



**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR**  
**13 DECEMBER 2007**

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## COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

### ORDINARY MEETING

13 DECEMBER 2007

Mayor and Councillors

#### CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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#### **S72 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE NO. 6/2007**

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##### **Purpose:**

To confirm minutes from the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2007.

##### **Recommendation:**

##### **T.55 – Newmans Road, Woolgoolga (R.507720 [1786725])**

That application be made to the RTA for introduction of 50km/h signposting on Newmans Road, Woolgoolga, from the Pacific Highway to 700m west of the Pacific Highway, as per Plan No. T.55.

##### **T.56 – Thirteenth Avenue, Sawtell - 'No Parking' signs (R.502570 [1794556])**

That 'No Parking' restrictions on Thirteenth Avenue, Sawtell, be implemented, as per Plan No. T.56.

##### **T.57 – Linden Avenue, Toormina - 40km/h school zone (R.501950)**

That application be made to the RTA for 40km/h school zone signposting in Linden Avenue, Toormina, as per Plan No. T.57.

##### **T.58 – Little Street, Coffs Harbour - 'No Parking' signs (R.505060 [1722040])**

That 'No Parking' signposting in Little Street, Coffs Harbour, be removed and '1 hour' parking bays be extended, as per Plan No. T.58.

**T.59 – Gaudrons Road / Split Solitary Road / Pacific Highway, Sapphire - Intersection Improvements** (R.506500 / R.511130 / R.511410)

That right turn restrictions out of Gaudrons Road and Split Solitary Road at the Pacific Highway be modified to apply between the hours of 8.00am to 9.00am and 4.00pm to 6.00 pm only.

**T.60 – Lyster Street, Coffs Harbour - 'No Parking' signs** (R.505120 [1150375])

That 'one hour' parking restrictions be implemented in Lyster Street, Coffs Harbour, as per Plan No. T.60.

**T.61 – Middle Boambee / Lindsays Road, Middle Boambee - 'Give Way' signs** (R.500330 [1771733])

1. That 'Give Way' sign and associated linemarking be installed at the intersection of Middle Boambee Road and Lindsays Road, as per Plan No. T.61.
2. That consideration be given in future management plans for reconstruction of the intersection to provide kerb and gutter and better control of traffic.

**T.62 – First Avenue, Sawtell - Temporary Road Closure - Super Fun Day** (R.501520 [1776727])

That :

- (a) the temporary road closure of First Avenue, Sawtell , between Boronia Street and Second Avenue, from 8.00am to 11.00am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, for the purpose of conducting the street parade associated with the Sawtell Super Fun Day, be advertised and providing no substantive objections are received, the closure be approved.
- (b) the organisers of the Fun Day liaise with affected traders and obtain traders approval.
- (c) the organisers be responsible for erection of traffic barriers and control of traffic using accredited traffic controllers.
- (d) the organisers be responsible for all costs associated with the temporary closure and clean up, including advertising.
- (e) a temporary bus zone be established on the east side of First Avenue, Sawtell, north of Second Avenue to enable buses to continue to operate.

**T.63 - Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour - Temporary Road Closure - New Year's Eve**  
(R.506100 / 1618)

That :

- (a) the temporary road closure of Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour , between Marina Drive and carpark entry to Jetty, from 6.00pm on Monday, 31 December 2007 to 6.00am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, for the purpose of holding New Years Eve Celebrations, be advertised and providing no substantive objections are received, the closure be approved.
- (b) the organisers, March's Amusements, liaise with affected traders and obtain traders approval.
- (c) the organisers be responsible for erection of traffic barriers and control of traffic using accredited traffic controllers, in accordance with the TCP.
- (d) the organisers be responsible for all costs associated with the temporary closure and clean up, including advertising.

**Attachments:**

**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL  
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES– 6/2007  
26 NOVEMBER 2007 - 10.30AM**

Present: Cr Bill Palmer, Coffs Harbour City Council  
Snr Constable Scott Jackson, Coffs Harbour Police  
Lance Vickery, Roads and Traffic Authority  
George Stulle, Coffs Harbour City Council

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**T.55 – Newmans Road, Woolgoolga (R.507720 [1786725])**

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Consideration to a request from a resident for a reduction in speed limit to 50km/h in Newmans Road, Woolgoolga.

**Recommendation:**

**That application be made to the RTA for introduction of 50km/h signposting on Newmans Road, Woolgoolga, from the Pacific Highway to 700m west of the Pacific Highway, as per Plan No. T.55.**

Reason: Newmans Road is currently zoned 60km/h between the Pacific Highway and 1.5km west of the Pacific Highway and has a mixture of medium density residential, low density and rural frontage development. The subject section of Newmans Road is medium density residential with kerb and gutter and street lighting and should by default be limited to the 50km/h general urban limit. The approaches to this section of road however are currently rural in nature and warrant signposting of the 50km/h limit.

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**T.56 – Thirteenth Avenue, Sawtell - 'No Parking' signs (R.502570 [1794556])**

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Consideration to a request for a 'No Parking' zone in Thirteenth Avenue, Sawtell, adjacent the entrance to Sawtell Public School.

**Recommendation:**

**That 'No Parking' restrictions on Thirteenth Avenue, Sawtell, be implemented, as per Plan No. T.56.**

Reason: The parking restrictions will provide pick up/drop off area to service Sawtell Public School.

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**T.57 – Linden Avenue, Toormina - 40km/h school zone (R.501950)**

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Consideration to a request for a 40km/h school zone to be installed in Linden Avenue, Toormina, adjacent the Coffs Harbour Learning Centre.

**Recommendation:**

**That application be made to the Roads & Traffic Authority for 40km/h school zone signposting in Linden Avenue, Toormina, as per Plan No. T.57.**

Reason: The location and operation of the new Coffs Harbour Learning Centre warrants the signposting of a 40 km/h school zone.

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**T.58 – Little Street, Coffs Harbour - 'No Parking' signs (R.505060 [1722040])**

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Consideration to a request for the removal of 'No Parking' restrictions adjacent a new office building in Little Street, Coffs Harbour.

**Recommendation:**

**That 'No Parking' signposting in Little Street, Coffs Harbour, be removed and '1 hour' parking bays be extended, as per Plan No. T.58.**

Reason: The 'No Parking' area is no longer required following removal of a driveway access to an off-street car park.

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**T.59 – Gaudrons Road / Split Solitary Road / Pacific Highway, Sapphire - Intersection Improvements (R.506500 / R.511130 / R.511410)**

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Consideration to the modification to right turn restrictions at the intersection of Gaudrons Road / Split Solitary Road / Pacific Highway, Sapphire during peak traffic hours only, 8.00am - 9.00am and 3.00pm - 6.00pm.

