

Tiaro Community Briefing



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Dear Residents,

Thank you for attending the second of the Fraser Coast Regional Council Community Briefings. We plan to hold these across the region to hear your concerns and keep you up-to-date with what is happening within Council and particularly your area.

We decided very quickly after the March 15 election that one of our main priorities as an amalgamated Council was to create a two-way dialogue with residents.

We live in a large region so it is important we get out and about to the many different communities to hear your ideas and concerns and to keep you informed on what Council has planned for your area.

In response to the matters raised at the meeting, the attached information is provided to resident's questions on the night and a brief explanation of the action to be taken.

I hope that these responses assist in answering some of the issues raised and I encourage you to make contact with the officer listed if you have any queries.

I feel that the meeting was very successful and I would like to thank everyone who attended.

I look forward to future community briefings in Tiaro.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Kruger".

Councillor Mick Kruger
Mayor
Fraser Coast Regional Council

Q: Why were there discrepancies in the explanations given by the Mayor and the council's CEO (reported in recent newspaper articles) about why Flight Training Queensland withdrew its plans to build a pilot training school at Maryborough airport?

A: *The comments made by the Mayor and CEO were not contradictory. The comments made by the CEO indicated that it took time for staff not familiar with the project to research all of the available information. This was as a result of the amalgamations. The Mayor had indicated that amalgamation had not caused further delays in assessing the application.*

The two issues identified by FTC for withdrawing their application were -

- 1. Global economic situation.*
- 2. Time taken to assess and approve the development.*

Q: Why had the council not made a decision on FTQ's application after eight months?

A: *The Fraser Coast Regional Council used that time to carry out a due diligence review of the proposal including an extensive risk assessment dealing with:*

- Public safety*
- Noise impacts*
- Insurance requirements*
- Financial implications, and*
- Proposed development conditions.*

This was still progressing when FTQ withdrew its application. The due diligence review was recommended in legal advice obtained by Maryborough City Council.

Q: Was the downturn in the economy the only reason given by FTQ for withdrawing its plans for the pilot training school at Maryborough airport?

A: *FTQ indicated that the time taken to progress the project was also a factor.*

Q: Can you give us an indication of what will happen when other companies want to invest in the region? Will they be treated the same as FTQ?

A: *All applications will be assessed on their merit.*

Some projects currently being considered include -

- \$800 million Urangan Harbour expansion.*
- Two shopping centres - 40,000 sq m.*
- Downer EDI expansion/relocation.*

Q: Has a development application been approved for the extensions to Urangan Harbour?

A: *Seymour Watpac is still completing its final design plans and tenure with the state government. It has still not been decided if the council will be involved in the final approval or whether it will be handled solely by the state government.*

Q: Before amalgamation, work was started on several roads in Glenwood but it has stopped and has not been resumed. It seems that the roads in front of expensive houses are sealed while others are left. Wards Road has only two kilometres of road left unsealed and the council uses Wards Road regularly to get gravel. When will the remainder of the road be sealed?

Action: *The Deputy Director of External Services Wayne Sweeney will have the condition of the road assessed and it will be considered when developing the forward capital works program.*

Q: Residents on Arborfive Road in Glenwood have to keep their windows and doors closed because of dust from traffic on the unsealed road. A lot of money has been wasted on Arborfive Road with work started and not completed, then washed away by rain. When can we expect the road to be sealed?

Action: *External services staff will check the lower lying stretches of road and undertake any necessary maintenance and review where Arborfive Road sits when the forward capital works program is developed.*

Q: Where has all the money gone from the road levy brought in by Tiaro Shire Council?

A: *The road levy was dispensed with during the last budget but the money was allocated and expended on roads within Tiaro.*

Two million dollars worth of capital works identified for the area include:

- *\$140,000 for Cullleys Road*
- *\$100,000 for Forestry Road*
- *\$150,000 for Glenwood roads*
- *\$150,000 for Patersons Road*
- *\$180,000 for Tinnanbar Road*
- *\$125,000 for Daniel Road*

Q: Why doesn't the council improve roads that lead off the Bruce Highway in case traffic needs to be bypassed around highway road accidents?

Action: *Council staff will talk to Main Roads staff to work out a protocol for emergency situations on the main highway that require road diversions. The protocol should cover the whole Fraser Coast Region and should enable immediate action but will be aimed at passenger vehicles and not road transport.*

Q: B-doubles on detours around road accidents damage the roads and create too much dust.

A: *B doubles should not be using roads that are not on designated B-double routes, even when the highway is blocked by a road accident.*

Q: Why are B-doubles travelling on Forestry Road when it had two wooden bridges? It is an accident waiting to happen.

Action: *Forestry Road is a designated B-double route for the sugar industry, as are Netherby Road and Tahiti Road. The former Tiaro Shire Council unsuccessfully attempted to have designated B-double routes signposted by Main Roads. External services staff will check the condition of the bridges.*

Q: Does the council have any plans to improve safety on the bridge over the Mary River just upstream from Petrie Park? It does not have sides and residents say they do not feel safe driving over it. Residents said the bridge used to have sides that were replaced after flooding but in recent years the sides have not been replaced.

Action: *The bridge is under the jurisdiction of Main Roads but the director of External Services Ron Smith will write to Main Roads asking if the removable safety rails can be replaced.*

Q: Darryl Stewart said a major visitor information centre should be established at Tiaro. He said 135,000 people entered Hervey Bay via Hervey Bay airport each year but 1.8 million people entered the Fraser Coast through Tiaro every year.

Action: *Council Officers have recently completed an accreditation audit on the Tiaro Visitor Information Centre and established a working relationship with the current volunteers. A report will be presented to Council regarding the future potential of this Visitor Information Centre as the southern gateway to the Fraser Coast region.*

Q: Darryl Stewart wants the council to push for the establishment of a research and interpretive centre for endangered animals in the Mary River system. He said the state government was keen to support the initiative as part of the Traveston Dam project but now that the dam was on hold he believed the project should still go ahead with the council's support.

