Report to Council

**Title:** 21st Coastal Conference

**Date:** 6th – 9th November, 2012

**Venue:** The Pavilion Kiama NSW

**Theme:** NSW Coastal Management – Coming of Age?

**SCC Representatives:** Amanda Findlay, Mark Kitchener, Ray Massey and Isabelle Ghetti

**Key Note Speakers:**

- **Bruce Elder** Long time resident of the South Coast and former travel writer with the Sydney Morning Herald and the Age
- **Stephen Dovers** Director, Fenner School of Environment and Society ANU Public Policy Fellow Australian National University
- **Ben Peacock** Co–Founder and Partner, Republic of Everyone

**Conference Format:**

This was a conference sponsored by numerous government departments, agencies and private companies with the major sponsor being NSW Government - Office of Environment and Heritage. The conference was broken up into three plenary sessions, 50 technical lectures and five field trips. The lectures were run concurrently with three choices for each session and delegates were required to choose one of five field trips. The conference featured a multitude of prominent guest speakers. Plenary sessions were delivered before morning tea and concurrent lectures were presented for the rest of the day.

The field trips included:

- Kiama Coastal Walk
- Form the Rainforest to the Ocean
- Balancing Coastal Development with Natural Habitats and Tourism
- Living on a Rocky Coastline
- Working Together: community, Business and Government at Crooked River and Seven Mile Beach National Park
The accommodation and food were excellent. The Gala dinner was friendly and entertaining. The Pavilion was transformed into a high class restaurant with quality performances from two individual performers.

The conference was thoroughly prepared and well-orchestrated and provided participants with relevant, up to date, statistical information, further developing the participants' abilities to make informed decisions about sea level rise and climate change. The academic format was rigorous, stimulating and beneficial to all participants and the opportunities for networking were abundant.

**Summary of Presentations:**

**Plenary**

NSW Coastal Management Reforms  
The Changing Nature of the South Coast  
Environmental Policy in Australia: Glass half Full or Half Empty  
Founder and Partner, Republic for Everyone

**Technical Lectures (Concurrent)**

Public Trust Doctrine and the Coast  
Rock Fishing in NSW  
Monitoring the Canaries of Our Catchments  
NSW Planning Law Reforms Best Practice for Coastal Management  
State Wide Coastal Safety Risk Assessment Program  
Oyster Information Portal  
Low Tide for Non-government interests in NSW Coastal Management  
Twenty One and we hold the keys to the Future  
Monitoring the Ecosystem Health of Estuaries on the NSW South Coast  
Engaging Communities in climate Change Adaptation  
Decision Support for Adaptation in the Hunter, Central and Lower North Coast Region  
Tomago Wetland Rehabilitation Project: Integrated Innovative Approaches  
Sea No Evil, Hear No Evil-Community Engagement on Adaptation to Sea Level Change  
Considering tidal Modification when Mapping Inundation Hazard in NSW Estuaries  
Coastal Wetland Remediation in a Changing Climate  
But how do we tell the People  
Long Term Shoreface Response to Disequilibrium Stress  
Challenges of Saltmarsh Rehabilitation in a Non Tidal Estuary  
Risk Management Triggers  
Community Partnership: Making a Difference at Gerroa  
How do you Price the Priceless  
The Joint Occurrence of Extreme Waves and Elevated Water Levels on the NSW Coast  
Back from the Brink-Water Quality in the Great Lakes  
The Relationship between Social Impacts, Environmental Knowledge and Motivation to fish
Slip Sliding Away: Managing Coastal Geotechnical Hazards
National Surfing Reserves-A Concept Matured or an Initiative on the Edge
A Proposed Policy Framework for coastal Australia
Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise of 9 Beaches in Shoalhaven
To Open or Not to Open that is the Question
Local Government at the Interface between Federal and State Policy and Community
Expectations of Hazard Management
Managing Coastal Hazards: Challenges Facing Implementation of Actions
Coastal Lagoon Entrance Management: What can Models Tell us?
Sea Level Rise and Local Government-What goes up must go down
Integrated Hydrological and Ecological Modelling to Develop the Sydney Harbour
Catchment Water Quality Improvement Plan
Preliminary Examination of Coastal and Catchment Flooding Interaction
Removal of an Unlawful Seawall from a Sydney Open Coast Beach
Flow Modelling and 3D Visualization to Better Understand Coastal Inundation
Processes
Groundwater Impacts on a Mostly closed Displacement Dominated ICOLL
Aboriginal Cultural Fishing in NSW and its Rightful Place in Management of Coastal
Resources
Sandy Beach Biological Research Important Questions of Knowledge and Management
Geotechnical Aspects of Seawall Stability with Climate Change
Healthy Waterways-Better Boating, More Fish
Monitoring Marine Biodiversity, Invasive Species and Debris Loads in Batemans Marine
Park
Application of a Model Framework for Assessing Risk to Climate Change on the South
Coast of NSW
Who Cares? How to Engage the Unaware Public
Augmenting the Utility of NSW Longest Tide Gauge Records with Continuous GNSS
Technology
Adaptation by Design Adapting New Buildings and Foreshore Protection Works to Sea
Level Rise in coastal Estuaries
Community Engagement through Social Networking, media and Innovative Approaches
to Project Delivery-Engaging Our Youth
Incorporating Estuaries As a Source or Sink of Sediment Within Assessment of
Coastline Risk and Adaptation of Climate Change
Delivering Coastal Data: the NSW Coastal Information System

Amongst many excellent presentations were the following theoretical papers and case
studies.

**The Changing Nature of the South Coast**

The whole nature of the South Coast is changing. The South Coast was once a
powerhouse of economic produce for Sydney. The timber, dairying and fishing
industries are now in decline and tourism has taken their place as the dominant
commercial activity to the area. No district remains static but there are pockets within
the area that have retained their original character. One must never ignore the original reasons why people came to the region in the first place. It is imperative to retain the flavor of the South Coast, this is the attraction. Residents and visitors alike don’t want the urban sprawl of the central coast. Coastal morphology and people need to be considered together when developing the unspoiled charm of the South Coast. Tourism is dependent on providing a form of infrastructure that compliments the environment. People will come and continue development. Never discourage development, manage it.

**Who Cares? How to Engage the Unaware Public**

The Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, Eden, has developed a new project showcasing the local oyster industry to primary and secondary students through a series of in-class visits and excursions. Local oyster growers donate their time and resources to provide an insight into the operation of this important local industry. Students learn about the biology of oyster, how oysters are grown, harvested and marketed, and how the activities of humans within the catchment can affect water quality in the estuary and ultimately the quality of the oyster itself. There are an increasing number of parents showing interest in the project. A bonus of this project is engagement of the community through education.

**To Open or Not to Open, That is the Question**

A discussion about the requirement in the Guidelines for preparing coastal zone management plans, the key physical and ecological processes and impacts, considerations for developing entrance management policies and their implementation, using examples from NSW.

