

Appendix B

Community Consultation

#300540

*Connell Wagner Pty Ltd
ABN 54 005 139 873
116 Military Road
Neutral Bay
New South Wales 2089 Australia*

*Telephone: +61 2 9465 5599
Facsimile: +61 2 9465 5598
Email: cwsyd@conwag.com
www.conwag.com*

***Byron Shire Section 94 Plan
Consultations Outcomes Report***

Reference E04600no/

Document Control

Document ID: ConsultationOutcomesReport

| Rev No | Date | Revision Details | Typist | Author | Verifier | Approver |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| 0 | 4 December 2000 | Draft | | | | |
| 1 | 11 October 2001 | Exhibition draft | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

A person using Connell Wagner documents or data accepts the risk of:

- a) *Using the documents or data in electronic form without requesting and checking them for accuracy against the original hard copy version; and*
- b) *Using the documents or data for any purpose not agreed to in writing by Connell Wagner.*

Table of Contents

| <i>Section</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Purpose of the Consultation Program | 1 |
| 1.2 Development of the Services and Facilities Plan | 1 |
| 1.3 Aim of this Report | 1 |
| 2. Outline of Activities | 2 |
| 2.1 Methodology for Facilitation and Participation | 2 |
| 2.2 Schedule of Activities | 3 |
| 2.3 Ongoing Communication Activities | 3 |
| 3. Consultation Overview | 4 |
| 3.1 Mullumbimby Residents Forum | 4 |
| 3.2 Byron Bay Residents Forum | 7 |
| 3.3 Ocean Shores Residents Forum | 10 |
| 3.4 Bangalow Residents Meeting | 17 |
| 3.5 Older Residents Forum | 18 |
| 3.6 Ocean State School Consultation | 20 |
| 3.7 Coorabell Primary School | 21 |
| 3.8 Mullumbimby High School | 23 |
| 3.9 Tourism Sector Workshop | 26 |
| 3.10 Development Sector Workshop | 26 |
| 3.11 Government/Community Sector Workshop | 28 |
| 3.12 Byron Shire Section 94 Community Survey | 31 |
| 4. Key Themes | 33 |
| 4.1 Issues, Opportunities and Constraints | 33 |
| 5. Further Consultation | 34 |
| 5.1 Community Exhibition | 34 |

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

1. Introduction

A comprehensive consultation program is being implemented for the development of a Section 94 Plan for the future provision of services and facilities for the Shire of Byron . The consultation program seeks to significantly contribute to the outcomes of the project, which means interactive, responsive and appropriate mechanisms have, and will continue to be used for the Plan. All feedback and contributions made through the consultation program are valued and underpin the technical work on the Plan.

1.1 Purpose of the Consultation Program

The purpose of the consultation program is to provide an opportunity for members of the community and key stakeholders to “have a say” in the future of Byron Shire.

To ensure people have an opportunity to participate, the program seeks to fulfil the following primary objectives:

- Informing the community and stakeholders about the project by raising awareness;
- Involving and engaging relevant and interested community members and stakeholders;
- Achieving outcomes to inform and complement the technical work in developing the Plan; and
- Providing appropriate mechanisms to encourage participation.

An important feature of the consultation process is providing opportunities for the local community to identify and respond to key issues prior to the finalisation of the Plan.

1.2 Development of the Services and Facilities Plan

The key focus of developing a Plan for the Byron Shire Council is to guide the future development of services and facilities in the Byron Shire.

On the completion of the study, under Section 94 of the Local Environment Planning and Assessment Act, developers will be asked to contribute towards the establishment of the facilities and services set out in the Plan.

1.3 Aim of this Report

This report describes the activities undertaken in engaging the community and stakeholders in the initial round of consultation as part of the development of the Plan. Specifically, the report outlines communities and stakeholders consulted, their issues, ideas and concerns.

2. Outline of Activities

2.1 Methodology for Facilitation and Participation

The Study Team together with Byron Shire Council determined that residents in the Shire should be provided the opportunity for local input during the consultation program. Consequently, community workshops were held in strategic locations around the Shire:

- Mullumbimby;
- Ocean Shores; and
- Byron Bay.

The input of young people was also valued. Students from Coorabell Primary School, Ocean Shores Primary School Mullumbimby High School participated in consultation sessions.

Stakeholders – being government, community organisations, tourism and business representatives – were invited to participate in a separate consultation.

