

# Norah Head Ratepayers, Residents & Coastcare Association Inc.

## eNEWSLETTER

Association Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Location Norah Head Hockey Club Building

Time 7.30pm

Secretary Gary Dean | 0408 021 990

**THE MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED ON THE BASIS OF THE HEALTH ORDERS IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUE OF THIS ENEWSLETTER (26<sup>TH</sup> July 2021).**

**THOSE HEALTH ORDERS COULD CHANGE RESULTING IN THE CANCELLATION OF THE MEETING**

### **Reclassification and Sale of Norah Head Community Centre**

The July eNewsletter advised the local community of the details of the active campaign that had been undertaken by local community representatives in an effort to save the Norah Head Community Centre from being sold by Central Coast Council.

That eNewsletter also included details of representations that had been made to Council and the response the Association had received from the Council's Administrator, Mr Rik Hart. In short the Administrator had agreed to defer (or 'parked' – his words) any further consideration of disposal of the Centre until Council Officers had considered options for the future of a Community Centre in Norah Head.

The long awaited report to Council (the Administrator) on the planned Council asset sales is listed for the Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th July 2021.

The report by Council Officers is very detailed and comprehensive and you can view that report at:

[www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings-and-minutes/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings-and-minutes/agendas-and-minutes)

In relation to the Norah Head Community Centre the Officers recommendation is:

***"That Council reclassify 75 Bungary Road, Norah Head (Lot 1 DP 860696) and 75 Bungary Road, Norah Head (Lot 5 Sec 24 DP 758779) from community to operational land and sell for not less than the market value as determined by an independent valuer once construction has commenced on a new community facility."***

Attached to the Council report are details of each asset referred to in that report.

Whilst the Association's submissions to Council have always focused on retaining the existing Centre, there was a willingness to listen to and consider other '**options**'. In the context of the other options, an important issue that has been raised by some local residents is what **assurances** the community can be given by Council that a new building or refurbished existing building will materialise as a consequence of the sale of the Community Centre.

The Council Officer's recommendation above addresses both these issues. There is a commitment to "**a new community facility**" and that the sale of the existing Centre will only take place "**once construction has commenced ...**" The recommendation also addresses the procedural reclassification process.

In the attachment to the Council report the commentary is clearer than the recommendation in that it states "**...and sell only once construction has commenced on a new community facility in a new location within Norah Head**"

Clearly, refurbishing the existing Community Centre or the construction of a new building on that land is not an option being considered by Council.

Can the local community have the trust and confidence in Council to deliver?

As a community there is a need at this time to take a leap of faith in Council in what is recommended above.

The Association will pursue every effort with Council to ensure the community achieves the best outcome.

### **Central Coast Council – Draft 2021/22 Operational Plan**

The Association make a submission to Council seeking funding for the continuation of the '*Bungary Road Shared Pathway*' in its 2021/22 Operational Plan.

Public submissions were considered by Council at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Central Coast Council has advised the Association as follows:

*"Dear Gary,*

#### ***Submission to the Draft Operational Plan 2021-22***

*Thank you for providing a submission during public exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2021-22.*

*Submissions were considered by Council at its meeting on 29 June 2021, prior to a final Operational Plan and Fees and Charges for 2021-22 being adopted with recommended changes.*

*In response to your submission regarding capital projects for Norah Head and surrounds, Council thanks you for your support of the projects listed in the Operational Plan 2021-22.*

*Due to Council's financial situation the capital works program is focussed on depreciation and ensuring that Council's existing assets are satisfactorily maintained. Council will continue to seek financial assistance through grant funding to undertake new work such as this. Any successful funding that Council receives will continue to be reported through its Quarterly Business Report.*

*The final version of the Operational Plan and Fees and Charges for 2021-22 can be viewed on Council's website, at: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/delivery-program-and-operational-plan> “*

The Association will remain in contact with Council regarding opportunities for capital projects in Norah Head should funding become available to Council.

### **Minutes of the July 2021 Meeting**

The July meeting was cancelled due to the COVID Health Orders.

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