view of the traffic.

This is a horrific situation, and something needs to be done to make it safer. Before passing the Pathway Strategy, I think every councillor should try crossing the Princes Highway in both directions as the students do at the Old Highway intersection. Words really can't describe how dangerous it is. Yet kids are crossing there every school day.

I often call our section of Narooma the 'forgotten part of town' where pedestrian access is concerned. I expect people think anyone who lives here must always travel by car. But that is simply not the case. The footpaths that council has planned will make it better, but only if Roads and Maritime Services provides safe crossings of Princes Highway at the same time.

I would ask that your Pathway Strategy appendix indicate that *Council continue to advocate to the Roads and Maritime Services to provide suitable pedestrian refuges at the Princes Highway/Glasshouse Rocks Road and Princes Highway/Old Highway.*

Respectfully submitted
Susan Pryke

Photos Old Highway Intersection

1)



Taken from east side of Princes Highway looking west. This shows where people actually cross because they can't walk safely along Old Highway to the intersection. This little track connects to a service road behind the trees.

Actual intersection.

2)



Picture taken from east side of highway looking west. Typical traffic. Pedestrians have to check for cars travelling north south and turning out of Old Highway.

3)



Princes Highway

Rough track pedestrians use to get from high school footpath to Princes Highway, where they cross to Old Highway.

Footpath to Narooma High School.

4)



Looking north from east side of highway. This is where students cross when they are returning from school. The curve in the road and embankment blocks visibility. You can't see around this corner and cars travel at such speeds that they can travel from the place you see them to where you are standing in an instant. A pedestrian refuge would help.

Photos of Princes Highway showing Glasshouse Rocks Rd intersection
1)



Glasshouse Rocks Rd intersection, seen from high school footpath facing north.

Footpath to Narooma High School.

2)



Glasshouse Rocks Rd intersection, seen from footpath on east side of Princes Highway. Picture taken facing south. A pedestrian refuge here would help.

3)



West side of Princes Highway (facing north). No footpath. Pedestrians walk along highway or on rough service road seen here on right below the highway. Pathway Strategy calls for a footpath along the service road.

To get to the service road you have a slippery incline to manoeuvre here.

COUNCIL ADDRESS – 13 June 2017.

I am Charles Stuart of 'The Bay Push' a not-for-profit organisation which has been the driving force, in partnership with Council to build the Inclusive Playground at Corrigans Reserve, Batehaven.

Thank you for the opportunity to address, the Mayor, councillors, staff, and the public in this auditorium. By-the-way, the term auditorium is derived from two Latin words; AUDIO meaning – I speak AND Taurus – the bull.

Today I do not intend to talk BULL.

In February, this year I addressed councillors with a request that the playground at Corrigans Reserve be named 'Variety Inclusive Playground'. This request was accepted by council and has since progressed through a public consultation process.

Councillors will address this item which is on page 45 of today's agenda.

The names recommended for consideration are:

1. Variety Inclusive Playground – my submission – OR -
2. Batemans Bay Variety Inclusive Playground.

What is omitted from the section in today's agenda, is a record of the approval of the name, "Variety Inclusive Playground" by the Corrigans Reserve Sunset Advisory Committee.

My preference is for the name I originally submitted which is Variety Inclusive Playground, however, if councillors determine it is essential to identify the playground's location, and I do not have a strong argument for or against this name, but if so, I believe, the location identifier – Batemans Bay should logically follow the name of the park. Thus, the name would be – Variety Inclusive Playground, Batemans Bay.

Precedent is evidenced by an Internet search of service club, named parks in Eurobodalla. It lists: -

Lion Park Batemans Bay

Lion Park Moruya

Apex Park Moruya

Rotary Park Kianga

Apex Park Narooma, and

Rotary Park Narooma.

In each case the location follows the service name.

Now I note that our Mayor is looking at her watch. My guess she is trying to make it go faster, but I must advise that I have less than a minute to go, if that is OK?

This is an important issue for the residents, I associate with in the Eurobodalla and it involves our General Manager.

The word on the Street is that Dr Catherine Dale's contract has, or will shortly expire.

Dr Dale has been a great supporter of my cause and I, and many others in the community respect her unhurried consideration of matters placed before her, her quiet tenacity and that she is a great advocate for progress within our shire

If it is the case that councillors will shortly consider Dr Catherine Dale's contract renewal, I urge you re-employ Catherine for a further five years.