The most common trigger for artificial opening of ICOLL entrances is mitigating potential damage or inconvenience to low-lying properties and assets inundated or threatened by rising water levels. This often results in pressure from local communities to maintain open entrances. Case studies of Tabourie Lake, Burrill Lake and Conjola Lake were presented.

**Slip Sliding Away-Managing Coastal Geotechnical Hazards**

This paper discussed the geotechnical hazards faced by coastal developments on or near, cliffs, bluffs, and beach dunes areas. The paper argued that 5 types of land classification and associated mapping would greatly assist councils to strategically plan, devise planning policies and advise landholders as to appropriate forms of development. At the extreme there is land that really should not be developed because the risk to life and property is too great, such as rapidly eroding coastal bluffs. The next level of classification is required to handle the potentially high-risk level, for example “pole houses”. The third classification is land that can sustain conventional buildings but requires special attention to foundations. The fourth is conventional buildings without special attention to foundations, but the property requires hill slope management to
prevent future development of a hazard. The final classification is land that has no inherent geotechnical risk, however specific forms of development such as underground car parks or swimming pools may require geotechnical considerations.

**Recommendation:**

In general this was an outstanding technical conference. There were many engaging presentations and quality workshops that were relevant, informative and compelling. It can be stated, ‘no matter how much one particular person knows on any given topic it is only a fraction of what is available to be known’. I would recommend greater representation from councillors in Shoalhaven City to the Annual Coastal Conference in the future. Education is a valued service within our society. Greater knowledge on topics that affect the roles of councillors will contribute to their abilities to make informed balanced decisions.
Report to Council

Title: Sister Cities Australia 2012 Annual Conference

Date: 11 – 14 November 2012

Venue: Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre Tasmania

Theme: Growing Our Future: The Journey Together

SCC Representatives: Mark Kitchener, Anne-Maree Kitchener

Key Note Speakers:

Wak Kewa, Deputy City Manager, Mount Hagen Urban Level Local Government, Papua New Guinea

Stephen Duxfield, Director, Sister Cities New Zealand

Dr. Collin Jones, Senior Lecturer, University of Tasmania

Lindsay Kelly, Creative Direction, Jaffa

Mr. Yasuhiro Tanabe, Director, Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Dr. Peter Ellyard

Rob Hortle, Tasmanian Director, The Oaktree Foundation

Conference Format:

The conference was opened by the Governor of Tasmania the Honorable Mr. Peter Underwood. The Governor made the point that, slowly, one thing at a time, but an enormous number of things over the passage of time, whole communities develop a respect and tolerance of each other’s culture which leads to mutual exchanges of productive long term economic and cultural growth.

Key Note and International Key Note presentations were delivered before lunch and workshops were presented in the afternoons. A mystery excursion was provided on the first evening showcasing some of the highlights of Devonport’s tourist attractions.

The Gala dinner was exemplary. Great food with quality performances from secondary school choral groups and an eight piece jazz band.

The conference was well organized and well prepared and provided participants with a knowledge and understanding of Sister City Relationships around the world. It is clear
that the Sister City Movement is creative, global, and proactive. The Sister Cities Movement offers a world of opportunities but is still an untapped potential. The academic format was rigorous, stimulating and beneficial to all participants and the opportunities for networking were abundant.

**Summary of Presentations:**

Amongst many excellent presentations were the following theoretical papers and case studies.

**Fundamentals of Cross-Cultural Collaboration:**

Stephen Sykes and Wak Kewa

Mt Hagan in PNG and Orange in NSW share the common commercial practice of mining. These two cities have a twenty five year strong Sister City Relationship which recognizes that building better communities requires more than physical infrastructure improvements. Mutual cooperation leads to international goodwill and economic benefit. The City of Orange provided Mt Hagan with finances for capacity building and medical training and professional assistance to develop a Strategic Plan. In return the City of Orange received assistance in cross organizational networking, support for their generation y and z with international experience and improved skills level of middle staff.

**Partnerships for Success:**

Stephen Duxfield

This presentation was a look at how partnerships are important whether for the long haul or for a one off event. New Zealand celebrates sixty years of diplomatic relations with Japan. A not for profit organization working to increase global co-operation at the local level, promote cultural understanding, stimulate economic development and play a part in the achievement of world peace. It fosters a citizen's network of organizations and individuals that are devoted to creating and strengthening partnerships between various Cities and international communities.

**Strength in Domestic Exchanges:**

Frank Zaknich

This year Broken Hill and Bankstown are celebrating twenty six years of their sister city relationship. Some highlights being:

- Sporting, cultural and artistic exchanges
- Staff exchanges
- Processing of high profile development applications at both councils
- Knowledge and skills sharing
Sister citer events seem to be self-generating one thing leads to another and then a group of passionate staff show the determination to see the event through to completion

**Sister Cities Building Blocks for Success:**

Rob Soward

Soward visited Ikeda in Japan 2012 and saw much potential for economic, cultural and educational partnerships from the Sister Cities Relationships. This presentation explored the building blocks for success and the benefits the Sister City Relationships bring globally. Relationships are about people and communication which leads to economic benefits that must be clearly articulated to the community highlighting opportunities.

**Concepts Bank and Toolkit for Successful Future Making in a Planetist 21st Century:**

Dr. Peter Ellyard

Future vision of a global society that is prosperous, sustainable, harmonious, secure, and just in the year 2050. What is being done and what can be done to ensure its emergence. Develop strategic actions with Sister City Programs. Dr. Ellyard is a futurist who believes, “we cannot work to create a future that we cannot first imagine. Those who do not live in the future today will live in the past tomorrow.” Success goes to those that get to the future first. Decide where you want to go and remain steadfast to your goals and direction. Sister Cities are yet to grow. As global interdependence grows Sister Cities will grow with it. Protect relationships and nurture them. Do not follow the path already trodden but rather go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

**Recommendation:**

In general this was an outstanding Sister City Conference. There were many engaging presentations and quality workshops that were relevant, informative and compelling. I would recommend greater representation from councilors in Shoalhaven City in the future. The next Annual Sister City Conference is to be held in Broken Hill during November 2013.
REPORT ARTS SUMMIT 2012
POWERHOUSE Museum Sydney 13th and 14th November 2012

The NSW LGSA Arts Summit occurred over 2 days with a third training day optional in Sydney at the Powerhouse Museum. Run by LGSA and its Cultural Officer this is the only event per annum that draws together arts workers in NSW Local Government.

The aim of the Arts Summit was threefold.
1. To showcase the array of arts and cultural activity and infrastructure occurring throughout NSW
2. Update the Arts/cultural sector as to current state and federal planning and policy
3. To develop recommendations to be forwarded to LGSA for consideration in building its arts platform and support mechanisms.

