

Livingstone Local Advisory Community Catch-Ups

Group Meeting Details

Livingstone Local Advisory Committee		Date: 29 July – 15 August 2013	
Meeting Leader: Graeme Kanofski		De-amalgamation Community Catch-Ups	
Start Time: 7:00pm	Duration: 2.00 hours	Location: Cawarral, The Caves, Marlborough, Byfield, Emu Park and Yeppoon Halls.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Line Management Agenda issued 2 days prior	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Operational Agenda issued 2 days prior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Agenda issued 5 days prior	<input type="checkbox"/> Toolbox Agenda issued 2 days prior

Attendance Record

Name	Name	Name
Graeme Kanofski – present at all meetings	Bruce Young MP – present at all meetings	Grant Cassidy – an apology
Gary Kerr – present at all meetings	Katie Mitchell – present at all meetings	

Discussion Items

Graeme opened the meeting on behalf of the Livingstone Local Advisory Committee and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Livingstone Local Advisory Committee consists of four members:

- Bruce Young, our local State Member;
- Gary Kerr, representing Capricorn Coast Business Alliance;
- Grant Cassidy, representing Capricorn Enterprise; and
- The Transfer Manager.

He emphasised that tonight is not to discuss operational requests, these are to be directed to Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) up until 31 December 2013 by phoning customer service on 1300 22 55 77.

The objective of these De-amalgamation Community Catch-Ups is to share some information and answer questions on the process and get feedback from the community on priorities for the new Council including communication strategies with residents.

Graeme provided details of his experience which includes a thirty-six year career in Local Government with twenty of those years as CEO. His last full time role was CEO of the Gladstone Regional Council until he retired in July 2011. Graeme was the transition CEO for the amalgamation of the former Gladstone, Calliope and Miriam Vale Councils;

Graeme's explained that the position of Livingstone Transfer Manager:

- Is an employee of the Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience which reports to the Director General. His costs will ultimately be met by the new Livingstone Shire Council (LSC) as a de-amalgamation cost.
- Basically acts in the interests of the new Council which comes into being on 1 January 2014.
- Gains its authority from Qld legislation being the Local Government (De-amalgamation Implementation) Regulation 2013 and its associated document titled the Transfer Methodology which is available on the Departments website
<http://www.dlg.qld.gov.au/de-amalgamation-transfer-methodology/local-government/boundaries-commission/de-amalgamation-transfer-methodology.html>

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Graeme's tasks as Transfer Manager include:

- preparation and maintenance of a transfer action plan (TAP), The TAP is a constant work in progress and records key steps with associated milestones, progress and completion deadlines required to ensure the new Council is established and in a position to act effectively from changeover day.
- the transfer of contractual arrangements, assets, liabilities and documents from the continuing Council to the new Council as approved by the Transfer Committee. The transfer methodology sets out the basis on which these splits occur.
- develop an interim organisational structure for the new Council and match employees transferring to the new Council to that structure and, where necessary, engage new employees to fill required positions. The regulation provides that the RRC must transfer between 325 and 400 employees over to the LSC. 392 full time equivalent positions will transfer to the new Council.
- following identification of the plant and equipment to be transferred to the new Council, arrange where necessary, procurement of any new plant and equipment required to enable continuity of business and service to the community from the changeover day.
- establishment of business systems for the new Council, including information and communications technology, data and knowledge management systems, corporate software applications, financial and assets management systems, property and rating systems, regulatory systems, human resource management and payroll systems.
- develop an interim budget for consideration by the new Council after changeover day. Amendments to the Local Government Act will provide the new LSC with the power to set a new budget and set a new rate in the dollar if they choose; they have until 31 January 2014 to complete this task.

Graeme advised that the De-amalgamation Regulation states that the new Council will be called Livingstone Shire Council; however the new Council can make application to the Minister to change the name if they wish. During the initial phase the new Council will have plain wrap branding with no logo as it will be up to the new LSC and community to decide on both the name and logo. On 01/01/14 the uniforms, buildings, vehicles etc will only have stickers with the name on them to minimise costs.

Bruce Young MP provided the following information:

- The de-amalgamation process provides a unique opportunity to build an effective and forward thinking organisation.
- The Local Government Minister will set the election date for late in the current calendar year.
- Significant debt will come over from RRC and availability of State funding will be minimal. Service delivery for the new LSC will basically mean that they will be required to do more with less. The only State funding that is currently available is the Royalty for Regions program.
- Queensland Plan – transcends all political boundaries, shaping the future what you want for Qld for the next thirty years. A few weeks ago each MP had the opportunity to take three business people with them to a workshop to discuss the Queensland Plan. He took Jeff Clarke, a Radiologist, and Brian Smith from Rocky's Own Transport and the CEO of Catholic Education. Out of that workshop came the six questions on the back of the survey available to the community here tonight; the survey can be completed on line <http://queenslandplan.qld.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say/index.html> or completed and posted to Bruce's office.
- Some fact sheets on pension rebates were also made available.
- Bruce emphasised that his office has paid for the hire of the community halls for these Community Catch-Ups, so this cost doesn't go to de-amalgamation costs.