**Recommendation:**

**That right turn restrictions out of Gaudrons Road and Split Solitary Road at the Pacific Highway be modified to apply between the hours of 8.00am to 9.00am and 4.00pm to 6.00 pm only.**

Reason: The right turn restrictions are currently 7.00am to 7.00pm, however they are only required during peak traffic flow times on the Pacific Highway.

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**T.60 – Lyster Street, Coffs Harbour - 'No Parking' signs (R.505120 [1150375])**

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Consideration to a request for change of parking restrictions in Lyster Street, Coffs Harbour, from two hour to one hour parking.

**Recommendation:**

**That 'one hour' parking restrictions be implemented in Lyster Street, Coffs Harbour, as per Plan No. T.60.**

Reason: The new parking restrictions will increase turnover of on-street parking bays and better serve adjoining businesses.

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**T.61 – Middle Boambee / Lindsays Road, Middle Boambee - 'Give Way' signs (R.500330 [1771733])**

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Consideration to a request from a resident for a 'Give Way' sign at the intersection of South Boambee Road and Lindsays Road, Boambee, as there is a driveway just beyond the intersection.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. That 'Give Way' sign and associated linemarking be installed at the intersection of Middle Boambee Road and Lindsays Road, as per Plan No. T.61.**
- 2. That consideration be given in future management plans for reconstruction of the intersection to provide kerb and gutter and better control of traffic.**

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**T.62 – First Avenue, Sawtell - Temporary Road Closure - Super Fun Day (R.501520 [1776727])**

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Consideration to a request for the temporary road closure of First Avenue, Sawtell, between Second Avenue and Boronia Street, on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2008 between the hours of 8.00am and 11.00am for the purpose of holding the Sawtell Super Fun Day.

**Recommended: that :**

- (a) the temporary road closure of First Avenue, Sawtell , between Boronia Street and Second Avenue, from 8.00am to 11.00am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, for the purpose of conducting the street parade associated with the Sawtell Super Fun Day, be advertised and providing no substantive objections are received, the closure be approved.**
  - (b) the organisers of the Fun Day liaise with affected traders and obtain traders approval.**
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- (c) the organisers be responsible for erection of traffic barriers and control of traffic using accredited traffic controllers.**
  - (d) the organisers be responsible for all costs associated with the temporary closure and clean up, including advertising.**
  - (e) a temporary bus zone be established on the east side of First Avenue, Sawtell, north of Second Avenue to enable buses to continue to operate.**
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**T.63 - Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour - Temporary Road Closure - New Year's Eve (R.506100 / 1618)**

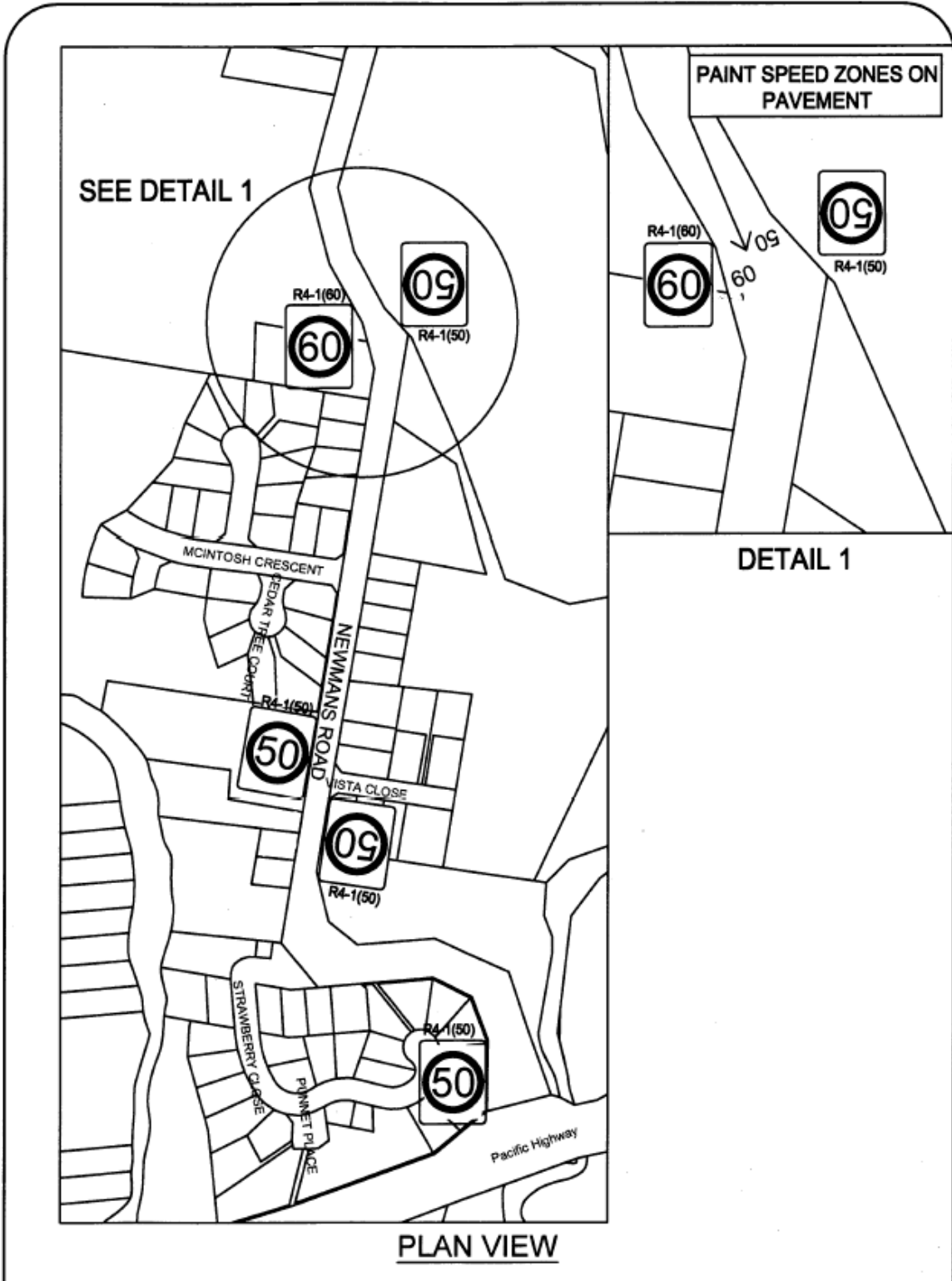
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Consideration to the temporary road closure of Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour, between Marina Drive and carpark entry to Jetty, on Monday, 31 December 2007 between the hours of 6.00pm and 6.00am for the purpose of New Year's Eve celebrations.