Action: *This project was considered by the former Tiaro Shire Council and a working group was set up to progress it in about 2006. This project will be further investigated in the future.*

Q: A Glenwood resident said the council's newsletter Fraser Coast Living was not being delivered in their area by the Post Office.

Action: Council's communications staff contacted the Australia Post Customer Service Centre about the newsletter not being delivered in Glenwood. Australia Post requires specific addresses to follow up on deliveries. The council's contacts in outlying communities have all been emailed to see if any others have not received the latest newsletter. As soon as a full list is determined, the street addresses will be forwarded to Australia Post to follow up.

Q: Why was the council allowing only 200KI of water free to Tiaro residents when it used to be 300KI?

A: *The previous Tiaro Shire Council changed the allocation to 200KI, this was the allocation provided by Tiaro in its 2007/08 rating policy which allowed 200KI water consumption as part of the water charge. The Fraser Coast Regional Council continued this in 2008/09 to promote the reduction in water consumption consistent with the underlying principles of the draft Wide Bay Burnett Regional water Strategy.*

Q: How are the free KI allocated – is it every four months or annually?

A: *The 200KI are balanced over the whole financial year.*

Q: What are the rules on building sheds on properties and living in them? People are putting a water tank on the corner of their shed, building a dam out the back and moving in to the shed for prolonged periods.

A: *The council is still operating under four different schemes so it would depend on which area they were in. People in the former Tiaro Shire can make application to live in a shed while building a house. An application needs to be made to the council. Any permit is conditional on adequate progress being made on the new house.*

Q: The Tiaro to Maryborough road is the worst in the region. What leverage does the council have with Main Roads to have it improved?

Action: *Council staff met with the Minister for Main Roads three months ago and expressed concerns about the condition of the road. Main Roads is, however, responding to reports of damaged roads more quickly than it was. The council will continue to lobby for improvements to the highway.*

Q: Why did the council rush out to change all the signs to the interim Fraser Coast branding then change them again to the new branding? How much did it cost for the signs, stationery, business cards etc for the interim branding and how much is it costing to implement the new branding?

A: *The interim branding was established quickly to help ensure everyone was aware of the changes. The FCRC outlaid about \$5,500 for new signs for its buildings (council chambers and offices, depots and libraries), highway entrances and plant. Stickers on about 550 pieces of plant (mowers, backhoes, cars and trucks) bearing the former Council logos were replaced with new FCRC stickers which cost \$1000 to have printed.*

Supplies of stationery were run down once the amalgamation announcement was made and new stationery ordered as needed so there was no extra cost, only the normal cost of replenishing supplies. Staff were (and continue to be) encouraged to use electronic templates which contain the FCRC logo and letterhead whenever possible to cut down on stationery orders.

The change to the permanent brand will be gradual and costs (where possible) will be kept to a minimum.

Q: When can residents expect improvements to the Bauple – Woolooga Road? Some of the road is one-lane bitumen while the rest is still dirt.

Action: *This road is controlled by Main Roads. The director of External Services will raise this request at his next meeting with Main Roads.*

Q: Will Tiaro be getting either a chemist or a bus service to Maryborough?

Action: *Ministry of Transport staff, local bus companies and the Council are talking about revising bus routes throughout the region.*

Q: Who is responsible for negotiating with the Federal Government for a medical centre in Tiaro?

Action: *The Director of Community Services Peter Smith said the council was preparing a comprehensive application for the February round of funding. Cr McNeven said residents should contact their Federal Member to ask him to support the project. The CEO said the council would supply in-kind support such as the building (the old Tiaro Shire Council building) and car parking.*

Q: The QWCA would like a toilet block near the cemetery on the northern side of Tiaro. A fruit van operates there and numbers of people pull off the road there for lunch. There are no other places around Tiaro where a truck can easily pull off the road so it would be a good spot for a toilet block.

Action: *As the proposed toilet block is located on a Main Roads road reserve the matter will be referred to Main Roads for their comments and requirements.*

Q: Can the traffic travelling through Tiaro be slowed down, especially trucks?

Action: *Wayne Sweeney will talk to the police about the enforcement of speed limits.*

Q: Can we have a pedestrian crossing installed on the main highway? Tiaro is now busier because of the supermarket, creating a greater need for a crossing.

Action: *The issue of a pedestrian crossing in Tiaro township has been raised on numerous occasions with the former Tiaro Council and the Department of Main Roads. A detailed design was developed by Main Roads and endorsed by the former Council. This proposal was not progressed following comments by the Tiaro and District Chamber of Commerce and numerous complaints made by members of the local community. Main Roads had indicated that funding was available in previous years for this project, however, when the decision was made not to proceed the funding was reallocated to another section of the main roads network within the former Tiaro Shire.*

Q: Can we have a postman? About 90% of residents indicated in an informal survey that they wanted a postman.

Action: *Providing a postman is Australia Post's responsibility but the Council will approach Australia Post to ask them to assess the need for a home delivery service.*

Q: Could a copy of the five year road budget be put at the Tiaro library for residents to look at?

Action: *Council will develop a draft 10-year program which will include a forward roads program with indicative years shown against each project. When this is developed it will be made available. Residents need to be aware that this program may change due to funding, rating or other changes in direction that are made by future council decisions.*

Q: Why are so many council rubbish trucks travelling between Tiaro and Maryborough?

A: *It is cheaper to send trucks from Maryborough to collect rubbish from the Bauple transfer station and dump it in the Maryborough landfill than it would have been to comply with EPA requirements for the Bauple landfill.*

ENDS