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- The de-amalgamation project process has run quite smoothly to date. We have a blank canvas for the new LSC, we have to look forward not back to the past. The Community Catch-Ups are to engage with the community to obtain their thoughts.

Gary Kerr, President of CCBA:

- Capricorn Coast Business Alliance – what it is and its role in representing the business community on the coast, similar to a chamber of commerce.
- Undertaking an economic development strategy to present to the new Council.
- Importance of understanding levels of engagement expected by local communities.
- Figure out appropriate methods of engagement such as a Community Reference Committee.
- Consider a new name for the new Council.

Questions and Answers from all Meetings

Q – Will there be some financial advice on what the new LSC can do? A – A draft budget will be prepared for the new LSC. The new Council are required to bring down a budget before 31 January 2014 without a corporate or operation plan to assist them with this process. These meetings will provide input into the budget process via the TAP. Andy Ireland, LSC Director Corporate Services, is researching information from the QTC and RRC budget for the first six months and previous year to prepare the draft budget for the new LSC. In the initial budget Council will consider some big ticket items, e.g. what services are to be provided and how many staff are needed to supply them.

Q – Does the Mayor prepare the budget? A – Legislatively the Mayor leads the process but Councillors have crucial input as well.

Q – Next few budgets will be a no frills budget. Aren't we starting off behind what we left? A – The financial position is moderate for the future, if the new LSC is fiscally responsible you have a good starting point.

Q – New draft budget – will any of the \$9,830,000 be factored into the rates? A – Approximately \$6,000,000 will be straight de-amalgamation costs, \$4,000,000 is costs for the set up of IT, a loan can be taken for the IT cost to spread it over time, but the \$6,000,000 has to be paid by 31/12/14. There are things they can do to reduce the debt with less impact on ratepayers e.g. can cut the programs to fund it, etc

Q – How much of \$6,000,000 will be allocated in the draft budget? A – Some will be included in the first six month budget to 30/06/14 with the remainder in the next six months till 30/12/14; this is up to new LSC to decide.

Q – Will you be the acting CEO to guide new LSC? A - Graeme becomes a/CEO up until the new LSC appoints the new CEO and Graeme will be guiding the new LSC through the initial budget process. Graeme is only setting up interim arrangements, initially there will be no change to service levels, new LSC will decide on what services and what will be supplied in the future.

Q – Is RRC responsible for disasters up to 31/12/13? A- Yes, but as LSC we need to be ready as of midnight 31/12/13 and we need to be ready for a handover at that time if we are in a disaster at that time.

Q - Can the State Government assist? A - The State has an overarching responsibility for disaster management which starts at the Local level.

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Q – The SES does not know what’s going on, they can’t prepare for any disasters after 01/01/14? A - The LSC Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) is one of the services being created for operation as at 01/01/14, there are 7 SES groups in the new LSC, both the RRC CEO and Graeme are currently investigating this scenario. There are legal issues in relation to the process as the new Council has to appoint the LDCC Executive, but they can’t do this until the new Council has been sworn in. The legal structure is being worked on by the Department at the moment. The worst case scenario is if a natural disaster is imminent and if legislation isn’t in place by 01/01/14 Graeme will swear in the new Council at 12.01am on 01/01/14 and pass the required resolutions.

Q – Will there be any shared services e.g. water? A - No. We have to enter into a contract with FRW to have water supplied to the pipeline, there is currently discussion on where the take off points are from the pipeline.

Q – What about water from Waterpark Creek? A - There is still water drawn from here, but it cannot serve all of LSC needs.

Q – We won’t drive to Yeppoon to use the library; all of our business is done in Rockhampton? A - There has been discussion on the library services being shared. The current service would be beneficial as a shared service to both communities and should be contemplated. In summary, we are still investigating a shared library service; a report will go to the RRC Council table in the near future. Library software will be replicated; there was an arrangement prior to amalgamation with shared library services.

Q – What about waste services? A - LSC waste section will get some truck drivers and trucks. New Council to decide how waste services will be supplied in the future. Recycling contract will come over to LSC as this service is already provided on a regional basis.

Q – What will happen with the projects currently under way? A – Any current projects will continue to completion unless the new LSC decides differently. New LSC will be looking at capital works projects for the new budget.

Q – Will the new LSC get any new projects? A – The uncompleted projects within the new LSC area but approved in the RRC budget will roll over to the LSC. There will be a substantial amount of outstanding capital projects in this category. New projects are a matter for the new Council to decide.

Q – Is LSC inheriting the works completed or proposed works that have not been done by RRC? A – Yes, what is on the current capital works program rolls over to the new Council as at 01/01/14.

Q - What is the projected cost of the capital works program and its impact on rates? A – A \$10,000,000 capital works program is already funded and is part of the debt coming over. These details are listed in the 2013/14 budget on the RRC website.

Q – The community has heard that LSC have been “flicked” the worst staff. A – The RRC CEO did not have to ask staff for their preference but he did and accommodated just over 90% of preferences. We have some really good staff coming to LSC. In an organisation of 400 you will have a range of skill sets and enthusiasm but Graeme stated that we have an excellent pool of talent to progress the new organisation.