**Recommended: that :**

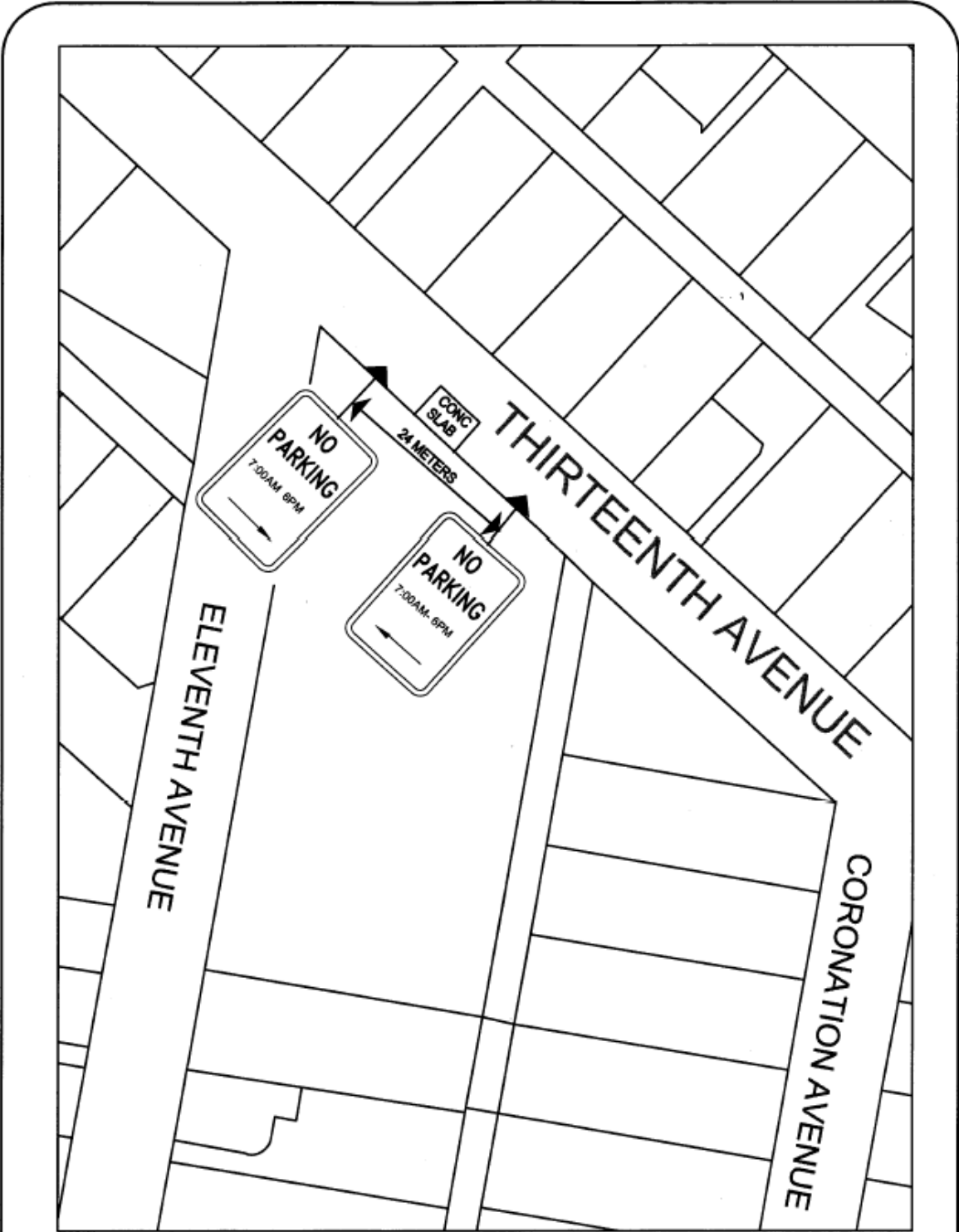
- (a) the temporary road closure of Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour , between Marina Drive and carpark entry to Jetty, from 6.00pm on Monday, 31 December 2007 to 6.00am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008, for the purpose of holding New Years Eve Celebrations, be advertised and providing no substantive objections are received, the closure be approved.**
  - (b) the organisers, March's Amusements, liaise with affected traders and obtain traders approval.**
  - (c) the organisers be responsible for erection of traffic barriers and control of traffic using accredited traffic controllers, in accordance with the TCP.**
  - (d) the organisers be responsible for all costs associated with the temporary closure and clean up, including advertising.**
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**TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT**