That's it folks!

Presentation to Public Forum
from Kerrie McCutcheon

I would like to thank Council for giving Councillors this opportunity to decide on an area for a community off leash dog park for Batemans Bay, and I thank you for your work to get to this point today.

I noticed in the agenda that there are a few references to a dog training facility. This confuses the issue as we are here today to decide on a community off leash area only as was passed at the Council meeting of 13 December 2016.

And I trust that it is a clerical error where references are made to an on leash area. This makes no sense & has never been requested.

Please note that I make this submission with no reference to Council's costings or recommendations as they were deemed confidential.

As a member of the Batemans Bay Dog Park Supporters Group, I would like to give my support for the siting of an off leash, fenced dog park for the Batemans Bay community to the unused area of the Corrigan Beach Reserve adjacent to the Caravan park.

The reasons that Corrigan are preferable to the Surfside & Surf Beach sites are...

Mainly its easy access & high visibility.

The area is large enough to provide a separate small dog area which will add to its functionality and will ensure the success and popularity of the park.

It is next to the dog friendly beach & also next to the pet friendly Caravan park.
The timber fence along the Caravan park could provide fencing for one side of the park.

Council staff could assist with grant applications to lessen the cost of the additional fencing that would be required.

Also the Batemans Bay Dog Park Supporters Group has a fundraising account, and once a site has been identified, this effort can have more focus & direction.

Having a fenced dog park would encourage more visitors to stay in the council owned Caravan park especially during those warmer months when access to the beach for dogs is not allowed from 9am through to 5pm.

This location would provide easy access for the local community, either by car or by walking from the footpath, from the beach or from the existing car park. It would also be wheelchair accessible and would be highly visible for visitors and tourists.

A fenced dog park in this area would add to, and enhance, the fenced children's playground at the other end of the Reserve and would make the entire Reserve a very family orientated area.

The dog park would allow people of all ages to have an area where they could meet for social gatherings with their dogs.

The easily located and highly visible area would make it attractive for visitors and tourists and would also discourage anti social behaviour.

The additional visitations would entice people into the nearby Batehaven shops.

It would enhance the appeal of Batemans Bay as a tourist destination, especially for the growing number of visitors who prefer to travel with their companion animals.

There has already been an increase in accommodation providers who advertise their business as 'pet friendly'. This generates a flow on effect to other local businesses, such as at Batehaven. Having a nearby fenced dog park would encourage return visits.

Social media quickly deems a locality pet friendly or not pet friendly amongst the travelling public.

A fenced dog park would be a welcome community asset for this popular reserve.

If councillors are unconvinced of the suitability of this site, then may I suggest a trial period of 2-3 years?

If there are other stakeholders for this area (I have never seen this far end of the Reserve used for any event), but if the need was there, then double gates could be opened, or even removable fencing could provide access.

Thank you for your attention.

Korrie McCulloch

Morning everybody – Can I give a cheerio to those watching from the Central Coast.

My name is Coral Anderson and I live in Batehaven not far from Corrigans Reserve.

It's great to have the opportunity to come to council and talk to you today. I'm really excited about getting our Dog Park up and running.

Firstly, there seems to be a misconception or misunderstanding what it is we are actually seeking. What we need to decide upon today is the best possible location for a Dog Park, not a dog training facility. These are two completely separate issues. A small area at Surf Beach could be suitable for training purposes but not for a Dog Park and that is not what is on the agenda today for discussion.

I'm not here to try to convince you of the need for a fenced dog park in Batemans Bay. We all know that there is the desire from the community with about 1,500 people signing two petitions. So I'll keep it short, sweet and to the point.

I'm here as a member of the RSPCA Eurobodalla Branch to show my support for the Dog Park to be located at Corrigans Beach Reserve. I also speak on behalf of the many hundreds of community members and their four legged companions from Batemans Bay who signed the two petitions presented to council. The first petition was presented to Lindsay Brown in April 2015 and the second to Anthony Mayne in October 2016. Unfortunately, following presentation of the first petition to Lindsay, the matter did not progress and never made it onto the Council's agenda.

Thankfully, following the presentation of our second petition, the matter was finally put onto the agenda by Anthony after almost 3 years of getting nowhere.