In addition to the formal consultation sessions convened, the Study Team also met with:

- A small group of residents from Bangalow;
- BEACON members; and
- Council officers.

As the purpose of the consultation program was to provide an opportunity for participants to have input into the development of the Plan all consultations were conducted on the basis that the Study Team's role was to facilitate and listen to the issues and ideas discussed. Each consultation commenced with a short introduction and overview of Section 94, and the current project. Participants were then guided through a series of activities designed to maximise outcomes for the Plan's development. Essentially, each session was asked to identify / respond to the following key questions:

1. What facilities do you currently use/ provide within the Byron Shire?
2. What barriers are there for the use of these facilities?
3. What facilities would you like to see provided with the Section 94 funding?

The specific exercises completed at each session are reported in section 3 of this Report. Further, a resident survey was also available at centres throughout the Shire and was distributed at community consultation. Survey responses are also outlined in section 3 of this report.

2.2 Schedule of Activities

| Date | Time | Venue | Workshop Focus |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday 23/10/2000 | 11.30am | Coorabell Primary School | Young Persons Workshop (Years 3, 4 5 and 6) |
| Monday 23/10/2000 | 2.00pm | Mullumbimby High School | Young Persons Workshop (Years 9 and 10) |
| Monday 30/10/2000 | 6.00pm | Byron Shire Council | Mullumbimby Residents Forum |
| Monday 30/10/2000 | 2.00pm | Brunswick Heads Community Centre | Older Persons Workshop |
| Tuesday 31/10/2000 | 9.00am | Ocean Shores Primary School | Young Persons Workshop (Year 5/6) |
| Tuesday 31/10/2000 | 3.00pm | Byron Shire Council | Tourism Sector Workshop |
| Wednesday 1/11/2000 | 9.30am | Byron Shire Council | Development Sector Workshop |
| Wednesday 1/11/2000 | 2.00pm | Byron Shire Council | Government/Community Sector Workshop |
| Wednesday 1/11/2000 | 7.15pm | Byron Bay Community Centre | Byron Residents Forum |
| Monday 6/11/2000 | 6.00pm | Ocean Shores Community Centre | Ocean Shores Resident Forum |

2.3 Ongoing Communication Activities

In addition to the targeted activities described in this report, the Study Team are also implementing a number of other mechanisms to ensure the consultation objectives are achieved. These include:

- Establishing a study identity, including distribution of study posters;
- 1800 telephone information line;
- Regular information bulletins, the first of which is already available;
- Media releases and editorials, to local press and radio; and
- Exhibition of draft documents in December 2000.

3. Consultation Overview

The following provides an overview of responses and feedback from each of the consultation sessions held in the Byron Shire during October and November. Obviously, many responses were around similar themes/ideas. For ease of use in feeding this information into the Plan some responses have been grouped, and where appropriate specific examples have been referenced. Although some of the consultation activities raised issues beyond the scope or detail of the Plan, these have still been reflected below to provide the information to relevant government agencies for future advice and planning purposes.

3.1 Mullumbimby Residents Forum

Eleven local residents participated in the Mullumbimby resident forum. Participants were first given an overview of the project, the scope of the project, the definition and uses of Section 94 and the process of the consultation. Participants were then seated in small groups and asked to participate in a number of activities. Responses from these are outlined below. For each of these a summary is also provided.

Exercise 1: “Complete a list of projects for funding by expenditure area/sector”

There were a number of issues that were identified as part of this exercise. A summary of issues is presented below, followed by a full list of issues raised.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Summary of major issues: | |
| • | Environmental improvements such as revegetation of riparian zones, rubbish tip and recycling centre development and stormwater management; |
| • | Improvements to disability and general access to facilities such as public toilets; |
| • | The need for more community space and facilities such as a community centre and library; |
| • | Transport needs with respect to both road upgrades, bicycle paths and walkways; |
| • | More sporting facilities and equipment; |
| • | Improved parking facilities; and |
| • | Bushfire education and equipment. |