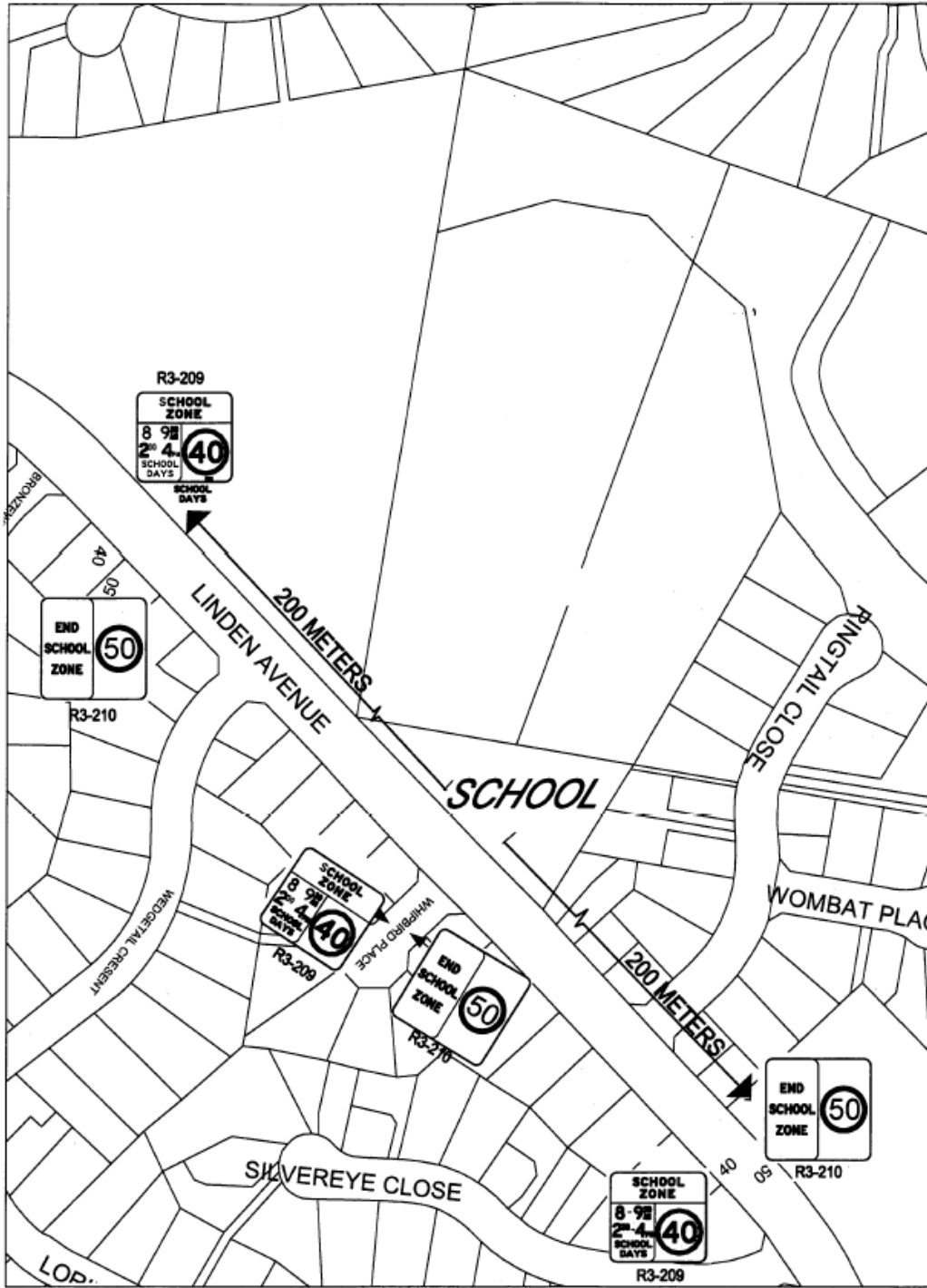
T.55-2007  
 NEWMANS ROAD  
 WOOLGOOLGA



PLAN VIEW

**TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT**

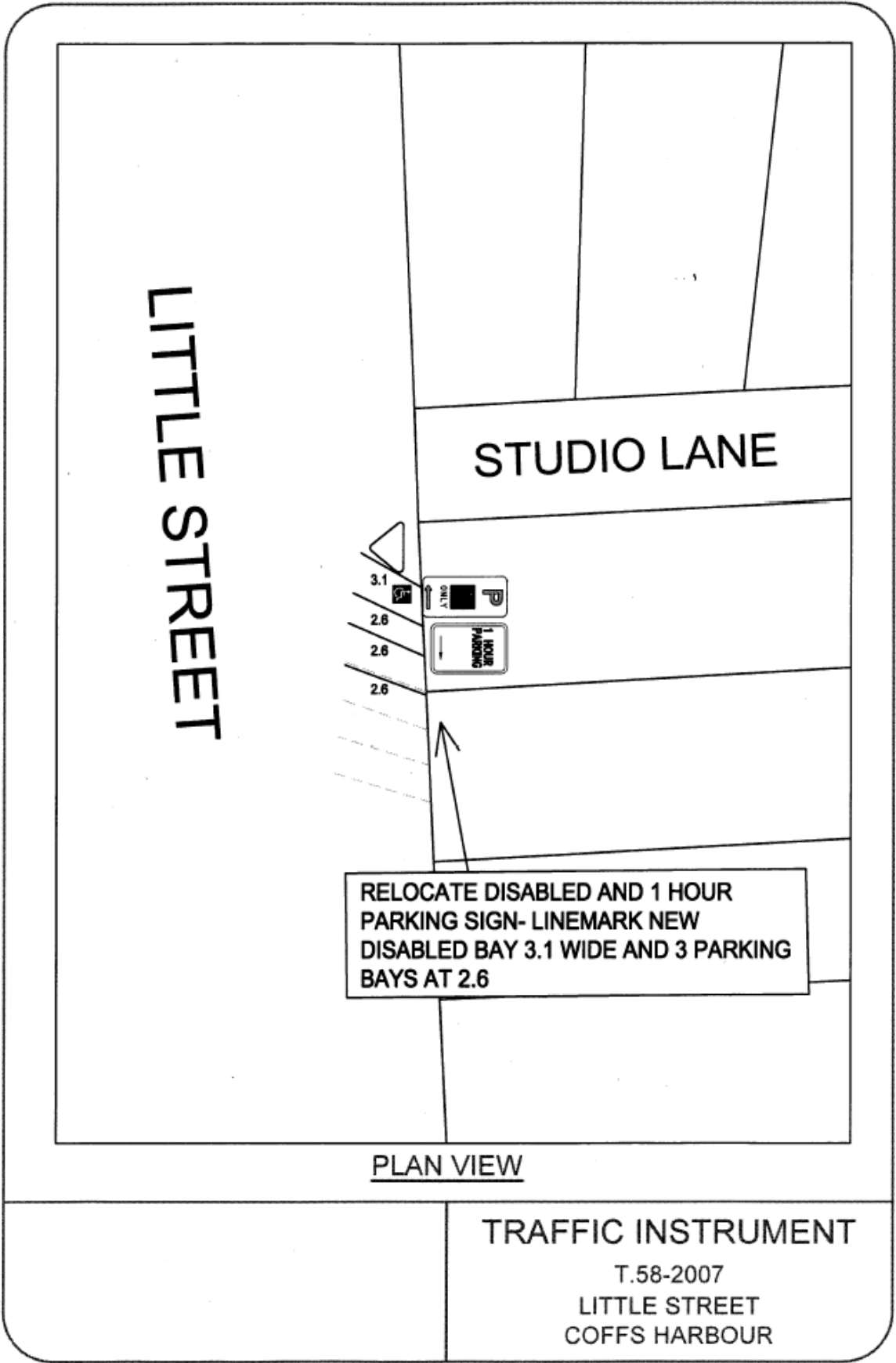
T.56-2007  
THIRTEENTH AVENUE  
SAWTELL



PLAN VIEW

TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT

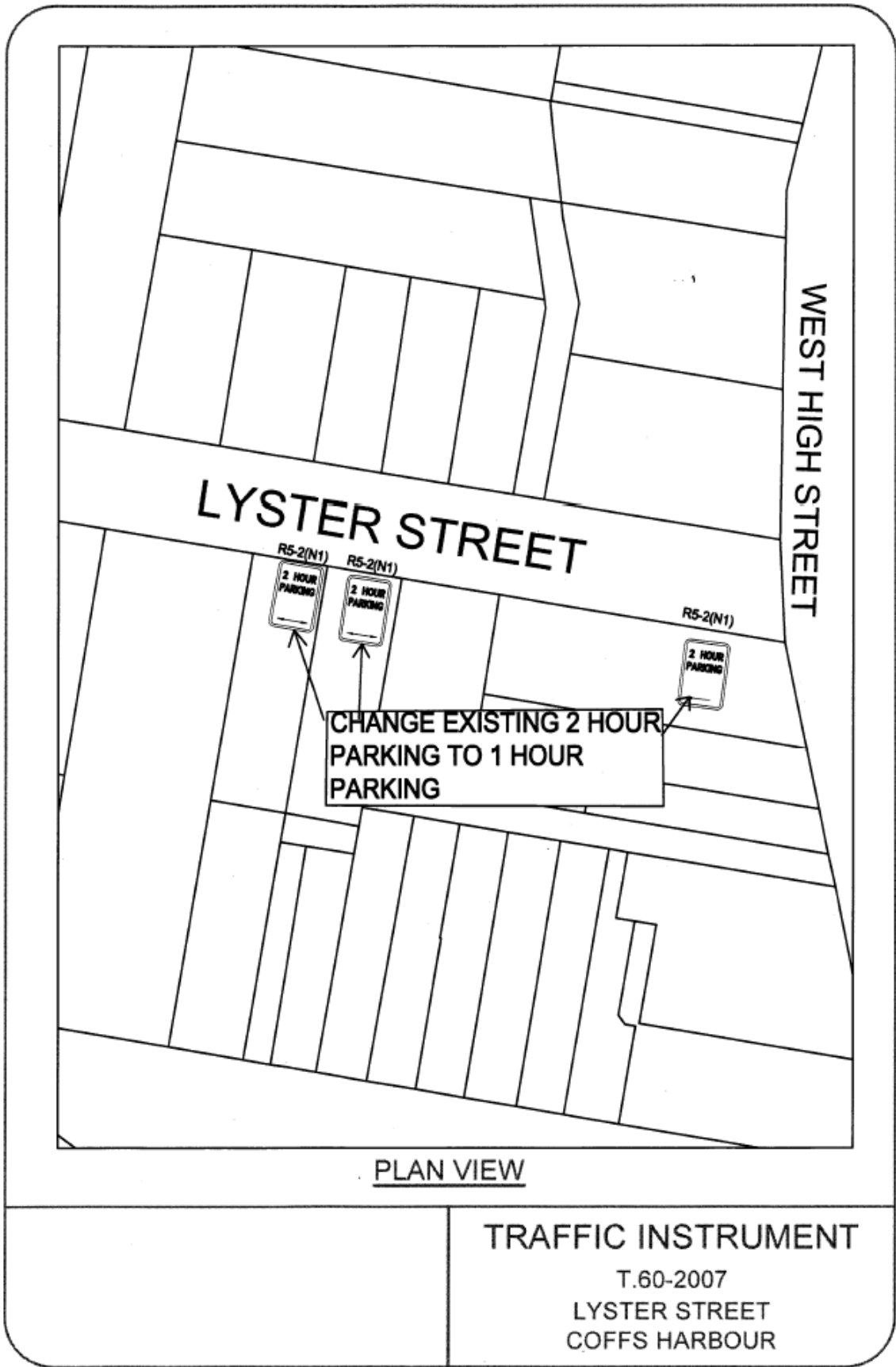
T.57-2007  
 LINDEN AVENUE  
 TOORMINA



PLAN VIEW

**TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT**

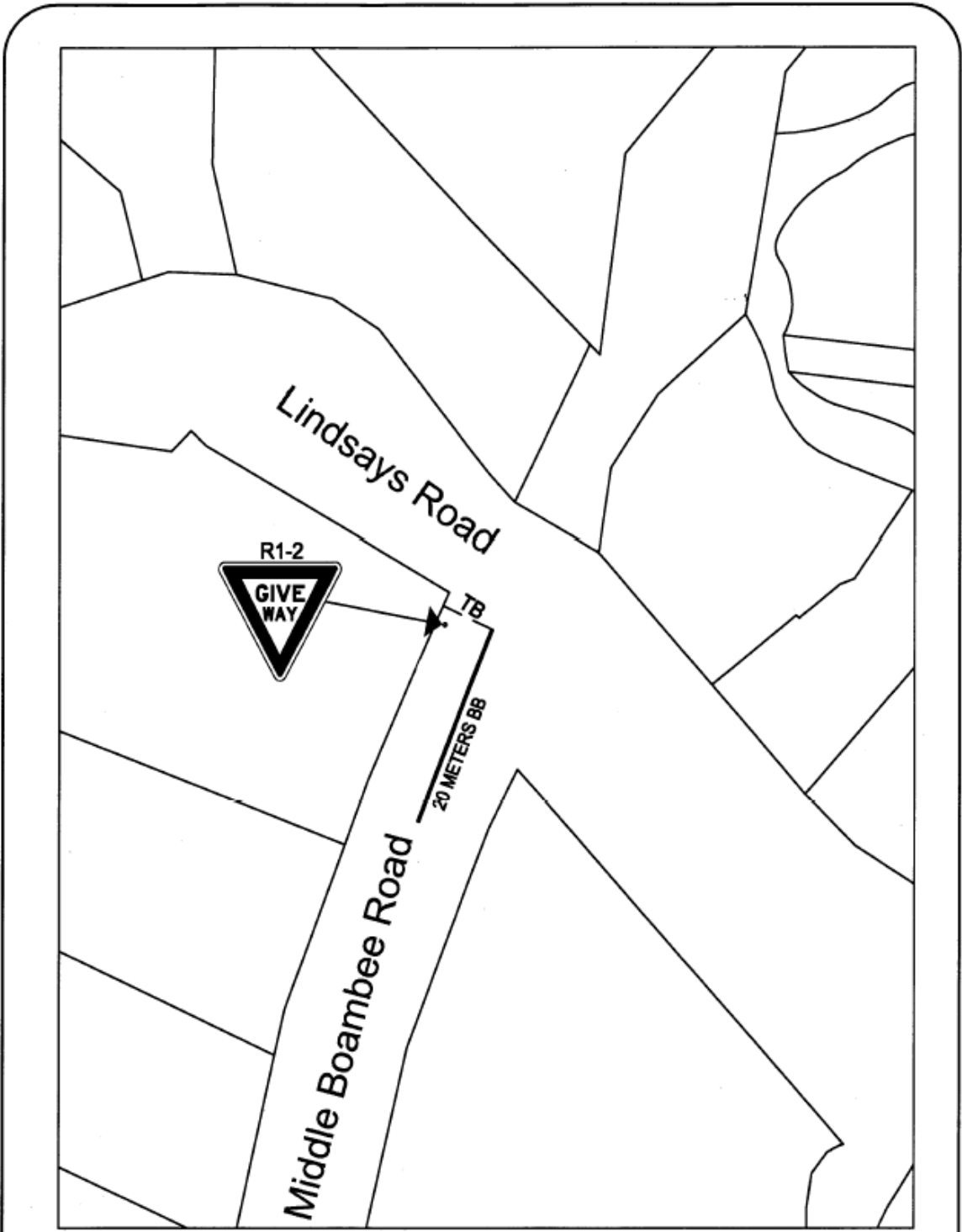
T.58-2007  
 LITTLE STREET  
 COFFS HARBOUR