SHOWCASE
Many outstanding projects and events were showcased over the 2 days. The following summarises the most significant.

Willoughby Council’s ‘The Concourse’ presented by Tim Long, is a $170m project presenting a fine piece of contemporary architecture in Chatswoods CBD. It incorporates library, Art gallery, theatre, indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and dining, giant projection wall and terraced landscaping for performance, events and leisure for their urban city society.

The ‘Mondo’, presented by Penrith Council is a youth arts project bringing together marginalised young people through the arts. A young male dance group has emerged and is mentored in choreography and business skills. The group performed to a standing ovation. Currently some members have grown in confidence and esteem and are now employed to teach at ‘The Mondo’ younger members. This is arts development and youth employment outcomes at its best.

Empty Spaces, pop up art fills tenancies in empty shops and retail areas, lifting the tone and vitality of run down, urban shopping areas. Seen in Newcastle and Melbourne’s laneways, the concept has been long supported. Council has a brokerage role of promoting the concept, and bringing shop owners together with the artistic community seeking good matches and reliability. While the concept must be arts and business driven Council can facilitate and stimulate the project and aid in developing sample agreements. The types of business sought might include printing, graphic design, jewellery, art, crafts, photography, coffee, food, clothing and digital technology business.

The Mosman Festival organised by the Mosman Art Gallery is a 10 day festival that interlinks its community offering arts and entertainment and leisure for its diverse

Report by Allan Baptist- Arts Summit Conference Nov 2012
community. Food and Wine event at Balmoral Beach, local art walks to places and 
vistas where famous Australian artists Streiten and Robertys camped and painted, 
an art exhibition by Ken Done featuring the Japanese mini sub destroyed in Sydney 
Harbour WW2, an outdoor Musical concert at Taronga Zoo, literature in the cafes 
and Pets Day Out event for everyone at the Beach. The festival attracted 50,000 
people and was hailed a success for locals. What I liked about the concept was the 
spread of ideas tailored for young and old, the rights minded and for weekend relaxation 
engaging all the community.

PLANNING AND POLICY
Cultural Development is seen as the 4th pillar in sustainable development and growth 
and as such Sally Basser (Federal Arts Ministry Office) reminded the summit of 
RDA and Ozco ‘Community Partnerships’ funding for cultural infrastructure and arts 
projects.
A key element of success occurs when the arts is utilised across all sectors of 
Council’s planning and designing.
The National Arts Accord will be completed 2014. She also stressed the need to 
build arts projects through and with health, business and education sectors.
Statistics on the arts were as follows..
93% participate in the Arts; 92% read literature; 7% are not involved at all; $60m is 
invested in NSW from Federal funds.

SUMMARY
The two days spent were an opportunity to catch up with the arts sector and update 
on what’s on in NSW. It also was an opportunity to reflect on the strengths and 
shortcomings of the arts in the Shoalhaven.

The following points emerge as something Shoalhaven might take on board in their 
future arts/cultural development.

1. Place making and public art within urban design is a significant way to 
   engage community and be reminded of ‘who we are’.
2. A key arts festival for Nowra is needed perhaps along the lines of the 
   Mosman Festival in its aims and intent.
3. The Entertainment Centre is a key cultural piece of infrastructure that is not 
   embraced by the arts community. Perhaps a series of projects that utilise the 
   space for dance/music youth project development is needed.
4. Key funding is available for arts/cultural infrastructure and projects through 
   many sources such as Ozco, Museums and Galleries NSW and RDA.
5. Pop up arts spaces is a concept that brings streets and shops back to life in 
   our CBDs. A conversation with CBD and arts needs brokerage and promotion.

Cllr Allan Baptist OAM
3rd December 2012

Report by Allan Baptist- Arts Summit Conference Nov 2012
Box 2: Elements of an Effective System of Local Government

- Councils with an adequate revenue base (own source of grants), healthy balance sheets, and sound financial management including reasonable and justifiable rate increases and proper use of borrowing.

- Councils renowned for their efficiency and focus on outcomes, based on the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

- Universal use of modern information and communications technologies for service delivery, council meetings and community engagement.

- Regional organisations of councils that share resources on a large scale and jointly plan and advocate for their regions (but not a "fourth tier" of government).

- Councils that are managed like multi-million dollar companies: have highly skilled mayors, councillors and executive teams; and are respected by the State government and community alike.

- Mayors who are recognised leaders both within the council and throughout the local community, and enjoy a positive reputation for that leadership.

- Clear definition in the Local Government Act of the respective roles of mayors, councillors and senior managers.

- An electoral system designed to ensure that as far as possible councils are representative of the make-up and varied interests of their communities.

- Council elections characterised by high quality candidates standing on soundly-based policy platforms, and fully aware of their potential responsibilities as a councillor.

- Professional development for new councillors and mayors, including access to accredited courses and coaching of a high quality, similar to that of company directors.

- Mayors and councillors who are adequately remunerated in return for high-level performance.

- A Local Government Act that minimises prescription and provides a range of options for the way councils and regional organisations are structured and operate, tailored to the differing characteristics and needs of communities.

- A reduction in State regulation and compliance regimes, replaced by improved auditing and a focus on capacity building and continuous improvement.

- A range of effective mechanisms for State-local consultation, policy development and operational partnerships, linked to the State Plan and regional coordination framework.

- Integrated strategic planning involving State and local governments as partners at all levels.

- A local government association that is focused on strategy, a well-informed, dynamic advocate, a leader in reform; and a troubleshooter for dysfunctional councils or councillors.

- A constructive relationship between employers, employees and employee organisations, focused on improving productivity, performance and rewards.
Box 6: Factors informing the Panel’s assessment of local government boundaries

**Population Growth**
- The boundaries of a local government area (LGA) should be able to accommodate projected population growth generated by the LGA over at least the next 25 years.

**Accessibility**
- As a general rule, it should be possible to drive to the boundaries of an LGA from a main administration centre within 60-90 minutes in country areas, and within less than 2 hours in country areas, and within 30 to 45 minutes in metropolitan areas.
- Difficult terrain, forests, rivers, wetlands etc can act as natural boundaries for LGAs, whilst water catchments, valleys and river crossings may be important uniting factors. Freeways and railways are important elements in urban areas.

**Communities of Interest**
- There is still no definitive approach to the concept of ‘communities of interest’, which can vary widely in their focus and extent. Some are strongly place-based, others are not; especially in metropolitan areas.

**Local Identity and Sense of Place**
- Boundaries should reflect a sense of identity and place, including important historical and traditional values, and the extent of other social and economic interdependencies. However, incorporating communities into larger LGAs does not necessarily destroy local identity and sense of community.

**Strategic Capacity**
- Councils need a strong base to achieve economies of scale and scope to deliver quality services, to provide a pool of talented council candidates, to attract skilled staff, and to develop strategic capacity in leadership, governance, advocacy, planning, and management.