Q - Have heard a lot of the staff who have come across to LSC are the ageing staff near retirement, is this true? A – The statement is true in terms that generally in local government in

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this State we have an ageing workforce. This region follows the State trend. It was certainly not a consideration in respect to staff allocations between the two Councils.

Q - How did they get to 392 to be sent to LSC, there was only 320 staff prior to amalgamation and the Shire hasn't grown that much since 2008? A – RRC determined how many staff they required given their budgetary constraints and the balance of staff was allocated to LSC. The new LSC has to decide what services the community requires and can afford and then “right size” the organisation to match that.

Q – Will the new LSC have to fund staff redundancy payments? A – Yes, QTC did provide for \$1,000,000 for redundancy payments as part of their de-amalgamation cost estimates.

Q - LSC has gained some long term RCC employees was there a formula for this? A – Tenure with a previous Council was not a criteria considered in selecting staff to be transferred.

Q - How many staff is RRC above since levels at amalgamation (i.e. LSC got extra 70, how many extra do they have)? A - RRC has extra staff since amalgamation as well. Staff statistics prior to 2008 were somewhat unreliable because some were based on total staff numbers rather than Full Time Equivalent staff numbers on which the current statistics are based.

Q – Will there be enough work for 392 staff? A – There is a large capital works program coming over to LSC. Ultimately this is a budgetary related decision for the new Council.

Q – Will Long Service Leave costs come over with the 392 staff and what is the mix of clerical to external staff ratio? A – The current LSC structure has in Corporate Services Department approximately 50 staff, the Community & Planning Department has approximately 50 staff and the Infrastructure Services Department has the balance of staff. Leave balances are taken into consideration in the transfer.

Q - Will there be enough equipment on 01/01/14 for staff to conduct their duties? A – The split of plant and equipment is currently being assessed; however generally speaking equipment located in a geographical area (e.g. The Caves, Marlborough, etc) will stay where it is currently located. Staff and equipment will be located in their geographical location prior to 01/01/14 to ensure a smooth transition of services to the community on day one.

Q – I've heard that LSC will have more trainees and apprentices than RRC? A – Currently there aren't many trainees in Council to transfer anywhere.

Q – How many staff will be required for new LSC? A – This will be the task of the new Council to consider during its budget process. It's about what services it will require and the structure needed to supply the services. If staff are made redundant with the new LSC there are provisions in the EB agreement for that. Statistics show that there is normally a 10% natural attrition rate in local government which assists during any restructure process.

Q – Can you provide an update on the estimated level of debt that LSC will receive? A – We can't give a final figure on debt at this stage as it forms part of the asset & liability split we are currently working through. The community will need to fund the de-amalgamation debt of approx. \$9,830,000 debt prior to 31/12/14. There will be a fairly large capital projects program coming over for LSC. The QTC assessed the new LSC as having a moderate rating of sustainability, but it will need to run an efficient organisation to remain at that standing. In the initial stage it would be better to take a bit more debt than to run the cash down as that would limit your flexibility.

Q – What will the LSC Cash Flow be? A – The QTC did an estimate but the final figure will not

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be known until January 2011. The new Council will have to levy rates in early February for the six months to 30/6/14. The QTC estimated the new LSC will receive \$50,000,000 cash but the figure will be less than that amount as the QTC figure stated was calculated at 30 June 2012, there has been a lot of transactions since that date.

Q – What was the debt when we amalgamated and what is the new debt the community will get? A – Graeme advised that he did not have these figures with him. (These figures have since been established; LSC prior to amalgamation was \$29,600,000. QTC estimate 30/6/12 for LSC share is \$73,600,000).

Q – Why does LSC have to pay for RRC portion of the de-amalgamation? A – The Regulations state that LSC has to pay all de-amalgamation costs which are estimated to be \$9,830,000. The question on the de-amalgamation ballot indicated that this was the arrangement.

Q - How many ratepayers will be in LSC area? A – The population in new LSC will be approximately 33,000 with approximately 16,450 rateable properties. The \$429 fee quoted is the de-amalgamation cost divided by each rateable property in LSC. The new LSC has to decide how to fund this cost.

Q – Spending of revenue in certain areas, is there any structure for where Council is to spend in different areas of the Shire? A – It is for the new Council to decide where money is spent and what is required in each location as part of the budget.

Q – Is there scope for the external audit committee to be a shared service? A - In August or early September an advert will be placed in the newspaper for expressions of interest for members to be part of the LSC Audit Committee who will be appointed by the new Council. Current members of the RRC audit committee could apply.

Q – When will the election be held? A – The election can't be announced until after the Federal election as ECQ require a 6 week gap between the respective elections. Minister will no doubt announce once the Federal election is announced.

Q – Where can information be found for intending candidates? A – ECQ has a very good website and the Department of Local Government and Planning has information for candidates available on that website as well. <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor/> and <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/best-practice-and-information/local-government/resources-lg/best-practice-and-information.html>

Q – What is the option for voting for residents who will be overseas? A - Voting will be compulsory and postal votes will be available for this election for anyone who is away from the area at the time.

Q – Will LSC be a divisional Council? A – There will be six Councillors and a Mayor with the Council being undivided, which means those with the highest vote get the position.

Q – How many Councillors have nominated for LSC so far? A - Nominations for Councillors have about a three week period to nominate after the election is announced.