Issues Identified:

| Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Riparian zones | Funding for revegetation of riparian zones, specifically picnic area Upper Main Arm. Reserve next to Upper Main Art school, Brunswick River from High school – Township. | |
| Disability Facilities | Improved disability facilities generally where demand is highest as determined by audit | Shire wide |
| Ramp change facilities | Access to Beaches – Mullumbimby pool | Shire wide – Mullumbimby |
| Boat Ramp | Byron yacht club on River/Brunswick Heads | Brunswick Heads |
| Byron Bay Community Centre | General purpose | Byron Bay |
| Toilet facilities | Toilet facilities for people with disabilities in Mullumbimby – library | Mullumbimby |
| Playing fields | Sporting grounds for Upper Main Arm | Main Arm |

| Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Sporting equipment | Different facilities: skateboard ramp, basketball hoop – Kohinor Hall | Upper Main Arm |
| Stormwater management | Implementation of Best practice Stormwater management | Shire Wide/Rural areas |
| Sealed Road | Seal gravel sections of Upper Main Arm to prevent siltation of Main Arm/Brunswick River | Upper Main |
| Shire wide bike trails | Bike way from Mullumbimby to Brunswick Heads along River | Shire Wide Mullumbimby |
| | Bike way from Brunswick Heads to Byron along Beach | Brunswick Heads |
| Bushfire education and equipment | Improved education, fire all rural developers, male nozzle for attachment to water tanks | Rural Area |
| Mullumbimby Parking | Provide another car park | In town, close to B'bar Street |
| Mullumbimby bikeway | Bike/pathway with bridge over river to negate using Main Arm or Left Bank Road | Fran Chincogan View undeveloped state into town |
| Mullumbimby Library | Fit out costs for when library moves | It is moving into Council offices |
| Byron Library | Costs towards redevelopment | Byron Bay |
| Neighbourhood Centre | Upgrade NC to provide meeting rooms | Mullumbimby |
| Tincosan Street, Mullumbimby | Upgrade Tincosann St to cope with additional demand as is used as unofficial bypass | |
| Byron Bay bypass | Should levy tourist development as well as residential and community | |
| Parking | Totally inadequate at moment, need to chase correct price | Byron Bay CBD |
| Stormwater | Need to levy contributions development - stormwater work required | Byron Bay CBD |
| Rubbish tip | Enlargement of existing facility but embellishment of existing Myocum tip to include proper recycling | |
| Bike paths | From highway into Byron Bay | |
| Purpose built recycling facility | best practice and state of the art facility | |
| Walkways | Paths along the creek | Byron Creek, Bangalow |
| Parks and Open Space | East Mullumbimby | East Mullumbimby |
| Community Space | Youth/drop in centre/Internet | Mullumbimby |

| Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| | Bridge at end of Burringbar Street, bicycle/walkway | Mullumbimby |
| | Upgrade rural roads to gravel | Mullumbimby |
| | Levy for living in "exotic/hard access" areas | Mullumbimby |
| | "State of the Art" communication | Mullumbimby |
| Tower | Centre eg bushfire/life saving | |
| Open Space Acquisitions | Mt Chincogan Walk | |

Exercise 2: "Identify any issues with the current Section 94 Plan"

The issues raised were:

- The need to acknowledge the true cost of land, for example parking spaces;
- Current issue with lack of parking spaces in Byron Bay – need a detailed plan for parking spaces in Byron Bay;
- Charge for the actual cost of facilities – doesn't matter if it makes development unavailable;
- Clause – funds cannot be transferred;
- Should use money borrowed and collected on designated facilities – give priority to existing facilities identified;
- Developers don't pay enough
- Don't use Section 94 as argument for developments;
- Don't like term contribution – prefer responsibility;
- Spend money that is there, especially on smaller projects that can be achieved;
- Put timing on identified facilities;
- Simple plan – focused plan;
- Difference between old money and new money; and
- New plan should reflect commonly accepted benchmarks eg RTA 6.6m² p/space

Exercise 3: "Indicate what impacts on your capacity as a local resident to use the following facilities and infrastructure"

The main issue that arose from this exercise is a lack of funding for facilities in the area. This impacts on other issues that were raised such as the insufficient maintenance of facilities such as roads, walkways and community facilities. A lack of facilities aimed at young people was also identified as an important issue.