**Efficiency and Effectiveness**
- Councils should be able to operate efficiently and effectively within the limits imposed by their location, geography and the characteristics of the communities they serve. They should be able to provide ‘value for money’ to their ratepayers and external funding agencies.

**Strong Centres**
- Each LGA should have a population centre that provides higher order commercial, administrative, education, health and other services.

**Infrastructure Assets**
- As far as possible, key transport infrastructure such as airports and ports, and those nearby urban and regional centres that are principal destination points, should be within the same LGA boundaries. Boundaries should also facilitate provision of local infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, drainage and open space.

**Removing Disruptive Boundaries**
- Some existing LGA boundaries are divisive and obstruct good governance. They impede integrated planning, strategic infrastructure development, efficient service delivery and regional economic growth.

**Combining Existing Municipalities**
- Wherever practicable, amalgamations should combine as many as two or more existing LGAs without the additional cost and disruption of associated boundary adjustments.
### i) What Top 5 Principles should underpin the content of the new Local Government Act?

- **Good Governance** – ethics, transparency, accountability
- **Community Engagement** – involve residents and ratepayers
- **Sustainability** – financial, economic, quality of life, environment
- **Social justice**
- **Customer/Stakeholder focus**

### ii) What is currently working well in the Local Government Act and why, and should it be retained in the new Act?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>What is working well in the Act (strengths)?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 8</td>
<td>The Council’s Charter</td>
<td>Retain but simplify and needs to be given greater statutory weight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The “in confidence” provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The basic conflict of interests concept</td>
<td>Needs clearer guidelines and examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IPR requirements</td>
<td>Needs greater prominence and embedded into role of Mayor and Councillors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 560</td>
<td>Responsibility for payment of Rates and Charges</td>
<td>Retain in current form. Provides very clear distinction where lease or tenancy may cloud responsibility. From a LG Water Utility perspective such is consistent with National Water practices. Option might be taken to consider longer term implication for water industry of issues relating to bonds and agreements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation 144 (b)</td>
<td>Cutting off or restricting water supply.</td>
<td>Working well but requires commentary to cover sewerage and trade waste charges associated with the supply of water and services.</td>
<td>Situation covers unpaid charges in respect of water supplied. However, such should apply equally to unpaid sewer and trade waste charges. Increasingly recent years have seen significant capital expenditure on sewerage systems and it is feasible for payment of water charges only to be made ignoring the sewerage and/or trade waste charges. Such action does not then allow restriction of water (which is subsequently converted to wastewater and incurring costs upon the utility) for unpaid sewerage charges despite its continued use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 552 (1) to (4)</td>
<td>Land subject to Water Supply or Sewerage charge.</td>
<td>Retain in current form. Provides very clear guidance on when charges can be levied as related to vacant land which have those services available.</td>
<td>Significant costs are incurred for construction and ongoing operation such that they are available for a property owner when at a point in time they are sought for utilisation. This is seen as a &quot;whole of community&quot; charge and appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 539</td>
<td>What criteria are relevant in determining the amount of a charge?</td>
<td>Retain in current form. Provides very clear distinction between classification of a property for charging water supply and sewerage services in comparison to a “rate” and land categories (Section 514).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iii) Are there areas in the Local Government Act that should be removed to another Act or into Regulations, Codes or Guidelines? What are they and how should they be dealt with?

- Much of the “procedure” type parts of the Act should be removed. Reference to some matters is made at Question 4.
- “Electoral” Sections (Chapter 9 & Chapter 10) – remove to Regulations
- Disclosure of Interests (Chapter 14) – much of this should be removed to a Code or Regulation. The Code of Conduct should be simplified and mandated. Requiring public members of Committees with limited delegations to complete the same annual conflicts of interest return is unnecessary and a disincentive. This requirement should be removed and normal disclosure of interests at meetings retained.
- All Parts/Sections relating to meetings should be brought together [Chapter 4, Part 1; Chapter 12, Part 2] and most of this removed to a Regulation.
- Financing & Rating Sections should be brought together [Chapter 13, Part 3, Chapter 15] and much of this removed to Regulations.

iv) What is not working well in the Local Government Act (barriers or weaknesses)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is not working well in the Act (barriers/weaknesses)?</th>
<th>Why not?</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The format of the current Act</td>
<td>The current Act is not structured logically and is disjointed. The <strong>Charter</strong> (Section 8) is correctly at the front, but should be simpler with greater statutory weight. <strong>Councils functions</strong> (Chapters 5 &amp; 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
should expand on the Charter, followed by “Strategic Planning” Sections 402/406 showing how Councils achieve the Charter through the IPR framework

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors’ role should follow (ie, Sections 225/226, 231, 232)

The Mayor should be popularly elected and have added responsibilities and authorities to direct the business of Council. Councillors role should be “strategic”. Mandatory accredited training required for Councillors.

The key Organisation Structure/ Staffing Sections should follow (ie, S332/333, 335, 342/343, 352)

The functions of the Public Officer need review and could become more of an “Internal Ombudsman” role with “information provision” roles reverting to other corporate staff (eg GIPPA Officer). Consideration could be given to prescribing an Internal Auditor position.

The next part of the Act should set out how Councils operate (S335/359). The restriction on formation of
corporations/other entities needs to be amended, to facilitate more effective means to deliver services and works, both within a single Council and across numerous Council areas for “shared service” models.

**Delegation of functions** could follow (S377/381). S377 needs to expand and capture all other sections in the Act that require a decision “by Council resolution”; eg, S644, establishment of an alcohol free zone.

**Regulatory functions** of Council. Approvals (S68-74) and Orders (S124-128A). The remaining prescriptive sections dealing with procedural matters should be removed and included in a Regulation.

**Offences** (Chapter 16) and Enforcement (Chapter 17) could follow and the “procedural” sections removed to a Regulation and Guideline.