Q – Will the LSC Councillors be full time positions? A – Councils of this size will be devoting most of their time on Council activities, not necessarily sitting in an office, but attending community events, etc.

Q – What will their wage be? A – There is a remuneration tribunal which sets Councillor wages

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dependent on the Council's band level. They will put out a report before the end of the year.

Q - Councillor wages appear low compared with an Administration Officer wage? A – That is a matter for the Tribunal. It is up to each Councillor the level of commitment to the task.

Q - No divisions' means they'll (Councillors) all come from Yeppoon. A – Not necessarily, as good rural candidates do get elected throughout the State. In a smaller Shire it is better not to have divisions and Councillors can get to all areas of the Shire rather than their own division. Comment – Keppel Sands has not seen a local Councillor in the area for a long time, we have to contact a Rockhampton Councillor to get anything done. Where are the Councillors from Division 2 and 3 tonight; we only see Cr Mather at any meetings.

Q - How will the ballot paper for elections work? A – The ballot paper will list the names of all candidates; you get to vote for the six representatives you want to elect for Council. A separate ballot is conducted for Mayor.

Q – If I prepay rates and I'm in credit, what happens with my credit? A – It will come over to LSC.

Q – Will the dump fees be increased? A – That is up to the new LSC to decide.

Q – Do Councillors have a Code of Conduct; it doesn't seem like it in RRC? A - Cr Mather advised the Councillors are reminded regularly of the Code, Council is multi faceted and when you don't get the support from the Councillor table, it can sometimes get emotional. Graeme said it is good to have debate re issues at the Council table but it should not get personal; debate on an issue and its priority is the sign of a healthy democracy.

Q – If there is a name change for the new Council how long will it take to change the name? A – It will be up to the new Council to apply to the Minister to change the name.

Q – Can you put the name choice with the vote at the election? A- No ECQ run the elections and therefore this opportunity is not available.

Q - Can we do a mail out re the name change to all residents within the boundary of the new Council? A – This will be up to the new Council to decide.

Q – Can the name be decided prior to the new Council being elected? A - No, it's up to the new Council to make the decision whether to make an application to the Minister for a name change or not.

Q – Who decides the logo of the new Council? It would be a good idea to have the school children contribute to the new Council name and logo as they are our future. A – This is a matter for the new Council.

Q – How will the asset split work? A – A draft methodology was developed by the QTC prior to the de-amalgamation vote. The Local Government Department has since approved the final methodology which is available on their website.

Q – How will we know if the asset division decided on 01/01/14 is fair? A – The review process for the community is the Auditor General or their appointed auditors who will scrutinise the final asset balance values for RRC of which part will include the initial asset values for LSC.

Q – Will LSC be using the old Anzac Parade building for a Council Chambers? A - The old

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Council Chambers room has been split in half and the boardroom table chopped in half and removed. We have leased the old Centrelink building in Queen Street where the boardroom and twenty staff will be located. This was the most cost effective way to set the boardroom up. There will only be public access to this building on Council meeting days.

Q – What is the length of the lease for the Centrelink building? A – It is a one year lease with an option to extend to a five year lease.

Comment – The de-amalgamation vote wasn't done fairly. Votes on the Coast where more population voted yes but there are six other locations in the Shire who voted no. A – That is the democratic process. We need to move on and implement the change.

Q- Will there be a rate rise? A – QTC originally calculated about \$243 per property as the one off de-amalgamation costs however it is the new Council who will decide how this cost will be funded i.e. rate rise or reduce costs. Ultimately the new Council will decide on any rate rise during the January budget process.

Q – Why do I have to pay the debt if I didn't vote for this? A – You have been part of a democratic process and you need to vote for good Councillors to ensure you get a good deal;

Q – Will the \$9,830,000 debt have to be repaid in full? A - Yes by 31 December 2014.

Q – Will the advised debt be all of the debt we get or will there be get more debt? A – The final debt figure is still being determined.

Q – What will the rating system be at 01/01/14? A – LSC will have the existing rating system model with some options presented to them in January 2014. The new Council will decide the rating system. Given the tight timeframe it is more likely that any major changes to the rating structure will be made by the new LSC for the 2014/2015 budget.

Q – The previous State Government paid an amount to RRC to assist with amalgamation why not de-amalgamation? A – The State did not pay a figure to RRC for amalgamation, only certain Councils received this.

Q – Then both State Governments have made a decision which resulted in a \$20,000,000 debt to LSC. A – The amalgamation was forced upon us, no choice was given. This time a choice was given, voters went to the poll with the cost advised at the vote.

Q - Infrastructure – how old is LSC sewer pipes? A – The assets located in the LSC area are generally a lot younger than within the City of Rockhampton.

Q - Can the Governor General do something about a Council which is not performing? A – Ultimately the State Government can dismiss any Council. The Government monitors every Council's sustainability and performance. LSC was classed as moderate for sustainability if it maintains its 10 year plan. It will require some careful management; it will need to be fiscally responsible.

Q - QTC says the 10 year outlook is moderate, can they borrow more? A – There is an allowance for more borrowings in the plan. All Council borrowings throughout the State are through the QTC who provide the most competitive rate to local government.