The preferred site for the Dog Park is obviously Corrigans Beach Reserve for a number of reasons as follows:

The portion of land identified as suitable is to the west of the Reserve;

Corrigans Reserve offers high visibility;

Car parking facilities are already in place;

Corrigans is accessible to pedestrian traffic;

It's handy to Batehaven shops;

The area of land is just sitting there and has been not used for anything in particular for ever since I can remember;

The land does not encroach onto the portion of the park utilised by the carnival, the circus or any other events or groups that currently use the reserve on an annual basis;

It's adjacent the council owned pet friendly caravan park;

The land is already fenced on the caravan park side;

It's crown land;

Being adjacent to an all inclusive playground, the children who use the playground area could add to their enjoyment by coming across to the dog park with their pets and we all know how much joy dogs bring to people with disabilities;

Corrigans Reserve in Batehaven is, of course, central to the greater region of Batemans Bay and extremely popular.

Corrigans Beach Reserve, I believe, is ideally the best location for the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.

It makes good sense to locate the facility at Corrigans and would certainly advantage not only the community but also our very valuable tourists.

That's it from me. I'll leave you with this simple yet effective quote from Abraham Lincoln -

"Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way"



CASEY'S BEACH VETERINARY CLINIC

394 Beach Road Batehaven NSW 2536

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e-mail: caseyvet@bigpond.net.au

24hr Emergency Service Ph: 0407738722

7/6/17

As a local veterinarian I support the proposal to establish an off leash dog park facility in Batemans Bay . The preferred site for practical reasons would be Corrigans Reserve.

A trained, socialised dog makes a better pet and is less likely to be a nuisance in public places.

A facility close to the densest population would be ideal, reducing travel distances for participants and further motivating people to join.

I therefore endorse the establishment of a fenced dog park at Corrigans Beach Reserve, a densely populated part of the Batemans Bay region.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Beth Miller B.V.SC

Presentation to the Public Forum Eurobodalla Council Meeting of 13th June 2017 by Robert Loftus

Good morning, Madam Mayor, Councilors, General Manager and Council Staff.

I would like to commend Councilors and Council Staff for progressing this issue to the point we are at today. However, upon reading the Council Report relating to Dog Recreation areas, Batemans Bay, it became quite evident that the issue of a **Community “off-leash” Dog Park in Batemans Bay** has been confused once again with the request by **Animal Welfare League for dog training facilities in Batemans Bay** (see unanswered letter, 12th August, 2016).

The report on DOG RECREATION AREAS – BATEMANS BAY contains so much incorrect information that it would be impossible for Councilors to reach a fair and just outcome on these issues.

Therefore, I would respectfully request that both Councilors and Council consider the **Community “off-leash” Dog Park** and the venue for the **Animal Welfare League Dog Training Club** as two completely separate issues (see my letter to council, 7th June, 2016).

With that said, if we are gathered here today to consider a **Community “off-leash” Dog Park** for Batemans Bay as a direct outcome from the meetings held in October and February and the motion passed last December, might I suggest that only relevant and correct information be considered when making this decision.

Obviously, the criteria by which we judge the suitability of a venue for a Community “off-leash” Dog Park has to take into account many factors, but the need for a “off-leash” Dog Park in Batemans Bay goes without question.

The location and design of the Dog Park must be 'fit for purpose' and have maximum benefit for 'all' in our community.

Only one suggested location stands out as a suitable venue for the Community “off-leash” Dog Park in Batemans Bay and that is located at the northerly end of Corrigans Beach Reserve, Batehaven.

It is fit for purpose. With 7,000 registered dogs and half the population of the Shire in close proximity, Corrigans Reserve has a large area that lies mostly unused by the community, it is adjacent to a dog-friendly holiday park and a time-share beach.

The area required when taking into account **the behavioural needs of large dogs**, would be approximately 100m X 100m. and a smaller area 25m X 25m for small dogs. With chain link fencing 1.5m high the visual impact would be a minimum.