Issues identified:

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Roads | Congestion in Byron Bay | Lack of funding/over crowding |
| Rivers | Siltation/pollution | Lack of stormwater infrastructure (awareness over-development) |
| Community Hall – Upper Main Arm | Lack of youth facilities | Forgotten backwater – low population |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--|--|---|
| All Communities Facilities | Degraded and lack of footpath/ access | Lack of contributions |
| Bush Fire brigade | Lack of members/facilities | Motivation commitment impetus lacking |
| Picnic/Recreation areas | Degraded facilities | Lack of funds |
| public toilet blocks | Lack of public toilets per population | Bad design and implementation |
| Tourist areas facilities | | Lack of tourist dollars funding |
| Rural sporting facilities | Youth nothing to do | Low population |
| Neighbourhood Centre | Not fulfilling potential of drawing people together | Lack of meeting facilities |
| Lack of crossings creek/river for bike ways | Reduced use of bikes, increased car use | People geographically close but bike path not direct |
| Purpose recycling facility | Increased rubbish into landfill – limited recycling | Lack of opportunity and incentive to recycle |
| Local town | Difficult to access town | Lack of adequate parking |
| Local town | People go to Ballina or Tweed | |
| | Reduced amenity | |
| | Reduced viability for local business | |
| Mullumbimby Civic Hall | Dingy!! Scabby!! | Needs refurbishing |
| Library | Lack of books, under scratch | Inferior books/under funded |
| Roads/Walking on | Dangerous for walkers | Increase traffic/lack of maintenance |
| Stormwater | Unhealthy/Dangerous | System overload |
| Bike paths/walk | Dangerous | Unfinished, incomplete |
| Bushfire brigade | Not used in current location | No rapid response |
| Schools | Overcrowding | No new school policy |
| Youth centre | Bored adolescents | No youth centre |

3.2 Byron Bay Residents Forum

Nineteen local residents attended this resident forum. Participants were first given an overview of the project, the scope of the project, the definition and uses of Section 94 and the process of the consultation. Participants were then seated in small groups and asked to participate in a number of activities. Responses from these are outlined below.

Exercise 1: “Complete a list of projects for Section 94 funding by expenditure area/sector”

The following provides a summary of the issues raised during this exercise.

- Pedestrian crossing – Lawson Street, Byron Bay
- Letter boxes – Byron Bay
- Environmental management:
 - Tree planting alongside rural roads
 - Native regeneration;
 - Communal gardens
 - Street-scaping;
 - Bird observation shelters;
 - Environmental signage
- Recycling centre
- Music shell in the park
- Horse riding trails
- Bikeways and pedestrian ways
 - Bikeway connecting Mullumbimby and rural areas to Byron;
 - Pedestrian access, walking tracks
- Byron Bay and Bangalow bypass
- Bangalow car parking in CBD
- Bangalow – Lismore Road bypass
- Additional facilities at Broken Head hall
- Multi-purpose sports fields
- Beach access points
- Sound proof and alcohol free venue in Byron Bay
- CBD stormwater drains
- Youth facilities:
 - Bangalow youth centre
 - Skate ramp;
 - Activity centre; and
 - Support service (counselling)..
- Library
- Transit centre outside CBD
- Public/community art
- Having changed the catchments to have a Broken Head zone
- Disabled access – Byron Shire
- Upgrade Byron Bay swimming pool
- Bypass short stop to Mitre 10
- New playground areas
- Outdoor cultural venue
- Buses out of CBD
- Dune care – fences, rubbish bins
- Street lighting
 - In Suffolk Park;
 - Behind Johnson Street car park;
- Shire wide

Exercise 2: “What impacts on your ability to use existing facilities?”

The main finding from this exercise was that residents felt that their community lacked many of the facilities that they would have liked in their area. Thus the major impact on their ability to use the facility was that they did not have the facility to use in the first place. The following table provides a summary of the results of this exercise.

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sporting fields Byron | Lack of any new fields | No facilities |
| Broken Head hall, park, tennis courts | Needed in this community area | No facilities |
| West Suffolk playing fields | Large numbers of youth | No facilities |
| CBD streetscape | Busy, cluttered, unplanned | Primarily designed in 1950s |
| Bangalow swimming pool | Creek based pool water is polluted | New pool needed urgently |
| Bangalow community centre | None exists | Town needs meeting place |
| Bangalow youth facilities | None exists | Needed urgently |
| Bikeways | Little exist | Badly planned and lacks coordination |
| Conference areas | There are none | Meetings – private and public |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--|--|--|
| Library Byron Bay | | Inadequate space |
| Mail boxes | Only 2 in CBD | None in outer areas |
| Pedestrian crossing | Lawson Street | Very dangerous – older people with walking problem |
| Parking in CBD | | |
| Lighting | Fletcher Street | Very dark |
| Stormwater erosion control eg trench east of Portion 173 Paterson Street | Ongoing – pollutants and silt entering SEPP 14 , Morgil wetland | Environmental protection of 7(b) zone area |
| Elevated walking boards eg Paterson Hill | Several impact | To rehabilitate and provide a tourist observation platform |
| Constructed walking track to beach across 7(b) land | Severe | To protect sensitive coastal land |
| Library | Inadequate | Too small |
| Streetscaping – lighting, seats, plants | Inadequate | |
| Public art | None | The area needs public art |
| Bicycle paths connecting Mullumbimby and rural areas | less car traffic, with roads for the 80% of the people under 17 who don't drive cars | The existing bike path is dangerous and does not reach Byron or over the highway. Connecting rural areas |
| Youth facility for Byron, Bangalow, Sunrise and Suffolk | As this shire gets more developed we will see more youth in all the areas | There are no facilities in Byron. YAC has no funding |
| Music shell in the park | They need people to play music on the streets | There is no facility |