Q – We should start lobbying the Federal Government now for army roads funding? A – This Committee's job is to create the new organisation to be operational as of 01/01/14; any

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lobbying with the Federal Government is for the new Council.

Q – What happens with our existing issues lodged with RRC? A - Existing issues and requests will be transferred over from RRC to LSC.

Q – Will the new LSC have to purchase water from RRC? A - Graeme is negotiating a price with RRC for water purchase post 01/01/14. The Qld Competition Authority is the body who will oversee this process. There has to be a formal contract for the supply of bulk water. Once the take off point is decided, a meter will be put there and then LSC will pay to RRC the amount of water being consumed.

Q - Is that allocation paid for by the community? A – Only the water users pay for the water allocation through their water charge.

Q – Glenmore Water Treatment Plant is located on two blocks of land. One belongs to LSC, what will happen with the splitting of this asset? A- It is like any other asset; the value gets accounted for in the split irrespective which party end up with the asset.

Q – Mining and Gas – how does Council get involved whether you get a gas plant in your area? A - That is a State Government area under the powers under the Mining Act. Council has no more power than a resident. Bruce Young will take the question on notice. Regulations are being put in place for this issue.

Q – Does CCBA truly represent businesses throughout the community; it represents 97 businesses on the Coast only? A – Not all businesses are proactive within the community in which they are located. CCBA was invited to be a member of the Local Advisory Committee as it was proactive in the de-amalgamation process. Capricorn Enterprise also represents business operators throughout the region. Any business can contact either Gary Kerr or Grant Cassidy if they have any issues they wish to have discussed.

Q – If the electricity costs reduce will the rates be decreased e.g. carbon tax? A – If there is a reduction then it will be a budget saving to Council. Whilst electricity costs are significant for local government it would have to be said that overall the carbon tax is only a relatively small proportion of the costs incurred by Local Government.

Q - Privatisation of assets e.g. Beachside Caravan Park? A – this can not happen as this caravan park is located on State reserve land and the money received on the commercial use of that land must be spent in that area.

Q - Northern Access Road is that going to happen? A – Bruce Young advised a feasibility study was undertaken and due to the cost, this project will not proceed.

Q – Is Keppel island part of LSC? A – Yes the boundary of the former LSC will be the boundary of the new LSC.

Q – Can LSC change the boundary for those communities who did not want de-amalgamation? A – Yes this can be done. Council would need to make application to the Minister who would then refer the matter to the Boundary Commissioner for community consultation and preparation of a recommendation back to the Minister.

Q – What happened with the State Forestry land in the Byfield area that was handed back? A - The land was sold to a Canadian company called Hancock who are in the process of selling the freehold land portions, however they can't sell the State Forest land as this has a 99 year

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lease over it.

Q - What are the covenants on the freehold land? A – When the draft maps of the LSC Planning Scheme are released you need to look at the proposed zonings and make comment on them.

Comment – The Cultural Places Pilot Program – The Federal Government provided \$5,000,000 for 3 years approximately 12-18 months ago. This funding needs to be included in the split of the de-amalgamation costs. It was a pilot program for significant arts funding. This should not be absorbed by RRC.

Gary has spoken to Rod Ainsworth, the Creative Producer of the Creative Capricorn program which is funded under the Cultural Places Pilot Program. He advised that the Australia Council for the Arts, the funding body, has indicated that the geographic coverage of the program, i.e. the current Rockhampton Region, will remain unchanged as a result of de-amalgamation. Therefore the new Livingstone Shire will continue to be involved with the Creative Capricorn program until it finishes at the end of 2014.

Q – What are the plans to continue services for youth, family and elderly in the region? A – The new LSC decides what services it will provide and at what level to all sectors in the community.

Q – Will there be a pound in the new LSC? A – This is currently a work in progress.

Q – The Yeppoon Dog pound was closed in September 2012 due to WH&S issues for staff and animal welfare, will this be reopened? A – We are currently investigating a couple of options to provide a pound service as of 01/01/14. Graeme will advise what temporary arrangements he has put in place closer to 31/12/13 to the Barpo Sub-Committee meeting as previously advised to this group.

Q – Will contact be made with RSPCA and CAA re what their role will be as of 01/01/14? A – Discussion has commenced with a proposal being compiled to enable further discussions with both of these organisations. Graeme needs to ensure the services are operational to provide care for the animals at the minimum costs as of 01/01/14.

Q – Will there be any changes to the operation of the Community Development Centre? A – This service will be maintained as it currently operates as of 01/01/14; it will then be for the new Council to decide.

Q - Braithwaite Street was in the capital works program for this budget, nothing has been done as yet? A – All outstanding or incomplete projects will come across to the new LSC. The draft budget will include the projects. If a project has not been commenced the new Council has the right to review whether it proceeds or not.

Q – How will the Fleet be split? A – A significant proportion of the former LSC fleet was leased not owned by Council, these leases have since expired. In the split, if one Council gets more assets than they are entitled under the methodology, a cash adjustment would be made to compensate for this.

Q - Is there is a portfolio to sell assets to help cover the debt and will that be presented to new LSC? A – The new LSC will be provided with a balance sheet. There were some land assets that were identified by RRC to be sold, but these sales have been deferred for the new LSC to consider.