Advantages to the Community of having a **“off-leash” Dog Park in Corrigans Reserve** are many, here are just a few:

- Highly Visible
- Safe and Secure
- Accessible, within walking distance for many
- Local to the main population of Batemans Bay
- Easily found by Tourists and Visitors
- Adds to the 'family' atmosphere of the area
- Avails of existing fencing in reducing costs
- Close to shops and businesses in the area stimulating economic activity
- Has existing parking facilities
- Already maintained by Council
- Will help reduce dog behavioural problems in Batemans Bay
- Supported by the community, local vets, the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League
- Social hub for 'all' in the community to discuss and educate dog owners on the need to register, vaccinate and socialise their dogs
- Promotes responsible dog ownership in the community
- Showcases the Eurobodalla Shire as a dog-friendly destination
- Enhance the lives of elderly residents and those with disabilities by providing a local venue they can visit and have an opportunity to meet a friendly dog.
- Provide a safe venue for fun dog activities for all to enjoy

I trust Council and Councilors will take **all** this information into account when considering the community “off-leash” Dog Park in Corrigans Reserve. If any doubts still remain as to the suitability of Corrigans Reserve, might I suggest a trial period of say 3 years. Also with flexible fencing arrangements the size and shape could be quickly adjusted to suit any unforeseen community needs.

Thank you.

Eurobodalla Shire Council Meeting 13 June 2017

Public Forum Address by Kaylyn Welsh, Representing RSPCA Eurobodalla Branch

I appreciate the opportunity to talk to you today.

I'd like to add the voice of the local RSPCA to the call for an off-leash dog park in Batemans Bay, the more populous part of the shire, for both people and dogs. While I am representing Eurobodalla RSPCA, I can also speak as a dog owner and resident of Batehaven.

As I know you've heard before, fenced dog parks are a benefit to whole community, not just dog owners and their pets.

Secure off-leash parks provide the opportunity for dogs to exercise and socialise, reducing nuisance behaviours such as barking and aggression. People also benefit from the social opportunities provided by such parks, and can often learn from other dog owners useful information relating to training and health.

For senior citizens and the disabled, who may find it difficult to exercise their dogs otherwise, a safe area to let their dogs off leash is a great option.

Another benefit of dog parks is that they can be very beneficial for tourists and travellers, especially now that so many people travel with their pets. And that's a good argument for a park in a prominent place, so that tourists can find it easily or just come across it. And if they stop at a park close to shops, that can be a boost for local business. For this reason, we believe that the Corrigans option would be best.

The South Australian Dog and Cat Management Board has published *Unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks*, which was prepared, and I quote: "to address the growing interest and role that off-leash dog parks are playing in our communities. As housing densities increase and backyards become smaller, the role of public spaces to provide meaningful opportunities to exercise, interact and get 'out and about' with our pets is becoming more important." (end quote)

The Guide was put together with information from both Australia and overseas, with the principal target audience being local government, to assist them in the planning, design and management of dog parks. I would commend *Unleashed* to Council if they are not already aware of it.

To conclude, the RSPCA is pleased that the issue of additional public spaces where dogs can be exercised off leash is progressing, and we look forward to the establishment of a high quality facility for use by Batemans Bay residents and their pets, to the benefit of the whole community.

Thank you.

Public Forum – Peter Cormick

Item CAR17/018 – DOG RECREATION AREAS – BATEMANS BAY

In answer to a Question on Notice by Councillor Mayne, in the 11 April 2017 agenda, staff advised that:

Based on the issues listed above, the list of 20 [proposed sites] has been shortlisted to four possible sites, with some issues remaining with three of those sites. This data will be provided to those who attended the February meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled for April/May to discuss the four sites. Once this has occurred the matter will be brought back to Council for consideration.

In fact, the shortlist is 3 possible sites, no data has been provided to those who attended the 28 February meeting referred to and the scheduled meeting for April/May did not take place.

In keeping with the confidentiality obsession I have previously referred to, the public has been denied access to the attachment to this report, which outlines and reviews the 20 suggested locations, provides details on the three preferred sites – and considers “short and long term options”. Why on earth would that attachment be classified as confidential? And why was it not shared with those who attended the February meeting, at which the 20 potential sites were proposed?

By denying the public access to this attachment, it is not possible for presenters to address the issues and arguments raised in it. No doubt, it contains a recommended site – as recommended by staff. And so, I can only wonder what is to be made of the recommendation to councillors that they “select a site”.

And surely, there is a typo here, with “on-leash” instead of “off-leash”. But no, on reading on on see that a “staged approach is proposed, with an on-leash venue identified initially to enable dog recreational activities to begin”!

Where on earth did all of this come from? Why was this complete about-face not discussed with the stakeholders?

And where can one find reference to expert opinion on the subject of dog recreational areas, within this report? There is none.