There are many other examples where like parts of the Act could be brought together –

**Ancillary Function of Council** – Chapter 8, Part 1, Acquisition of land could be followed by the Public Land provisions (Chapter 6, Part 2) and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government Acts Taskforce – “Preliminary Ideas” Submission Form – Shoalhaven City Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Act is too prescriptive</th>
<th>The process to adopt Plans of Management or categorisation of land should be simplified.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S55 “tendering” should allow delegation to an “Executive Committee” for more timely decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S29 Public hearings/land reclassification should be flexible to dispense with independent chair for minor and non-contentious matters. Sometimes costs are incurred and no public attend because there are no objections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| Caravan Parks | Caravan Parks are currently approved under the EP&amp;A Act and regulated under the LG Act. This is inherently inefficient and makes it far more difficult to provide an integrated approach to making a determination and then subsequently monitoring that approval. On-going regulation for caravan parks should form part of the Planning Legislation such that there is an opportunity to deal with all associated issues with parks via a single piece of legislation. |
| Monitoring of Food shops, hairdressers, etc | Monitoring of food shops, hairdressers, etc, in terms of health requirements could also be seen as part of the on-going monitoring of land use approvals and be handled under a single piece of legislation. |
| Enforcement Action | Our ability to take cheap effective enforcement action needs to be reinforced. Councils are wasting huge amounts of ratepayers’ funds on very costly litigation which often relates more to strict adherence to statutory provisions (eg, Orders) than the real issues. There needs to be a conscious effort to provide legislation which is very simple to implement and enforce. |
| Clarification of roles | Clarification of roles is also a key consideration, particularly in terms of State and Local Government jurisdictions. Often we get overlapping and duplicative requirements, which add very substantially to costs and delays for residents. Examples of matters such as “no smoking areas” and other regulation of public spaces and lands need to be clearly defined. |
| Graffiti Controls | Additional controls for graffiti on private property and untidy private development is also needed. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Services</td>
<td>Current legislation states that data should be held within the State. With the emergency of “Cloud Services”, this increasingly becoming a barrier to effective data management. There are many areas of Local Government where utilising cloud storage could benefit the day-to-day operations of Council. We experienced this recently in putting together a system for Councillors' business papers. With the use of cloud storage, would have been able to supply a seamless synchronisation of data to the Councillors over the internet, but in response to the current data restrictions, we were forced to require the Councillors to be connected to the corporate network via VPN in order to access their data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement to manage assets and have regard to cumulative impacts of decisions</td>
<td>Require Councils to manage assets in a similar way to strata corporations' Sinking Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation of Fees</td>
<td>Councils should have the ability to set fees to recover actual costs of service; eg, DA fees, inspection fees/various legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff employment provisions</td>
<td>Procedures and legal provisions are more convoluted than private industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 55(3)(n) &amp; Regulations</td>
<td>Tendering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Section 164 (Definitions)     | Tendering – Advertising | There is inconsistency in amounts which are to be used before needing to go to tender - $100,000 in the Act and $150,000 in the Regulations.  

The Act and Regulations do not state whether these tender amount limits are GST inclusive or exclusive, but the Tendering Guidelines, Page 2, states the figure includes GST.  

The tender threshold should increase and be GST inclusive. |
| Regulations S173               | Tenders – Receipt by Facsimile | The large costs to Councils in needing to advertise a tender in a relevant newspaper which is defined as a “metropolitan daily newspaper”. With everything being online and most Councils using electronic tendering, this is now obsolete or could be minimised.  

It is important that the Tendering Guidelines issued by the DLG are fully supported by the Act and the Regulations |
|                              |                                       | Receiving tenders by facsimile – most facsimile machines are left unattended |
and there can be probity issues with this and receiving tenders by facsimiles also involves a large cost in paper and toner, which is not environmentally friendly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulations S175</th>
<th>Tendering – Opening of Tender Box</th>
<th>With electronic tendering and the security and probity issues built around this, is there still a need to have three staff members present to open an electronic Tender Box. Council now receives 99% of all tenders electronically.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 516</td>
<td>Rating – Holiday Rentals &amp; B&amp;B’s</td>
<td>Allow Councils to rate holiday rentals and bed &amp; breakfasts with the business rate, as they already benefit from tourism advertising expenditure but only contribute the residential rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 555</td>
<td>Rating</td>
<td>Allow Councils to rate non-rateable properties which would give Council additional rates revenue on an annual basis. These properties access and use Council services and facilities but do not contribute. For Government properties (schools, hospitals, NSW Forests, National Parks, Police Station) it is a cost transfer to the local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 575</td>
<td>Rating – Pensioner Concessions</td>
<td>Pensioner Concessions – this places a great financial burden on Councils which have a large portion of their rating base as pensioners. Additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 188</td>
<td>Compulsory Acquisition of Land</td>
<td>There needs to be flexibility to allow compulsory acquisition for re-sale in some circumstances. Example: Compulsory acquisition and subsequent resale of Crown land for “employment lands” development or other broad economic/business purpose should be permissible. This enables the process to deal with Native Title issues and is an effective means to free-up otherwise unutilised public lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to reduce the number of Councillors and abolish Wards</td>
<td>Need a simple and cost-effective process with public exhibition of a proposal and DLG or Minister able to make decision, based on Council’s case and public submission.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 501(2)</td>
<td>For what services can Council impose an annual charge?</td>
<td>Current wording covers only a single charge for two or more such services. Under the NSW Government Water, Sewerage and Tradewaste Pricing Guidelines it is a requirement to levy multiple charges for multiple services eg multiple water meter connections. This is consistent industry practice to reflect the demand on infrastructure. The wording and sum single charge reflected on an account for multiple services of differing sizes is not progressive or would be easily understood by customers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section's 501, 502, 533, 562 and 546</td>
<td>Levying of Water and Sewer Access charges on a quarterly basis (proportional)</td>
<td>The Act needs to clearly take account for the action for levying both the fixed component (proportional to the annual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compensation back to Councils is needed to address this inequity.
to the fixed annual amount concurrently with user charges **at the time of reading the water meter.** Charge, generally on a quarterly basis but can be monthly, and the usage charge together onto a single account but within a short period time from the reading of a water meter but not coinciding with the date parameters of issuing the rate annual notice or instalment. Note: The NSW Energy & Water Ombudsman indicates they consider billing delays to be a serious customer complaint issue. Such occurs if a meter is read and the data retained without billing pending the due date for levy of the Rates and Charges instalment notice.

on the issue of charges for both fixed annual and usage being levied outside of the timeframes of the LGA for the Rates Notice. The issue needs to be clearly articulated within any changes.

The traditional timeframe in the raising of rates notices as they relate to water and sewer charges is not effective for a large Local Government Water Utility that issues an account within a short timespan between the reading of the meter and levying of that account.

Shoalhaven has documented three differing opinions on the issue (two from the DLG in 1994 and 2003 which appear to conflict or at best question which Section applies to fixed annual charges being issued outside the normal Rates Notice cycle). The scenario in rendering accounts combining all water and sewerage charges and in a timely fashion to coincide with the meter reading is consistent with Industry and Best Practice.