PLAN VIEW

**TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT**

T.60-2007  
LYSTER STREET  
COFFS HARBOUR



PLAN VIEW

**TRAFFIC INSTRUMENT**

T.61-2007

MIDDLE BOAMBEE/LINDSAYS ROAD  
MIDDLE BOAMBEE

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## **S73 REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE MULTICULTURAL REFERENCE GROUP**

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### **Purpose:**

To report on the outcomes of the Multicultural Reference Group since its establishment in July 2006.

### **Description of Item:**

Council's adopted Social and Community Strategic Plan 2006-2010 identified the need to establish a mechanism to engage its CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse people) community.

Following consultation with the multicultural community it was identified that the formation of a reference group was the most appropriate way of addressing the cultural needs of the community. In July 2006 it was resolved that:

1. Council recognise and endorse the establishment of the Multicultural Reference Group to be the mechanism for the engagement of the Coffs Harbour multicultural communities by Council.
2. The role of the Multicultural Reference Group is to enhance the profile of multiculturalism in the community by developing relationships with Council facilitating promotion of multicultural community participation in the planning, management and delivery of services and activities and positively promote cultural differences and the benefits those differences can have on the whole community.
3. Nominations be called for Multicultural Reference Group representatives.
4. Council appoint a Councillor/s to the Group.
5. The outcomes of the Multicultural Reference Group be reviewed and reported back to Council in December 2007.

Acting on this resolution the community was invited to nominate representatives to the Group. Applications were received from within the multicultural communities, services providers and other culturally interested parties. Nominations closed on 31 August 2006.

The following outlines the diverse makeup of the appointed representatives:

- Marc Loos - Anglicare (Settlement Support)
- Ray Budge - Anglicare (Migrant Manager)
- Jackie Lloyd - retired community worker, psychologist and member of Amnesty International
- Joseph Majambere - young African migrant, student
- Anthony Nebo - Public Relations Officer, Coffs Harbour African Community Association
- Roger Atwal - member of the Sikh community, businessman, active community member
- Jorgette Sonter - member of the Indonesia community, active community member
- Norma Falconer - Interrelate Family Centre (Area Manager)
- Rashmere Bhatti - member of the Sikh community, Coordinator, Woolgoolga Neighbourhood Centre
- Haridian Ramirez - TAFE Outreach Coordinator (multicultural/language teacher)

## **S73 - Report on the Outcomes of the Multicultural Reference Group ... (Cont'd)**

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- Angelo Lauo - community representative has a multicultural background, (mature aged university student)
- Dagmar McIntyre - community representative has a multicultural background, German Tutor for DET

Two Councillors were appointed to the committee, Cr Clive Joass and Cr Gavin Smithers.

A special launch of the Group was held at the Regional Gallery in October 2006 and members of the general public were invited to come and meet their representatives.

### **The Role and Objective of the Group**

Council appointed the Multicultural Reference Group to be the mechanism for the engagement of Coffs Harbor's multicultural community and to enhance the profile of multiculturalism in the community. This report will outline the Group's outcomes since its appointment in 2006 and detail some of the initiatives planned for 2008.

Although having had little or no funding to assist them in promoting multiculturalism in the community this Group has achieved some major initiatives this year. Where there was minimal focus on this sector of the community there is now optimism and a recognition of Council's support. The following initiatives were undertaken by the Group this year to promote cultural diversity:

#### **21 March 2007 - Harmony Day Event "Musical Harmony" and Freedom Pole Dedication**

Held at the Bunker Cartoon Gallery, the event hosted an array of multicultural entertainment including singing, dance, music and food from countries including Liberia, Burundi, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Serbia, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Scotland, South America, the general community and others. Over 200 attended the evening highlighting the fact that the local community is eager to experience all things multicultural. Due to the overwhelming attendance and positive response a larger venue is being investigated for next year's event.

In addition, members of the Group attended CHEC Harmony Day activities where they manned an information stand promoting Council's Multicultural Reference Group, its purpose and encouraging young people to use the Group as the forum to raise matters of multicultural significance to them with Council. Additionally, TAFE multicultural students presented Council, as a gift to the City, with a Freedom Pole. Designed and created by the students under the direction of their art teacher, the Pole depicts "freedom" in both language and art and is on display in the gardens at the Coffs Street entrance to Council.

#### **19 May 2007 - International Families Day**

The Multicultural Reference Group in partnership with the Girl Guides Association (Coffs Harbour and Woolgoolga) held an International Families Day at the Girl Guide hall and adjoining reserve to bring families from differing cultures together in celebration and fun. Music, dance, traditional food, games and a good old Aussie barbeque created a relaxed atmosphere where people from differing cultures and the general community could come together to share their differences and get to know each other. The event was so successful that the Girl Guides have planned to host the event annually. (Footnote : the Girl Guides have received funding from Council's Art & Cultural Development Small Grants Program to assist them with next year's event.)



**23 June 2007 - Refugee Week**

Since becoming a Rural Refugee Resettlement Area, Coffs Harbour City has seen a steady increase in refugees migrating to the area from varying countries. Although for some, what they have had to endure before coming to Australia is disturbing, they look forward to becoming a productive member of the community and are positive about the future here. They are also very interested in sharing their culture and taking part in community activities. This year the Multicultural Reference Group in partnership with Anglicare hosted a Refugee Week event at the Jetty Theatre. It included stories from their past and hopes for the future, a short education film on the local Gumbaynggirr people and included dance, music and traditional food. The Jetty Theatre saw a full house for the event and it is hoped to revisit this activity next year, dependent on the acquisition of some funding.