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What does your community want to see the new LSC do?

Cawarral Catch- Up 29 July 2013

Roads

Cawarral get nothing in relation to road maintenance out here, there is no water or sewerage, so our roads is the most important service. The crews go over the potholes but don't fill them properly.

Flood damage response times are too slow for the major repairs.

There needs to be the ability for land owners to contract our teams to do accesses to private properties i.e. contracting LSC staff whilst grading in the area to grade property accesses.

Drainage e.g. in front of the school, Council needs to do an audit on the rural road network.

Planning

Diversity of the isolated communities needs to be recognised e.g. Byfield becomes our Montville. Need to recognise what is good, build it and sell what is good about each community.

We've had a lot of community meetings and have already done all of this but Council has done nothing with the information that was collated.

Communications

LSC to look at all of the organisations who promote our area and promote it as a whole rather than a fractured region.

Cawarral needs to get a Rate Payers Association that meet and invite the Councillors; these associations are the way of the future. Have a delegate of each small ratepayers association to meet with a larger body association and represent the whole region.

Set up a business development centre policies e.g. invest in the construction industry and bring twenty jobs to the community and then Council may reduce the fees to encourage the development.

Establish an Economic Development Sub-Committee with LSC and the business community involved which reports to Council.

Have a Community Development Committee with ratepayers associations involved. We have to explore all avenues that will engage with the community to the maximum benefit. The needs and interests of each community will be different.

The Community needs to engage with the Council to determine what services it wants and those that it doesn't.

The general rate is tax based on the value of your property, not like waste rate which is a set amount; need to get the structures in the rating system right so value is seen in the rate dollar.

A Progress Association is the fire in the belly of the community to provide their needs to the new LSC.

Livingstone Local Advisory Community Catch-Ups

The Caves Catch-Up 31 July 2013

General Comments.

Since amalgamation parts of the community have moved forward e.g. Yeppoon and Emu Park, best it has looked for a long time; hope we don't go backwards, have improved over past few years, we need to continue to improve.

Planning issues with subdivision need to be addresses especially in relation to water supply.

Need regional and economic development to develop or maintain services in our community.

The Rockhampton show went in direct conflict to the Yeppoon show, no help, it was a financial rather than a moral decision, they need to provide more support to the smaller community's shows for an example, show some interest.

Consider CBD zoning for the townships. This will give the community a lot more flexibility on what goes into the community.

The land and hall leases on local government land and payment of insurances is a real issue for these communities. Former LSC paid the insurance as it was for the community and run by the community. The new LSC needs to assist in this area.

Water scheme for The Caves is different to the Coast water use costs. It's a service that Council needs to review in its charging methodology.

Roads

Rural people don't expect a lot more than good roads and floodways; give us a good road and you won't have much problem, we don't require much more than that.

Roads are the number one issue in this area.

Council to keep their depots in the regional area to stop staff travel time back to Yeppoon.

Communication

Ratepayers associations have a huge amount of clout, that way the association lodges requests the issues of the community than one or two people.

Rural people like some respect and interest and connection and ownership that they lost at amalgamation. New Council needs to pull the communities back together; show them some respect that they do belong to the Shire.

Marlborough-1st August 2013

Rating

The rural rating category – want to see some fairness in this category, we've been treated differently, we have a flat rate with an unimproved value and rate in the dollar.

Need to see a banding for the rural rating category. 7% ratepayers pay 43% of the rural category rates.

Ogmore rating system is rural residential rating schedule. The water rates are equivalent to RRC but they have non potable water, we pay more than Rockhampton for water access but we only get access to water for 2days/week at 2hours/day and we can't drink the water.

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Ogmore - There has been talk to remove the current waste station; Ogmore wants the current service to stay exactly as it is.

Object to paying for water to RRC. Former LSC had a license to pump water out of Sandy and Water Park Creeks, to get the pipeline project approved LSC surrendered the Sandy Creek allocation. Our debt should've been paid when we gave up that allocation. Object to the new water agreement. That was done to appease RRC.

FRW took over Marlborough water; had a tower built near the school, put the water in the tank which requires electricity to pump the water to the community. The tank needs to be either recommissioned or destroyed; FRW should have to pay this cost. FRW should do this before 01/01/14.

General Comments

This community never goes to Yeppoon; all business is done in Rockhampton. Two Councillors of RRC represented the rural divisions; one of them got all of the money for Sporting Associations and nothing for the rural residents.

The Community felt this was worthwhile and would like another forum at the end of the year to introduce the new Councillors.

Roads

Rural roads – fill the potholes properly as soon as a semi goes over after it's been repaired there's a pothole again. They grade just before it rains and then it gets washed away.

Would like the new Council to investigate the use of contractors, if it can be done cheaper, the gravel roads are not getting maintained properly. If there is an option to do it more efficiently this should be investigated.

An entire crew come and grade the road and do a good job, the drain is then cleaned out in the meantime and a lot of material gets washed away. Roads are only maintained every twelve months. Just need a grade more often; this is when contractors would be of use. Rural roads need better management, not the whole crew and plant, just a grader.