Documentation on the matter is available but in summary; "Council can make and levy an annual charge in respect of water and sewerage to all parcels of land where the service is available. Only one such
<p>| Section 636, 626, 637(1), Regulation 398 and Schedule 12. | Offences relating to water supply. | The penalty units under the LGA relative to water offences is inconsistent with the Sydney Water Act 1994 and Water Management Act 2000. The powers of enforcing officers differ with actions under the Sydney Water Act able to be handled with the issue of a penalty notice. A same offence under the LGA can only be dealt with through court proceedings as the offence is not contained within Schedule 12 of the LG Regulations. The inconsistency results in additional costs by Council, the public and Court system. Review all the water offences for consistency with penalty points and to ensure that the same powers exist. Example: Section 48A of Sydney Water Act- Unauthorised connections, alterations and use of works = 100 penalty units. Section 636 of Local Government Act, tampering with meters and fittings = 20 penalty units. Align powers of enforcing officers to enable the serving of penalty notices where applicable. Example: Section 636 indicated above not contained within Schedule 12 and |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation 158 (5)</th>
<th>Testing of water meters. (A water meter that registers less than 3 percent more or less than the correct quantity is taken to correctly measure the water passing through it).</th>
<th>The details within the Section is inconsistent with the Australian Government National Framework for Metering Guidelines for Urban Water Meters (+or - 4%) and Non-Urban Water Meters (+ or - 5%)</th>
<th>It should be noted and consideration needs to be given to the NMI standards for cold potable meters (NMI R 49-2) and the “Accuracy class and maximum permissible error rates”. The figure used within the National Framework for Urban Water Metering Paragraph 4 of + or – 4% is recommended. Whilst the requirements of this framework are voluntary, it has been developed cooperatively by the Australian urban water industry and the National Measurement Institute.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 575</td>
<td>Reductions for eligible pensioners. Method of calculation as related to Water and Sewerage charges.</td>
<td>The calculation of the rebate able to be provided is made on the basis of “one-half” of the charge up to a maximum of $87.50. For an annual Water fixed charge amount less than $175, an eligible pensioner can receive the balance of the rebate rebate off a water usage component. This practice is confusing for customers, inconsistent with “user pays” for water usage charges (elimination of free allowances) and difficult to manage. The situation is exacerbated when a pension eligibility is less than 100%, bulk metering arrangements and quarterly billing. Applying any balance after application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>It is unclear why any calculation basis of “one-half of the rate or charge” is a proviso. The amount available for a 100% eligibility for water is currently $87.50. It is unnecessary “red tape” to apply it across differing charges. Such action is difficult to apportion accurately when the unused portion is applied against water usage. Any application of a rebate against water usage is not recommended and inconsistent with providing a “free allowance” in accordance with the NSW Government Water, Sewerage and Tradewaste Pricing Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>It is a far more sensible approach and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
in the first instance against the annual fixed charge is not recommended for equity reasons.

Application of the rebate by Sydney Water is inconsistent with other NSW Utilities under the LGA. Whilst this may be a consequence of pricing decisions and NSW Government Treasury resolutions, inequities are occurring to eligible recipients both in available support and application of that support.

Recommended to apply any rebate for water and sewerage services without the proviso of “one-half of the rate or charge” up to the maximum allowable.

The inadequate amount of the rebate has been addressed in previous forums and that situation remains extant. In the case of Shoalhaven which borders with the Sydney Water area of responsibility, the obvious inequity between customers is pronounced. An increase in the total amount of the pensioner rebate is strongly recommended noting that the respective water and sewer funds provide 45% of the total amount of this reduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 64</th>
<th>Construction of works for developers - Division 5 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Water Management Act 2000 applies to a council exercising functions under this Division in the same way as it applies to a water supply authority exercising functions under that Act.</th>
<th>There are conflicts between the Water Management Act and the Planning Act</th>
<th>A number of case studies and examples can be provided to further develop this issue, but its complexity has also led to the need for separate legal advice.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 428</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>This is now a duplication of effort and cost, as most of this information is already available on-line.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USE AND HIRE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES


1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance on the process and approvals required for Council’s community facilities to be used for commercial and retailing activities.

2. STATEMENT

This policy statement is based on Council Minute 85.2791 of 17th September 1985. Council reaffirmed the policy (with amendments) in its revised format on 21st December 2004 by Minute 04.1591.

“Typically, Council community facilities (buildings and reserves) do not have approval for conducting commercial and retailing activities.

Commercial and retailing are prohibited under the current zoning. The lodging of a Development Application and supporting information can be considered by Council as Clause 39C of the Shoalhaven Local Environment Protection Act (SLEP) allows for and provides Council with the ability to undertake and conduct an assessment of the activity.

Council may grant consent for temporary use of the land for up to 28 days in any one year (these days do not have to be consecutive), provided that:

- there is protection of the environment and the amenity of the locality during and immediately after the carrying out of the proposed use;
- appropriate arrangements are made for the provision of utility services, vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and restoration of the site to the condition prevailing immediately before the carrying out of the proposed use; and
- the period for the carrying out of the proposed use is reasonable in the circumstances or whether a lesser period would be more appropriate.

Community Facilities covered by this policy include all Council managed/owned buildings and reserves.
3. PROVISIONS

3.1. Sufficient notice be provided to allow for the processing of a Development Application that includes adequate consultation with other users of the Community Facility and potential businesses that may be affected by the proposed commercial activity.

3.2. Development Applications will not be supported for a commercial activity that may conflict with the normal function of this community facility or if the proposal contravenes the Local Environment Plan.

3.3. The hirer of the community facility, where not covered by Council’s ‘Casual Hirer Insurance Policy’, such as in the case of an incorporated or proprietary limited body, will be required to provide adequate public liability cover as determined by Council’s General Manager (Insurance/Risk Manager). This will be for a minimum of $10,000,000 (and in some circumstances, $20,000,000 cover may be required) with an insurer approved by the Australia Prudential Regulation Authority, noting Council’s interest.

3.4. A specific fee for commercial hire shall be in accordance with Council’s adopted Management Plan’s Fees & Changes.

3.5. The commercial fee shall apply for each day the community facility is required for setting up and dismantling of structures in accordance with Council’s adopted Management Plan’s Fees & Changes.

3.6. A bond shall be required to protect the community facility from damage or necessary clean up following commercial use in accordance with Council’s adopted Management Plan’s Fees & Changes.

3.7. If required by Council, a license will be negotiated with the community facility hirer and be subject to the concurrence of Council.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The City Services & Operations Group will administer this policy.

5. REVIEW

This policy statement will be reviewed within one year of the election of every new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

None applicable.
1. PURPOSE
The purpose of the policy is to define Council’s management of its various Management Committees.

2. STATEMENT
The policy is based on Council’s authority, under Section 355 and 377 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993, and subsequent amendments, to delegate management of facilities to local residents and/or organisations.

Upon adoption of this policy, the following were rescinded:

Minute 87.1402 “Management Committees – Playing Fields Subsidies”
Minute 88.689 “Management Committees – Delegation of Powers” and
Minute 98.1132 “Management Committees – Delegation of Powers”

3. PROVISIONS
Council Management Committees must be:

3.1. Appointed in accordance with Section 355 and 377 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993, and;

3.2. Function in accordance with Shoalhaven City Council’s Management Committee Guidelines.

4. IMPLEMENTATION
The City Services & Operations Group will administer this policy and Council’s Management Committee Guidelines.