**18 August 2007 - Anti-Discrimination Seminar**

The Multicultural Reference Group approached the Anti-Discrimination Board to request that they run some free seminars on the rights and responsibilities for migrants, the multicultural community in general, students, service providers and local business houses. The seminars were conducted by Clair Williams, Community Liaison Officer, Anti-Discrimination Board at the Botanic Gardens and both morning and afternoon sessions were well attended.

**18 September 2007 - African Cultural Awareness Forum**

The African Cultural Awareness Forum was an initiative of the Community Relations Commission, funded by the Premier's Department and administered by Council through the Multicultural Reference Group. Held at the Norm Jordon Pavilion the full day event was attended by 120 delegates and service providers from across the North Coast. The purpose of the Forum was to hear directly from the African community on their concerns pertaining to law and order, accommodation, education, employment, transport and youth. Seven individuals from within the African community spoke to an issue specific to them. The Forum also provided information from key service providers and a compelling address from Juliana Nkrumah, winner of the "Women of the West" Award on Refugees in Australia.

Those who attended the Forum commended the benefits of receiving direct insight into the concerns of the local African community. The Community Relations Commission in writing praised Council for its support of the event.

Over the year the Group has also assisted various external cultural groups with their initiatives these have included:

- Coffs Harbour's Council of Churches "Peace Pole" project;
- investigated the idea of setting up a migrant community market garden;
- assisted in acquiring rehearsal space for the African Youth Choir and Drum Group;
- recognising days of cultural significance; and
- assisting external groups with funding information.

The committee continues to offer support to any cultural group with projects deemed to be appropriate within their role of responsibility. The challenge for the Group is to undertake new projects and ongoing initiatives without the benefit of any ongoing funding. Grants and other avenues of assistance are constantly being investigated.

**Sustainability Assessment:**

- **Environment**

There are no environmental impacts.

- **Social**

The social impact of Council promoting and supporting the City's growing multicultural community through the Multicultural Reference Group initiatives is vital. By Council encouraging tolerance and embracing cultural diversity it demonstrates its commitment to the objectives set down in the Social and Community Strategic Plan 2006-2010 to the wider community.

- **Economic**

**Broader Economic Implications**

The Multicultural Reference Group does not receive any Council funding to assist them in the development or delivery of programs and initiatives. Some limited funding has been provided via the arts and cultural development vote however demand on these funds continues to grow. Council has provided in-kind support by way of advertising, venue hire, administration, printing and promotion etc. The Group has actively developed partnerships within the community to assist in staging multicultural activities and when able bear some of the financial burden to ensure these activities go ahead.

In July 2007 the Group applied for a Living in Harmony grant from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in the amount of \$10,000. The funds sought to assist the Group plan for activities in 2008. Although the application was shortlisted it was ultimately unsuccessful.

A small grant of \$250 was received from the Refugee Council for a Refugee Week event in May 2007. However, this funding alone was insufficient for the event to proceed. Council provided promotional/advertising assistance, the use of the Jetty Theatre as the venue and administration and technical support ensuring the event was a enormous success and a credit to all who were involved.

Funding of \$5,000 was also received from the Premier's Department to host the African Cultural Awareness Forum.

The Group will continue to investigate grant options however in most cases in-kind support and matched funding is a prerequisite for applying. With this in mind it is recommended that an amount of \$3,500 be flagged from the arts and cultural development vote to enable the Multicultural Reference Group to plan and undertake projects in 2008.

**Management Plan Implications**

Any financial impact on the Management Plan will be based on Council's approval to allocate funds each year so that the Group can continue to build on previous achievements. It is proposed that multicultural activities planned for up until June 2008 will require an amount of not less than \$2,500 as seeding funding. This allocation is able to be made from the existing arts and cultural development vote. In addition, it is requested that, within reason, hire fees be waived for facilities such as the Jetty Theatre, Bunker Cartoon Gallery, Council reserves and other similar venues when looking to hold a community multicultural activity. In the 2008/2009 budget ongoing funding for the Group will need to be considered.

**Consultation:**

The Multicultural Reference Group meets monthly to consider and consult on issues of significance to the multicultural community. This includes the planning of activities and events to promote multiculturalism in the community. Part of the planning process requires consultation with various multicultural groups and organisations within the community. This is undertaken to ensure the activity is culturally appropriate and that activities are designed for the whole community's involvement. Feedback on the activities undertaken in 2007 has been very positive with comments of "more of the same please". A planning workshop is proposed for December 2007 to develop further partnerships, encourage more community involvement and look at initiatives for 2008.

**Related Policy and / or Precedents:**

Council at its City Services Meeting of the 6 July, 2006 resolved to establish the Multicultural Reference Group as the mechanism to engage the multicultural community. The role of the group is to enhance the profile of multiculturalism in the community develop relationships with Council and the community, facilitate the promotion of the multicultural community in the planning, management and delivery of services and activities and positively promote cultural differences and the benefits those differences can have on the whole community. It is evident from the community's response thus far that this has been achieved.

**Statutory Requirements:**

There are no statutory requirements.

**Issues:**

When Council considered the adoption of a mechanism to engage the multicultural community the issue of what format the process would take was considered. It was resolved to appoint the Multicultural Reference Group as the point of reference where issues and ideas are forwarded for comment and from which proposals can be put to Council for consideration.

With this in mind the Group has developed some initiatives for 2008, which require further planning but are presented as a guide. They include:

- Harmony Day 2008 - a cultural event with music, food, dance and song at a venue to be determined and a youth art exhibition for high school students depicting "what does cultural harmony mean to me" - estimate cost \$1,000;
- Refugee Week Activity - storytelling, music, food, music and dance at a venue to be determine - estimated cost \$1,000;

## S73 - Report on the Outcomes of the Multicultural Reference Group ... (Cont'd)

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- Multicultural Short Film Night - short films from across the multicultural spectrum, youth fundraiser - estimated cost \$1,000;
- development of a learning centre for migrants - after school English classes - \$500;
- the development of an Ethnic Priority Statement (EPS) for Council's consideration; and
- the development of a "Refugee Welcome Zone" dedication for Council's consideration.

The costs associated with these last two items will be staff time only.

The issue for the Multicultural Reference Group is in undertaking their role to promote the benefits of multiculturalism in the community without some regular funding. This is in addition to actively sourcing other avenues of funding such as grants.

### **Implementation Date / Priority:**

The Multicultural Reference Group will have an ongoing role.