Communication

Would like to see all of the Councillors come out and talk to the people, we never see them, they stay in Yeppoon, this community never sees them. We need to see more of the elected members at community gatherings. If elected members can't come to the small communities, send a representative more often to listen and do something about the issues raised, not collect the information and leave without every receiving information or a result.

The Council had adopted the Community Plan, smaller communities gave information and then the hierarchy decided to stop it, this needs to be recommenced.

Ogmore doesn't get very much direct communication. Council needs to send notifications to every ratepayer.

Byfield – 11 August 2013

Waste

Will they continue to have a Transfer Station in Byfield? Don't want a mobile garbage service as a lot of people recycle in this community. Byfield wants to maintain their Transfer Station as it is currently operating.

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Development

This community doesn't want any more subdivision in the area.

Library

Byfield doesn't want to lose its library service.

Roads

Rural road maintenance program – drainage and maintenance and grading of roads is a huge priority here.

RRC uses poison rather than mowing around the guide post, this isn't good for the environment and it's a fire hazard as well. The poison doesn't fix anything the grass still stays there and sometimes they poison the surrounding bush area rather than just around the guide posts.

The new LSC should make the Yeppoon Road into a two lane road rather than one lane as it's very dangerous. New LSC should lobby the State hard to have this road made into two lanes.

Cultural Identity

Cultural identity for the entire LSC region; this is a challenge for this region. What makes us proud? New LSC needs to choose a good name for the region and do a consensus for the entire region, need to create a sense of place and give the community pride in their region.

Yeppoon – 14 August 2013

Community Services

The CDC is running at a dangerously low staff level, Council has a degree of responsibility for the safety of this facility. It needs to give a lot of consideration to the Library, Verbyl, Senior Services.

New Attitude

From 01/01/14 the new LSC has to stop the negativity that has been shown and just get on with business, forget about the past, work towards the future. We still will need to communicate with RRC after 01/01/14, approach them with the "olive leaf" to develop this relationship.

This is a golden opportunity to start a new entity, forget about the old LSC traditions as these can be a collection of bad habits, get rid of some of the middle management that former LSC had in its structure. The community wants a new Council not the old Council coming back again.

Council should look at the past and learn from it and not make the same mistakes. We need to make profit in our community. We created lower affordability housing land at Capricorn Gardens and Council made millions from this, it needs to be done again.

Most State and Federal Government Departments want to associate themselves with positive and enthusiastic people To get our fair share of funding this is how our Council needs to be seen.

Our elected members need to show up to community meetings so the community can speak to them and get some feedback from them.

When the new Council makes decisions they need to include all localities, not just centralise everything on what Yeppoon's needs are.

The New Council needs to go on a bus trip of the entire Shire area and be shown the issues. We need a Council operating as a whole with every Councillor responsible to meet all the community and the area.

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Sustainability Ideas

We need to have sustainable development and encouragement and support for eco-tourism, this is a beautiful part of the world, use its beauty and natural attributes in the best possible way.

Use more renewable energy e.g. solar panels for street lighting.

We should look at the past and learn from it and not make the same mistakes. We need to make a profit. We created lower affordability land at Cap Gardens and Council made millions from it, we need to make affordable housing or manufacture to create employment or money. We can have the good things later, not get more debt; that is vital. Have to live within our means, pull together as a community. Our volunteers make this a great community.

Be an RV friendly community and get grey nomads to spend money here, provide them with free camp so they will spend their money in our community for the 2-3 days that they're visiting.

Great Keppel Island revitalisation project we do need extra infrastructure to support this, State or Fed funding, need a boat ramp in the area to help the area grow. Mining sector come here and opt to live in Gladstone or Mackay.

Healthy Lifestyle Infrastructure

From central Yeppoon to Farnborough there are no tennis courts nor foot ball fields, etc. A good sporting facility should be built for easy access for the youth in this area. There is nothing between Kinka Beach and Yeppoon.

The railway reserve needs to be preserved as we have rapid growth which will need transit between Coast and Rockhampton and Airport. We don't need an expensive bitumen cycle way in this rail corridor.

We need more cycle paths to increase healthy lifestyle, have one from Yeppoon to Emu Park. Link the schools, sporting fields and beaches with cycle paths. They need to plan this infrastructure into the future. Building a cycle path that ends at a highway and they can't go any further is useless, they need to be well planned.

Council needs to look at the use of transport and sustainability on the Capricorn Coast, we need bikeways and opportunities to exercise within our community, every other town/city in Queensland has this, yet there is nothing here.

Beachfront

There's been a lot of talk about developing the Yeppoon main beach front facility. LSC needs to focus on getting a bigger rate base to get the funds to do things like this. We have beautiful beaches we don't need another water feature that will cost money and need maintenance.

The maintenance of the beachfront facility has been neglected e.g. lights not working; make sure the assets we have in place are well maintained and well presented for our visitors before we get any new assets. We used to have slippery slides, swings, skate parks, etc which have all been pulled down.

After you get past the Beachside Caravan Park you have guinea grass all over the sand dunes and you can't see the beach; slash the grass and put picnic table so families can enjoy our locality.

IAPT spectrum of public consultation needs to be used so we don't repeat the exercise where there are preconceived Council ideas of what the community wants e.g. Yeppoon Beachfront

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Project; the community wanted it kept natural yet it ended up looking like a concrete runway. The consultants weren't properly briefed with tenures, etc for this project.

