

# Meeting minutes

## Local Representative Committee

Date	8 February 2017	Time	9am
Venue	Committee Room – Gloucester	Note-taker	Jane Ree
Present	Jan McWilliams, Kathryn Bell, Jim Henderson, Frank Hooke, Katheryn Smith, Leigh Vaughan, Len Roberts, David West and John Turner.		
In attendance	Steve Embry (Director Corporate & Business Systems), Jane Ree (Manager Engagement & Communication), Glenn Handford (Interim General Manager), Paul De Szell (Director Community Spaces and Services) Lisa Schiff (Director Planning & Natural Systems)		
Apologies	Karen Hutchinson, Carol McCaskie & Trent Jennison		

Item	Key Points / Actions	
1	Open meeting	
2	Acknowledgement of Country	
3	Apologies	The chair read out the apologies received which explained the regrettable and unavoidable non attendance of members.
4	Declaration of Interest	
5	Confirmation of previous minutes.	Minutes of 14 December 2016 confirmed.

6	Matters arising from previous minutes	<p>6.1 Aged Care Land update – Land sale to Anglican Care in Gloucester almost complete. Action: Paul De Szell provide an update to members.</p> <p>6.2 Civic Precinct – negotiations with preferred proponent continue as resolved in December Council meeting. Currently working through contractual issues with aim for March to return to Council meeting.</p> <p>6.1 SRV application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Government confirmed merged Councils ineligible for Special Rate Variations, despite this, the preparation for the application including the survey undertaken in community has been invaluable and continues to build on ongoing conversation with community to increase knowledge and understanding.</li> <li>• Note recent report by IPART on SRV generally for which Government is yet to respond.</li> <li>• Environmental Levy – due for renewal. To renew this contemplates challenge to government policy again because it is in effect a variation to rates.</li> <li>• The intention to apply for an SRV will be recorded in the Delivery Plan that will go on exhibition in April with a view to adoption in June ahead of elected Council in September.</li> <li>• Noted that Tea Gardens works program could not be covered by rates income of Tea Gardens.</li> <li>• Acknowledge that we need to make further savings, as the backlog continues to grow.</li> </ul>
7	Reports on status of priority actions	NA
7.1	LRC member resignation	Chair noted resignation of Robyn Jenkins who was thanked for her contribution to her committee.
8	IGM update	<p>8.1 Staffing &amp; structures</p> <p>The last three structures to be approved have been through consultative committee and expect all structures in place at end of month.</p>

		<p>8.2 MidCoast Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting advice from NSW Government following recent resignation of Premier and changes Cabinet and Ministerial positions. Expect more information following return of Parliament.</li> <li>• Note also changes to Local Government, Planning and Tourism portfolios directly impacts on current negotiations and plans such as Coastal Zone Management, NSW Tourism Conference being held in Taree early next month.</li> </ul> <p>8.3 Merger savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified need for media to reinforce operational activity that is a direct result of merger savings. Focus is infrastructure.</li> <li>• Former three bridge crews are working on identified high risk timber bridges in region.</li> <li>• Recognise that messages need to link to announcement of additional \$30m now available for roads infrastructure. Because of the \$14m from the Stronger Communities funding and an additional \$16m realised from savings as a consequence of the merger, this additional money is being applied only to road infrastructure. This is in addition to annual capital works programs arising from three former areas. Frank Hooke raised concerns that the community won't understand the rationale for allocation of stronger community funding.</li> <li>• Media area showing interest in profiling direct benefit of increased skills and qualification of staff that now deliver benefit across the region. For example, in Gloucester, showing that Gloucester staff are part of leadership of the new Council.</li> </ul> <p>8.4 Community information sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These will be delivered by a mix of the Interim General Manager and Directors throughout the first couple of weeks of March.</li> <li>• Noted that LRC members would like additional opportunity to meet with community following these sessions. Perhaps in April, in identified localities.</li> </ul> <p>Action: Jane to propose dates and locations to LRC members.</p>
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9	Brand and Identity – project update	<p>Brand and Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the project was provided to date and the information that has been received from the extensive consultation. Over 450 respondents to surveys and oversubscribed community workshops attended by over 150 people.</li> <li>• Whilst the intention was to return to community with concepts earlier this year, we have had to take a different direction based on preliminary feedback received from the Identity Steering Committee about the proposed values and attributes which underpins essential background to brand development and community strategic plan development.</li> <li>• The Identity Steering Committee was made up of representatives from community workshops held throughout the region in October.</li> <li>• Noting the LRC response to the concepts, it is likely that the community (and steering committee) will be presented with concepts in March with feedback being sought as to whether concepts reflect the overall feelings expressed about MidCoast.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In summary, regardless of where we live, people love where they live and they live in MidCoast because of the people and the environment.</li> <li>• Community feedback will be taken into account in deciding future branding for MidCoast (the place) and MidCoast (the Council) noting that the Destination Management Plan is also in progress.</li> <li>• Additionally, the feedback from the surveys has highlighted key areas of focus for the Community Strategic Plan that will commence in March.</li> <li>• Note that new MidCoast website is likely to be delayed due to focus on structures but will reflect new brand.</li> </ul>
10	2017 LG NSW Tourism Conference	<p>LGNSW Tourism Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LGNSW Tourism Conference is being hosted by MidCoast Council in former Manning region.</li> <li>• The conference will be held 13-15 March 2017 at the Manning Entertainment Centre</li> <li>• The former Greater Taree City Council was successful in a competitive bidding process to host the conference. LGNSW fund the host Council for agreed costs.</li> <li>• The program for the conference <a href="http://www.lgnsw.org.au/files/imce-uploads/396/Registration_brochure_LGNSW_Tourism_Conference_2017_0.pdf">http://www.lgnsw.org.au/files/imce-uploads/396/Registration_brochure_LGNSW_Tourism_Conference_2017_0.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p>Action:</p> <p>Should any members wish to attend, particularly those with previous experience with Tourism sector then make the request of the Administrator. Maximum three members will be supported to attend and report must be provided to future meeting of LRC.</p>
11	General business	<p>11.1 Gloucester saleyards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement decision of former Gloucester Council.</li> <li>• Manager Property &amp; Commercial Services, John Dougherty is lead on this project but focus has been on implementing its structure and advertising positions to carry out the work.</li> </ul>

		<p>11.2 ATO ruling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice received from the Australian Tax Office rules that LRC allowance is deemed taxable income.</li> </ul> <p>11.3 Tuncurry Pool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent incident – noted that appropriate signage in place.</li> </ul> <p>11.4 Coast Zone Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still to determine if change of Minister will impact on continuity of policy and project discussions and undertakings by former Minister regarding Old Bar.</li> <li>• We continue to work with OEH and community members and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>11.5 Communications and correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRC members report community member’s frustration with at times lengthy delay to correspondence.</li> </ul> <p>Action: implementation of KPIs to support correspondence timeliness by staff in next year’s Operational Plan.</p> <p>11.6 Nabiac saleyards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair work undertaken to enable opening for next sale 25 February 2017.</li> </ul>
12	Meeting closed	1.00pm
13	Next meeting	8 March, 9am-1pm - Taree