5. REVIEW
To be reviewed within one year of the election of a new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES
Not Applicable.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Purpose of Project</th>
<th>Amount Applied For</th>
<th>Amount Recommended to be Approved</th>
<th>Comments - Why chosen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ulladulla CDAT</td>
<td>Adolescents &amp; Alcohol - Challenging Our Culture</td>
<td>Provide parents with information and strategies to reduce personal and community impact of alcohol on adolescents and increase communication with young people around D&amp;A issues.</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>There is a need. Capacity by empowering parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wandandian Recreation Reserve Management Committee</td>
<td>Erection/construction of basketball practice area</td>
<td>To give local youth an area to use</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>In kind support to do work as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Milton Ulladulla Uniting Church</td>
<td>Security Fence for Small Children &amp; Elderly People</td>
<td>To maintain security of the church grounds to prevent children accessing to the church carpark.</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>This is the core business of the church. Fundraising and men's shed could be used to help with raising funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Community Technology Centre Ulladulla</td>
<td>Computing for Seniors</td>
<td>To motivate and educate seniors who are isolated from their families to use information technology.</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Other sourcing possibilities. Community college doing course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ulladulla &amp; Districts Community Resources Centre</td>
<td>Volunteers Information Booklet</td>
<td>To provide comprehensive information through an AS sized booklet to potential volunteers on the opportunities available within the local community.</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Possibly use sponsorship for the rest of application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sussex Inlet Man's Shed Inc</td>
<td>Australia Day &quot;Fun Day&quot;</td>
<td>To bring the local community together to celebrate Australia Day</td>
<td>$1,150.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Already 4 community events in St. Local adverts in paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Milton Ulladulla Uniting Church</td>
<td>To purchase an air conditioning unit</td>
<td>To provide to all users of the church hall more suitable surroundings</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Core business of church. Not total community project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Milton Ulladulla Pre-school Assoc Inc</td>
<td>Training, learning, teaching</td>
<td>To bring childcare training to the Shoalhaven for all Shoalhaven early childhood educators on various subjects, Aboriginal and Autism</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Other sourcing availabilities - Early Intervention Network; Noahs Ark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ulladulla Domestic Violence Support Service</td>
<td>Women's Wellbeing and Parenting Courses</td>
<td>To lessen feelings of isolation in women in the Ulladulla region who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual assault by providing a safe group environment with women who have had similar experiences.</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$1,550.00</td>
<td>To fund three courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nowra Wrap With Love</td>
<td>Knitting blankets for cold humanity</td>
<td>To provide warmth (blankets) for cold humanity</td>
<td>$1,540.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Cannot guarantee Shoalhaven - out of area. They already have donated wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Organisation/Description</td>
<td>Description/Activity</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Donor</td>
<td>Comments/Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shoalhaven Kids in Need Inc.</td>
<td>Mobility equipment for local disabled child</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Only for 1 child, not community. Try Apex, Lions, TAD, PDA, Rotary alliance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ulladulla Mens Shed Inc.</td>
<td>Upgrade hand tools and improve dust extraction</td>
<td>$1,667.00</td>
<td>$1,667.00</td>
<td>Benefits group - aged thru to children. Is an OH&amp;S issue. Lasting equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cards from the Heart</td>
<td>Cards from the Heart</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Cannot guarantee Shoalhaven - out of area. Other identified sponsors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Marine Roscuro - Sussex Inlet</td>
<td>Purchase a defibrillator for use at our base in event of an emergency</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Refer to ClubGRANTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>St Georges Basin Health &amp; Community Transport Inc.</td>
<td>Modification of our Toyota Coaster bus to cater for elderly clients in Bay &amp; Basin area</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>This is their core business, not community development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>CTC Sussex Inlet Inc.</td>
<td>Communicate with IT</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Community College can help</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Bay &amp; Basin Bush Potters</td>
<td>Naked Raku Firing</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Shoalhaven Homa &amp; Community Care Forum</td>
<td>Healthy Ageing and More Expo</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>Servicing the community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bawarra Multicultural Services</td>
<td>7th Multicultural Celebration Dinner</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>This is an annual event. Fund raising could be undertaken during the course of the year and or apply for ClubGRANTS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Creating Callala Committee</td>
<td>Creating Callala Stage 3</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project Details</td>
<td>Funding Details</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Milton Rural Landcare&lt;br&gt;PO Box 6&lt;br&gt;MILTON NSW 2538&lt;br&gt;Purchase of plant benches</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;$1,000.00&lt;br&gt;Part funding. Suggest they contact the Mens Shed to help build.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nowra Men's Shed&lt;br&gt;Box 90&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Nowra Men's Shed Project to be able to do metalwork as required</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;A good community Development project.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Gambling Impact Society (NSW) Inc&lt;br&gt;Nowra Neighbourhood Centre&lt;br&gt;143 Kinghorn St&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Community Information</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;Nil&lt;br&gt;Not sustainable. No evidence of making it sustainable.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services Inc&lt;br&gt;134 Kinghorn Street&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Our Community News</td>
<td>$1,500.00&lt;br&gt;$1,500.00&lt;br&gt;Incorporate with Bomaderry Price newsletter. Money given on proviso of sponsorships for next years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services Inc&lt;br&gt;134 Kinghorn Street&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Homelessness Resource Directory update and reprint</td>
<td>$1,150.00&lt;br&gt;$1,150.00&lt;br&gt;A popular publication that provides important information.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nowra Family Support Service Inc&lt;br&gt;Cottage 1&lt;br&gt;80 Park Rd&lt;br&gt;EAST NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;East Nowra After School Activity</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;Meeting needs of most vulnerable communities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Shoalhaven Liquor Accord&lt;br&gt;CT- Garry Wibraham&lt;br&gt;Community safety through responsible alcohol consumption</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;$1,500.00&lt;br&gt;Liquor Accord of NSW and Dept of Gaming &amp; Racing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>The Disability Trust&lt;br&gt;PO Box 1269&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Shoalhaven Self Advocacy Group</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;Nil&lt;br&gt;Core business</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>East Nowra Public School&lt;br&gt;P&amp;C Assoc&lt;br&gt;87 Jervis St&lt;br&gt;NOWRA NSW 2541&lt;br&gt;Jumpstart</td>
<td>$2,000.00&lt;br&gt;Nil&lt;br&gt;Material already available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Organisation Name</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Non-Contribution</td>
<td>Funding Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Nowra Public School P&amp;C</td>
<td>Jumpstart</td>
<td>To develop learning materials and acquire resources to support parents and teachers to support the positive development of children who have emotional and behavioural issues in Primary Public schools in the Shoalhaven.</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Under national partnerships. Material already available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dadybalung Garden</td>
<td>Dadybalung Garden</td>
<td>To teach gardening principles to the community to encourage the growing of food at home.</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>No budget supplied.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|       | TOTAL                   |                  |                                                                              | $64,627.00 | $19,887.00      |                                                  |
Community Grants Program
Objectives and Guidelines

Introduction

The Community Grants Program enables community groups and organisations to design, implement and complete projects that support and enhance the lives of residents of the Shoalhaven.