### **Recommendation:**

1. **That Council note the report outlining the outcomes of the Multicultural Reference Group and thank members their commitment in enhancing multiculturalism in the community.**
2. **That Council flag \$2,500 from the arts and cultural development vote to be used by the Multicultural Reference Group to undertake initiatives in 2008.**
3. **Consider voting an amount of \$4,000 in its 2008/2009 budget for ongoing multicultural initiatives.**
4. **That the ongoing reporting of the activities of the Multicultural Reference Group form part of the report of committees submitted to Council each financial year.**

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## **S74 WATER EFFICIENCY STRATEGIC PLAN - DRAFT REVIEW TO PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

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### **Purpose:**

The objective of this report is to inform Council that the draft Water Efficiency Strategic Plan (WESP) is proposed to be put on public exhibition by Clarence Valley Council, (Council partners in the Regional Water Supply Scheme), and submissions called from the Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley communities regarding this document.

### **Description of Item:**

The WESP (a copy of the draft Plan is available for viewing in the Councillors room) is the major non-build component of the Regional Water Supply Strategy (RWSS). WESP has now been in place and operating for approximately 10 years. It is a commitment to more ecologically sustainable use and management of Council's water supply, and a framework for a range of key action plans, which address how Council and the community manage and use water.

Licence requirements (Shannon Creek Dam License No 66010) calls for a fully functional WESP.

The WESP was reviewed in 2006/07 as part of the plan's aim to remain both effective and relevant. It is the reviewed document, which is the subject of this report. Placing the draft WESP on public exhibition should ensure community input and acceptance of the strategy and its initiatives.

### **Sustainability Assessment:**

- **Environment**

The WESP is Council's blueprint for minimising water consumption into the future, with links to the Sewerage Strategy for water reclamation and re-use. It also aims to enhance river health through protecting environmental flows, or by investigation and implementation of alternate water sources. Effective implementation of the WESP reduces demand for water and therefore increases the useful life of the new Shannon Creek Storage Dam, currently under construction, and delays the need for further dam building.

- **Social**

This Plan has been developed, reviewed and updated from active community input. It helps to understand how our community presently uses water, what the community knows about ecologically sustainable water use, and what measures they will accept. The WESP also has a role to play in Council strategies to provide for healthy, livable communities.

- **Economic**

WESP has been budgeted into Council's Water Supply budget as an integral component of its operations for many years now. For example, part of this budget offers Coffs Harbour City Council town water customers incentives to become more water efficient.

**Consultation:**

The aim of the Regional Water Supply Strategy (RWSS), including the WESP, is to promote and support Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour Council's working together to ensure security of water supply for residents of both the Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour areas. The success of the overall program depends on active and meaningful community involvement and productive partnerships between government, community interests and water users.

A broad cross section of community representatives have been involved from the beginning, starting with the workshop to provide foundation material for the WESP, held in Grafton in November, 1997. Regular meetings with the Water Efficiency Team (WET) since that time have been invaluable opportunities for community input. The WESP review, held in Grafton in June 2006, was again an open community workshop. Sustainable Futures Australia have been contracted to help develop and review the WESP.

**Related Policy and / or Precedents:**

The current WESP has been in use by Coffs Harbour Water and North Coast Water since 1998.

**Statutory Requirements:**

The WESP assists Council to comply with the NSW Department of Water and Energy **Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines (2004)** in that it forms an integral part of the **Water Supply Demand Management Plan**.

License requirements relevant to community involvement in the Water Efficiency Implementation Plan (WEIP), as per the Shannon Creek Dam License No 66010, reads "*The WEIP shall be prepared with a view to achieving the following objectives:*

- .....  
(iv) *favourable community attitude towards resource conservation*  
(v) *community involvement in it's development*  
(vi) *acceptance of the WEIP by the community*  
....."

**Issues:**

The WESP is the non-build component of the Regional Water Supply Strategy (RWSS) being implemented by Clarence Valley and Coffs Harbour City Councils; (the build component being the construction of a major water storage facility at Shannon Creek and associated pipelines). The WESP plays a vital role in reducing the need for a much larger water storage facility being built.

The Plan was established to cover a fifty-year time period to 2046. It has now been in place and operating for the first ten years of this period. It is a commitment to a more ecologically sustainable future in the way the Coffs Harbour community use and manage water in the region, and a framework for a range of key action plans to address these issues. To remain relevant to the Coffs Harbour community, the WESP needs to be regularly updated with stakeholder involvement.

## S74 - Water Efficiency Strategic Plan - Draft Review to Public Exhibition ... (Cont'd)

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Implementation of the current WESP in Coffs Harbour has been ongoing since 1998, and combined with existing initiatives, has achieved some excellent outcomes. For instance, with 100% self-funding for rebates, Coffs Harbour City Council and the local community, up to April 2007, has subsidised thousands of water efficient showers and dual flush toilets, as detailed in the table below.

<b>Number of Rebates</b>	<b>Amount of water saved (ML)</b>
4,663 water efficient shower heads	457.41 ML* saved through shower heads since 2001
2,241 dual-flush toilet cisterns	95.31 ML# of water saved through dual-flush cistern program since 1993

\* Calculation based on 365 days/yr, 2.8 persons/house, original shower 25 litres/minute, new shower 9 litres/minute, 1 x 6 minute shower/person/day, 1 shower/house. Saving of 98.1KL/house/yr.

# Calculation based on 365 days/yr, 2.8 persons/house, original toilet 12 litres, new toilet 6/3 litres, ratio of use 4xhalf:1xfull flush/day, 1 toilet/house. Saving of 42.9KL/house/yr.

Add the rebate programs to the large variety of other water efficient strategies outlined in the WESP, and it becomes clear as to why, since 1985, there has been a 66.2 per cent increase in population in the Coffs Harbour LGA, with a corresponding increase in total annual water consumption of just 13 per cent. In that same time, there has been a 32 per cent decrease in per capita water use.

In annual NSW Government Performance Reports, Coffs Harbour households are consistently among the most water efficient in the State. For instance, in 05/06, the NSW average was 190kl per household per year. Coffs Harbour residents used just 184kl per household per year.

Reviewing and updating the WESP will ensure that the water efficient strategies in it will continue to be relevant and will continue to deliver effective demand management for our community.

### **Implementation Date / Priority:**

It is proposed that the draft WESP document will be placed on public exhibition across the region at the end of December, 2007 and close mid February, 2008, with the final report incorporating community submissions submitted to Council meeting in April 2008.

### **Recommendation:**

**Council notes that the draft Water Efficiency Strategic Plan (WESP) is proposed to be put on public exhibition in December, 2007 by Clarence Valley Council and submissions called from the Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley communities.**

**Jason R Gordon**  
**Director of City Services**