Staff

We have good employees in Council also who work hard and spend money in our community; don't just put their head on the chopping block.

We have a wonderful young community and tremendous schools, the new LSC should seek to engage with the leaders in these schools, they can help us engage with the youth in our community. We need to encourage school based apprenticeships and traineeships in our workforce and use the older Council staff as mentors for them. Gladstone and Mackay Councils have approximately 10% of their workforce in this type of employment. RRC is dismissal. There was a Careers Expo at the Rockhampton Show Grounds today with heaps of young people who want an apprenticeship.

Council Meetings

Make Council meetings open to the public and make them friendly towards discussion and ideas from the community and allow discussion and debate.

Former LSC asked for creative drive and enthusiasm, a number of these ideas have been put in place but the floor needs to be open so the people are confident to participate. Need to know where we're going what we're going to achieve as a community. Need imagination even if there isn't money initially.

Council needs to have regular community forums in the different locations in the Shire; can't be Yeppoon centric, not just Yeppoon/Rossllyn/Capricorn Coast, we're a massive Shire it's not just all about Yeppoon.

There was a lot of "No" votes in the de-amalgamation poll, this will be a challenge for the new Council to bring our community together.

Our youth feel as though they have to leave here and go to Brisbane to get a job. We need a continuous process to engage the community e.g. Council meetings to be held similar to the way Community Cabinets are held. Each community had needs and they probably have ideas to fix the issues as well. Get the Council out into the community regularly and close the loop and provide the community with feedback. Former LSC had a Youth Council which was an opportunity for the youth to express their ideas.

Provide the opportunity for media to report on what goes on in Council meetings. There used to be a table for the press but that was taken away, need a facility for the press.

New Motto

Incorporate a new motto instead of just a new name; incorporate the new motto on the letterhead.

Contact With Staff

Customer Services staff are very obliging, it is terribly annoying when a customer phones to speak with a staff member they are working with (e.g. for development) and you can't get to that Officer and then you ring Customer Service and are on hold for a while and then can't get through to the staff member in the end anyway. You need to be able to speak with the Officer who can help you.

Traffic Planning

There is urgent need for action re traffic travelling from Taranganba School and Daycare Centre onto Taranganba Road. There has been great growth in this area with no limitation on trucks using

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this road during school starting and finishing times.

Office Hours

Customer Service contact hours outside 9am to 5:00pm business hours for working people who work and travel to Rockhampton to have the opportunity to speak to an Officer outside working hours.

The Library needs to be opened one day per week at night time so that there is the opportunity for working people to borrow books.

Community Plan

The Community Be Heard Program which was compiled a couple of years ago needs to be considered. The community put a lot of work into this, need to see it revisited and see what has already been stated and build on the ideas contained in it. Council advocates sought the communities confidence, this can be capitalised on.

Emu Park – 15 August 2013

Keppel Sands Community

Keppel Sands have two projects currently funded in the budget; the drainage problem and for the caravan park renovations to go ahead. The new Council needs to support these projects.

Animal Pound

Form a separate committee with representation from RSPCA and CAA with Councillors and representatives from local schools combining to shape the local laws for the care and treatment of animals in the Shire. There needs to be more community input into the selection of people who are qualified in animal care to make better and more workable local laws in animal management.

Development

Council needs to implement sensible sustainable development and renewable energy.

We need planned sustainable development, the Town Plan needs to be the master plan for a 20 year period so our community can take small steps with a two year plan, then five year plan, then 10 year plan, etc.

Local Business

The business community is keen to see the new Council incorporate a dedicated business support officer to assist businesses with their applications for licenses and developments.

Consideration of a business development policy to encourage business development in the Shire e.g. if the business will create employment in the Shire they can get discounted development fees, cheaper rates, etc in return.

The formation of an economic development sub-committee which includes Councillors and key Council staff and representatives from the business community to focus on economic development in the community.

Roads

Council needs to work towards zero debt and then start producing more funding for rural road sealing.

RRC have been fixing the roads regularly since amalgamation, the community is concerned that the new LSC will not maintain the roads as well as they have been with RRC; we don't want this

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service to go backwards. Crews need to grade the entire road, don't forget the culverts and the drains, as once it rains the road goes back to how it was prior to grading again.

Rates

The community has been living beyond their means for a long time with Local, State and Federal Government fees, taxes, etc; the rate rises have been above the CPI level, the pensioners have lived with interest rates low and expenses high. Need a good healthy growth rate base to help pay the basic ongoing costs to Council e.g. fuel, electricity, etc.

Service Levels

Community needs to have realistic expectations of what they want Council to do with its budget and what service levels it wants Council to provide.

Community Engagement

The Community Engagement Program conducted by Wade Clark, the All Tide Program, which included two-way communication between the Council and the Community, there needs to be more of this interaction between Council and community.

Services

Council needs to cut the time consuming "red tape"

Environmental Plan

The former Council paid consultants to micro plan a report re what was to happen in this area, they need to have more consultation with the community rather than paying for consultants who don't even live in this area. Ordinary people who will be affected by any development happening in their area need to have a voice.