Community Grants will be offered annually.

Applications are due at close of business on August 31st each year.

Grants will be offered up to a maximum of $2000.

Objectives

1. The Community Grants program aims to:
   - Building diverse, connected and united communities
   - Building creative, vibrant, generous, active and learning communities
   - Building a community that feels safe
   - Building a healthy and active community

2. Promote the development and implementation of a range of community based projects that are aligned with Key Result Area 1 Shoalhaven Communities of the Shoalhaven Community Strategic Plan.

3. Encourage a supportive approach to innovative community programs that build social equity and address identified community needs.

4. Assist in developing a range of innovative Community Development Programs.

5. Facilitate equitable distribution of community resources throughout the Shoalhaven.

6. Support the Community Strategic Plan Vision: To work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live, work, stay and play; where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle.
Guidelines

1. **Based in the Shoalhaven.** Projects must be located in the Shoalhaven local government area. Applications for projects from State, National or Regional bodies must be submitted by, administered by and be for the direct benefit of a Shoalhaven based branch.

2. **Incorporated Association.** Organisations must be legally constituted or auspiced by an incorporated association.

3. **ABN The organisations must have an Australian Business Number.**

4. **Not-For-Profit Organisations.** Only not-for-profit community based organisations are eligible for funding under the grants program. Therefore individuals, for profit companies and service clubs who intend to supplement their fund raising for a third party's project are ineligible.

5. **One Project Per Funding Cycle.** Council will only support one event/project per organisation per funding cycle. Therefore, a maximum of one project per organisation will be funded each year.

6. **No Political Affiliation.** The organisation requesting financial assistance should not be a political party and should not be affiliated or associated either directly or indirectly with any political party whether registered or not.

7. **Community Strategic Plan.** Projects must conform to goals and strategies of Key Result Area 1 Strong Shoalhaven Communities of the Shoalhaven Community Strategic Plan.

8. **Clearly Identified Purpose or Project.** The grant is a contribution towards a clearly identifiable purpose or project. Financial assistance will be used only for purposes as detailed in the original application.

9. **Recurrent/Ongoing Expenses.** Any financial assistance that is provided by Council will not result in the proposed activity becoming dependent on Council for future funds. The Community Grants program will not fund recurrent/ongoing expenses eg. salaries, insurance, rent etc.

10. **Evaluation and Financial Acquittal.** An evaluation of the funded purpose is required, including a breakdown of how the grant was spent including receipts (where possible) and number of participants, at the completion of the project. If this step is not complied with the organisation will not be eligible for further grants until the Evaluation and Financial Acquittal is returned.

11. **Council Acknowledgement.** The organisation receiving financial assistance will publicly acknowledge Council's contribution on their promotional material where appropriate.

12. **Not a Government Agency/Authority.** Applications will not be accepted from Government Agencies and/or Authorities.
Applications must include:

1. A completed application form, ensuring that all details have been provided.

2. The organisation’s latest audited financial statement, or where an organisation is not subject to audit requirements, a statement of income and expenditure over the past 12 months must be provided.

3. A copy of the organisation’s most recent Annual Report.

4. A copy of the organisation’s constitution or Statement of Aims and Objectives if a new applicant, or where these details have changed since a previous application.

5. All other relevant information has been attached e.g. quotes.
1. View from Bamarang Rd of road reserve and facility location on Calymea Creek foreshore.

2.
3.

Foreshore erosion on public reserve due to roaming stock accessing Council natural area reserve via river foreshore at mouth of Calymea Creek.
Views towards Calymea Ck from Shoalhaven River

View from ramp site to mouth of Calymea Ck

Unauthorised launch ramp on western foreshore reserve used for launching vessels, including motor boats.
Dear Madam/Sir

Draft Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan 2012-2023

The following comments relate to the draft plan which was out for public comment from 16 November - 9 December 2012. Council was advised of the opportunity to comment on 19 November. This only allowed 15 working days to respond to this request. Council requests that in the future more realistic comment periods are allowed for, particularly when matters of this nature need to be reported through Council. The limited comment period could be seen as tokenistic and not providing for real and considered input from the community.

This overarching plan is however an improvement on the previous CAP. It provides a commendable strategy, based on an adaptive management framework. Community resilience needs to be at the heart of all catchment level planning. It is essential that we accurately account for a communities economic and social capital when considering conservation targets. Council is also pleased to see that you have considered thresholds as this actively encourages a targeted use of resources and will limit the expenditure on areas which are beyond recovery. This type of holistic thinking is encouraging to see.

The draft CAP 2023 emphasises a localism focus. While Local Government is a key player and needs to be involved in decision making, this role needs to be appropriately resourced. The localism approach is concerning to Council as it suggests the further devolution of responsibilities from the state level, with no additional resources. A number of natural resource management related functions have been pushed down to the local level recently.

For example, Bushfire 79C assessments are now done by Local Government officers rather than State Agency officers. Similarly, there is no longer the need to refer developments within 40 metres of a riparian area to the Office of Water for technical assessment. Our assessment staff are now expected to be specialists in a range of highly technical NRM areas - for which we previously received State Agency assistance. The cuts to the State Government NRM agencies have reduced their capacity to provide advice and services of this nature. This is an alarming trend which would appear to be further promoted by the localism framework in the CAP 2023.

There is a shift away from Intergenerational equity in favour of relying on land managers and the public generally to ‘do the right thing’. The gradual decrease in State Government regulation leaves local Councils in a very vulnerable position when they attempt to implement conservation measures within their Local Government area. Put simply, we end up in conflict or challenge situations more often.
Council appreciates that the CAP 2023 attempts to find common ground by identifying the conservation assets that the community value (and therefore want to see protected). This does not, translate into anything concrete which can be reflected in local planning strategies which set what happens on the ground (LEP’s, DCPs etc). Will the landscape priority assets be spatially mapped so that we can account for them in a meaningful way? Council notes that there are a range of partners identified to map ‘natural resource assets that support industry’, however how will this be integrated into the planning process?

Does the SRCMA envisage that it will be the lead agency in relation to all the priority actions identified in the CAP 2023? If not, it is necessary to clearly identify responsible organisations and budget so that these actions happen. Implementation partners are identified which is a good start.

Council looks forward to being actively involved in the development of investment plans and local action strategies which will result from the CAP 2023. Council is however concerned that there is an assumption that it has the capacity to implement or drive numerous initiatives alluded to in the draft CAP 2023 which may be outside core business and therefore not resourced.

I trust that you will consider these comments in the constructive spirit that they are being offered as part of the finalisation of the CAP.

Yours faithfully

Russ Pigg
GENERAL MANAGER