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*Minutes
Black Springs and Burruga Tips
Thursday 09 June 2011
4.30pm Council Chambers*

01 Opening of Meeting

The Mayor welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 4.30pm.

02 Record of Attendance

Councillors Cr Keith Sullivan, Mayor - Chair
 Cr John McMahon, Deputy Mayor
 Cr Neil Francis
 Cr Kerry Gibbons
 Cr Clive McCarthy
 Cr Bob O’Bernier
 Cr Zsuzsanna Handelsmann

Officers Leanne Mash, General Manager
 Leigh Robins, Director of Engineering
 Gary Wallace, Director of Development
 Carolyn Hendry, Information and Communications Officer

Community Members from Burruga and Black Springs

Ewen Stewart, Brian Ross, Anthony Francis, Leon Booth, Sandra Stephik,
Tad Pietrzykowski.

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General Manager

Chairperson

Apologies Councillor Ian Doney
 Cr Don Fitzpatrick

Community members from Black Springs and Burraga put forward their submission to Oberon Council regarding concerns and feedback towards the potential closure of the Black Springs and Burraga Waste Management facilities.

The following submission was presented to Council by Mr Ewen Stewart.

SUBMISSION
to
OBERON COUNCIL
for
WASTE MANAGEMENT
in
BURRAGA and BLACK SPRINGS

JUNE 2011

On behalf of committees of Burraga and District Community Association and Black Springs Progress Association

1. Under Section 8 of the Local Government Act NSW Councils are legally obliged to provide services including infrastructure and waste management.
2. Viability of the villages of Burraga and Black Springs will be severely compromised if waste management facilities are curtailed. We remind Council that to continue to attract future development of these villages a full range of services is essential.

Burraga is a community where the following facilities/activities are vital components of the community:-

- i) Village Store
- ii) Recreational Club
- iii) Community Hall
- iv) Community Water Supply (Historic Dam Wall)
- v) Recreational camping grounds and play areas (Burraga Dam)
- vi) School (Burraga Public School)
- vii) SES and RFS groups
- viii) Local employment (Australian United Timber Mill)
- ix) Rural and agricultural enterprises

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- x) Tourism attractions (Historic Copper Mine Site, Historic Village)
- xi) Religious places of worship (St Dymrna's Catholic Church)

Similarly, Black Springs offers:-

- i) School (Black Springs Public School)
- ii) Community Hall
- iii) Recreational camping grounds and play areas
- iv) SES and RFS groups
- v) Local employment (NSW Forestry works Depot)
- vi) Rural and agricultural enterprises
- vii) Tourism attractions (Gem fossicing, Mushrooming
- viii) Religious places of worship (St Aiden's Anglican Church, St Vincent de Paul (Avoca) Catholic Church)

Waste management services are essential to provide for the proper upkeep of the villages. Regular disposal facilities for all residents are needed to maintain a high standard of public health and to preserve the local environment.

3. We request that Oberon Council (OC) reconsider its decision to close transfer stations at Burruga and Black Springs and to maintain the current level of services.
4. If OC deems it necessary to reduce the waste management services to Burruga and Black Springs in to meet short term budget requirements , then we request that this decision be reviewed within a period of 2 years with a view to reinstating the services as presently provided.
5. If OC reduces waste management services to the Burruga and Black Springs transfer stations we request that either the 'garbage levy' presently charged on rates notices or the fees charged at each transfer station be dropped.
6. If OC plans to hand over responsibility to a private contractor to provide waste disposal services of any kind, then OC will be responsible to call tenders, enter into contracts with the contractor and to administer those contracts with regard to the frequency of services and control any cost increases associated with those contracts. This applies in particular to any group of residents of the Burruga, Black Springs communities who may be disadvantaged by any OC proposal which excludes them from a regular waste management programme as enjoyed by the remainder.
7. We request that OC does not discriminate between residents of Oberon township and residents of outlying villages including rural landholders and provide fair and equitable services for waste management to all.
8. If OC proposes to close Burruga and Black Springs transfer stations then:-
 - i) What savings does OC hope to achieve?
 - ii) Does OC propose that these savings be applied towards the cost of the licence fees (\$200,000.00) for the Oberon Tip facility?

9. Recycling:-
We request that OC implement a service for the recycling of waste materials such as glass, paper products, plastics, ferrous and non ferrous metals, oils and lubricants etc. and provide appropriate receptacles at each transfer station.

Summary of Discussion:

- As per the points raised in the submission, community representatives proceeded to voice their concerns with the potential tip closures. The closures would be detrimental to the community, resulting in greater costs for residents towards waste disposal alternatives, and increased travel time to access waste disposal facilities.
- The overall consensus from the community was that according to the Local Government Act, Council has a responsibility to provide essential services to all community members and this includes waste disposal.
- The General Manager and Mayor explained that discussions have been held with officers to investigate alternatives for Burruga and Black Springs residents.
- To clarify point 5 on the submission to Council, the General Manager advised that a garbage levy is not charged to rates notices for Black Springs or Burruga residents. Examples of rates notice were provided at the meeting to confirm this.
- A weekly kerbside pick-up service in the Black Springs and Burruga townships is currently being proposed by Council. This would result in less cost to Council.
- The point was made that residents currently living at Titania and The Reef have to make their own arrangements.
- Representatives advised that out of town residents would suffer greatly if the tip was closed due to their closer proximity to the current tip facilities.
- With regards waste facility located on properties: residents can bury rubbish on their own property if the origin of the rubbish was from that property. EPA have advised this is permissible.
- Residents advised that they are happy to negotiate on the alternatives. They would prefer the tips to stay open rather than lose this service altogether.
- Major concerns with dumping in the forest, having waste bins on major roads, and travel distances for residents were discussed in relation to the potential closure of the tips and bringing in alternative services.
- Community representatives put forward the following options:
 - After much discussion representatives advised that a fortnightly service would be sufficient - opening the tips for only two days each fortnight; alternating between Wednesday and Sunday (weekday and a weekend). Also the

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possibility of just a single run each fortnight was put forward by the representatives.

- Combination of both a pick up service to residents, and limited opening hours at the tips – this should help bring costs down and still provide adequate waste management services to residents. The Mayor advised that this could be an option and the costs associated with this would be investigated.
 - Waste disposal facility built on properties – majority of residents were against this idea due to the potential hazard this creates to properties. Attraction of animals, pests, and smell of waste poses a problem. Also the high cost of setting up the facility for residents, including digging the hole, and providing adequate covering for the facility to keep out the weather and animals.
 - Representatives also advised that people living at Mount David would also need to be considered in these alternatives. They will also be affected by the possible closure of tips.
- Representatives asked Council to put together details of the costs involved with the alternatives that were discussed at the meeting for comparison
 - The Director of Engineering and the Mayor clarified that is information would be made available to the June Ordinary Meeting of Council for determination.
 - Detailed information will be provided in the June Business Papers and discussed further at the Oberon Council meeting on Tuesday 21st June 2011 before the 2011-12 budget is determined.

This concluded the business and the meeting rose at 5:30pm.

Confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2011.

General Manager

Mayor

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General Manager

Chairperson