

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 8 March 2016

Name	Subject/Comments
Agenda Items – 10.00am	
Owen Cartledge	NOM16/003 Establishment of a Rural Producers' Advisory Committee
Adam Pike	IR16/009 Pay Parking in Batemans Bay CBD
Trish Hellier	Confirmation of Council Minutes 23 February 2016 in relation to Rural Lands Strategy NOM16/004 Southern NSW Marine Gateway

Owen Cartledge

Conflicts of Interest

NOM 16/003 RURAL PRODUCERS ADVISORY Committee

On 10 November 2015 Council Meeting, Cr Harding expressed concern 'That some members of our community can't get past the perceived conflict of interest when a real estate agent is a councillor.'

Many commercial interests may benefit from a buoyant property market, including land developers, real estate agents, builders suppliers, coffee shops through to landscapers and all things horticultural. Normal commercial competition would moderate these gains.

I imagine a blatant form of conflict would come from councillors or staff involved in rezoning of low-value scrub country to high-value urban land. ESC's code of conduct hopefully looks after such behaviour.

I would suggest that we the community need to get past perceived conflicts of interest as that suggested by Cr Harding. Commercial experience is a necessary part of diversity in a good council. The issue is really a matter of where you draw the line. I cannot see that collecting fees from finding buyers for real estate and fees from the management of rental properties is beyond that line.

I do not see a grazier Councillor proposing a Rural Producers Advisory Committee presents a conflict of interest

Adam Pike.

Talking today on agenda item IR16/009 regarding paid parking.

I am Encouraging councillors to reject the recommendations contained in Mr Sharp Director of infrastructure services report and subsequent recommendations and instead to facilitate the removal of paid parking in Batemans Bay..

As a business owner in Batemans bay and a member of the Business advisory committee and Batemans bay sun set committees I am committed to ensuring that **Batemans Bay** see a revitalisation and injection of vision to see it once again become a chosen retail and business destination for both visitors and locals alike.

Whilst I acknowledge that paid parking has contributed funds into Batemans Bay I believe that the time has come for council to reconsider paid parking.

When council implemented paid parking it did so against clear and vocal objections of the vast majority of business and community members alike.

Councillors both in the report and back in the day were in my opinion sold a pup, told that making shoppers pay would see a higher volume of turnover in high demand car spaces, However since Paid parkings inception and to this current day anyone can pay to park their car all day is a single spot.

Mr Sharps recommendation to remedies this by adding time restrictions to paid parking simply adds insult to injury.

Speaking with many local business owners in the Bay the consensus is that whilst the small contribution towards beautification of Batemans Bay is welcomed it is unfair that both Moruya and Narooma have seen revamp projects funded largely by rate payers and neither town have paid parking, this is neither fair or equitable.

Further More business owners have asked me to address the issue with councils "parking contribution scheme" indicating that in most cases they view this as a form of double dipping and Paid parking is demanding a payment from their customers parking, that business owners have already contributed too.

There is also the matter of tourists be unaware of paid parking due to poor and dated signage, and vowing never to return if slapped with a heavy handed fine.

As a member of the Batemans Bay sunset committee I am pleased and enthusiastic about the vision and benefits that this project will be able to deliver as a result of councils special rate variation..

It is obvious that Batemans bay is land locked and the need for addition car parking spaces is imperative.

As a shire we need to revisit councils original suggestion of a multi-story car park.

Now is the time to further support a push to see visitors and locals welcomed back into the beautiful town of Batemans Bay.

COUNCIL MEETING 8TH MARCH 2016 –

Good afternoon Mayor Brown , elected Councillors, staff, those present in the gallery and those home viewers live streaming – and Mum watching from above-

My name is Patricia Hellier from Batemans Bay –

I am raising an issue that has concerned me since the last council meeting on the 23rd February in relation to the Rural Land – I was present on the 15th October 2015 when the draft was presented for the Rural Lands Strategy moved by Clr. Innes seconded by Mayor Brown – the draft was moved to be placed on exhibition in its entirety from 16th October – 27th November 2015. Councillor Schwartz was absent from this meeting. The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the following meeting on the 27th October 2015.

The councillors adopted to hold 5 consultations over a period of time and a “ 1 workshop” at 6 locations in this shire. As we are all aware and it was raised in this chambers at the last Council meeting by a rate payer that an extra “invitation only meeting” meeting was conducted and I believe certain committee members of the Rural Lands Committee were not told of the meeting or invited to attend including Clr. Innes.

Many rural land holders and myself included , believe we have been discriminated against as were not invited to attend this meeting. It is being suggested that there could be a case of discrimination by Rural Land owners against this Council

NOW the question must be asked who organise this meeting? – it is being suggested that staff organised the meeting – if this is correct who authorised the staff ? who attended the meeting and what was the Agenda ?– as it is printed here in black and white the dates that the Councillor’s approved at the meetings on the 15th October 2015 . To my knowledge there has never been a meeting where the Councillors amended the dates, that the Councillors approved on the 15th October 2015 . Where is the transparency over this issue?

THERE is a further question that should be asked of you elected Councillors WHY hasn’t this question been raised in this chamber by one of you elected Councillors as it was you the elected councillors who approved these dates for the Rural Lands Strategy meetings.

Today the General Manager is asking you to amend the dates that you had approved for the Council meetings – why wasn’t this procedure for this extra “invitation only meeting” followed for the Rural Lands meetings?

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2016 –

Good afternoon Mayor Brown, Elected Councillors, staff, people in the gallery, those home viewers live streaming - and Mum watching from above.

My name is Patricia Hellier from Batemans Bay –

AGENDA ITEM –NOM16/004 – Southern NSW Marine Gateway

The proposal states” it envisage the development would deliver a new tourism and commercial present for both domestic and international markets”.

I would like to make it very clear I understand the concept for forward planning and my comments are directed as to what is perceived in the community “as a pie in the sky view” that large cruise liners will dock in Batemans Bay.

I believe at this point in time the “cart is being placed before the horse so to speak”.

Elected councillors have a good look at what we currently have to offer tourists that visit this shire NOW.

Currently some of the things we have to offer in Batemans Bay for example is –the beaches, put-put golf, movie theatre, outdoor swimming pool, we do have some very good eating areas and coffee shops, a indoor go cart track , the ferry trip down the Nelligen River.

I have a friend who on average takes 6 cruisers a year on large cruise liners – she has told me that the activities on the cruise liners are as such that she rarely disembarks at the stopovers as the itinerary that is provided at the port stop off’s, do not compare with the activities of the cruise liners.

Councillor do you think the above attractions I have mentioned would entice people off these cruise liners – as a number of activities I have mentioned are already available on these cruisers. The majority of the stop over itinerary is an “extra cost” for the traveller.

Can you elected councillors honestly justify to the rate payers of this shire who have just been hit with a 21.6% rate rise to allocate \$50,000.00 for such a proposal should we not be improving the intra structure of this shire for our locals and tourists, we desperately need an indoor bowling alley, an indoor swimming pool that has been requested by rate payers for a number of years, a Fun Land activities for the kids such as in Ulladulla and, do you realise how many locals travel to Ulladulla for these facilities, some travel every week to the indoor swimming pool in Ulladulla .

While I believe this proposal has merit for the future it should be a developer who bear the cost of such a proposal and not the rate payers of this shire.

I believe this money could be better spent promoting and improving our current tourist facilities especially the cleaning of the public toilets , the disposal of rubbish etc. A trip to the Mittagong Tourist Information Centre could be beneficial as a comparison of how the Wingercarrarie Shire Council promotes tourism in their area.