Exercise 3: “Identify any issues with the current Section 94?”

- Include time limits – “reasonable”;
- Inclusion of additional categories;
- Separate Suffolk Park/Byron Bay catchment;
- 3 year review linked to VG;
- BSC to advertise expenditure and funds held;
- Simple plan;
- Put on website; and
- Tender system for item development – value for money.

3.3 Ocean Shores Residents Forum

Ten local residents attended the Ocean Shore Residents Forum. Participants were first given an overview of the project, the scope of the project, the definition and uses of Section 94 and the process of the consultation. Participants were then seated in small groups and asked to participate in a number of activities. Responses from these are outlined below. For each of these a summary is also provided.

Exercise 1: “Complete a list of projects for Section 94 funding by expenditure area”

There were a number of key projects that were raised within this activity. Participants then prioritised these in order of importance. In summary, the main areas for potential expenditure were:

- Beach access;
- Footpaths and bikeways;
- Playing fields and playgrounds;
- Street -lighting;
- Car parking; and
- Library facilities.

Issues Raised:

| Priority | Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Ocean Shores | | | |
| 2 | Beach Access | footbridge | Shopping centre |
| | Car Parking | extra for beach | Shopping centre area |
| 3 | Footpaths | total area | Ocean Shores |
| 4 | Street Light | total area | Ocean Shores |
| | Footbridge | Capricornia Canal | North Ocean Shores |
| | Roads | total area | Ocean Shores |
| 1 | Playing fields | Build it | Lot 107 |
| 5 | Bikeways | Throughout the area | Ocean Shores |
| Brunswick Heads | | | |
| | Bikeways/Walkways | Linkage to OS, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay | not along road ways – via Tyagarah/River |
| | Car Parking | protect parks from overflow, Tweed Street new car parks | Tweed Street |
| | Streetscaping | Outdoor dining – widen footpaths | Terrace/Mullumbimby/Park Fingal Street |
| | River Access Pedestrian Walkway | Reinstate Public/Pedestrian access along Riverbank | Massey Greene, The Terrace Caravan Parks |

| Priority | Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| | Library | Community access point – expand and information centre – after hour access | Fingal Street |
| 1 | Bikeways/walkways | between communities – linkages to Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay | |
| 2 | Library | Upgrade – improve information services | |
| 3 | Streetscaping | widen footpaths, tree planting, provision for outdoor dining | |
| 4. | Car parking | additional/future needs, protect parklands | |
| 5 | Tweed Street | lighting, tree planting, car parking | |
| 1 | Integrated | Sports fields | Lot 107, Portion 219 |
| 2 | Beach access | footbridge | Shara, Redgans Road, Bishind Tavern |
| | Car park | beach access | New Brighton |
| 3 | | Bikeways | linking the school with Brunswick, Mullumbimby, Byron |
| 7 | | Footpaths | Throughout Ocean Shores and New Brighton |
| 6 | | Library Facilities | Ocean Shores – Portion 219 |
| | | Skateboard park | New Brighton |
| 4 | | Street lights | Throughout Ocean Shores and New Brighton |
| | | After hours access | Ocean Shores |
| | | Police Station | Ocean Shores |
| | | Fire Station | Ocean Shores |
| | | Transport | Between Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby, Byron, Tweed and Lismore |
| 5 | | Roadways maintenance | Ocean Shores |
| Ocean Shores | | | |
| 3 | Beach access | footbridge to Beach | adjacent to Shop Centre |

| Priority | Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|----------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 4 | Car park | adjacent to shopping centre | |
| 2 | Foot path | all over Ocean Shores | |
| 5 | Footbridge | north Ocean Shores | Helen Street |
| 1 | Street lights | All over Ocean Shores | |
| | Beach access | footbridge, walkways, bike path, use shopping car park | adjacent to the shopping complex |
| | Car park | near walkways to beach | adjacent to the shopping complex |
| | Footpaths | | Ocean Shores total area |
| | Linkages, lighting, kerbing | on going maintenance | Rajah Road |
| | Street lighting | adequate wiring for facilities | |
| | Playground facilities | | North Ocean Shores near Phillip Street |
| | Footbridge | | Helen Street near Ocean Shores |
| | Roads | On going maintenance | |
| | Playing fields | | Lot 107 Redgate Road, MOS |
| | Bikeways | | Combined areas |
| | Libraries | | B/H |
| 1 | Sports field | | |
| 2 | Beach Access | | |
| 3 | Lighting | | |
| 4 | Road repairs | | |
| 5 | Footpaths | | |
| 1 | Roads and linkages | footpaths and lighting and kerbs | all over Ocean Shores |
| | Beach access | walkways, footbridge, bikeways | adjacent to Bar Park at Ocean Shore shops |
| | Car Parking | extra car parking to Beach Access. Adjacent to shops, street lighting, previous study placing lights, adequate power | All beaches in Ocean Shores |

| Priority | Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|----------|--------------------|---|---|
| 4 | Playground | footbridge and playground equipment | North Ocean Shores, Philip Street, Canal North Ocean Shores |
| | Kerbing | maintenance necessary | Rajah Road |
| 3 | Sporting fields | 2 areas | 1 Lot 107 Shara Boulevard 2 Redgate Road |
| | | Council policing on Section 94 | |
| 2 | Beach access | walkways and bridges | opp shopping |
| | car parking | adjacent to shopping centre | beach access |
| | Footpaths | general access – disabled | shopping centre |
| 3 | Lighting | walkways | shopping centre |
| | Playground | North Ocean Shores | Canal |
| 4 | Roads | maintenance | North Head Road |
| 5 | Library | new building | Brunswick |
| | | Education communication | Ocean Shores |
| 1 | All purpose hall | Large hall – indoor sports | Nugel |
| 2 | Beach access | parking, footbridge across river, bikeway | adjacent to shopping centre |
| | Streetscaping | | around shopping area for dining |
| | Car parking | extra car parking at beach access | at beach access point |
| 4 | Footpaths | Footpaths linking key areas | around whole town |
| 6 | Lighting | street lighting – look at study | around all town at blackspot areas |
| 3 | Community facility | playground facilities, swings/slippery dips | North Ocean Shores near Philip Street |
| | | footbridge | North Ocean Shores |
| | Roads | kerbing – ongoing maintenance (drainage) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajah Road • Orana Road • Shara Boulevard |
| 1 | Community Facility | Playing fields – Lot 107 | Lot 107, Redgate Road |

| Priority | Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 5 | Community Facility | Bikeways | linking other communities |
| | Community Facility | Library – update | Brunswick Heads` |
| | Fire Brigade | | in Ocean Shores |
| | Police Station | | in Ocean Shores |
| 1 | Street lights | | |
| 2 | footpaths | both side of streets | |
| 3 | Playgrounds | | |
| 4 | Footpaths/bikeways | for local transport | |
| 5 | Parking | areas near beach – behind dune | |
| | Roads | | |
| | Beach Access | footbridge adjacent to bike/path walkway shopping | use shopping car park, future car park at beach access |
| | Streetscaping | | for Ocean Shores |
| | Footpaths | throughout the whole area | |
| | Street lights | is power available and priority? | location |
| | Playground | footbridge needed across Canal | Philip Street |
| | Kerbing on roads | | Rajah Road |
| | Roads | maintenance must be done now | |
| | Lot 107 | playing fields – need help | |
| | Library | mobile service inadequate in future | |
| | Playing fields | | Lot 204 Redgate Road |
| | Imbalance of allocation of Section 94 money | | |
| | Flying foxes | are destroying nature strip – Council and NPWS do nothing | |
| | | Council could explore cross funding relationships – education is not done | |

Exercise 2: “Identify any issues with the current Section 94 Plan”

The following issues were raised in response to the administration of Section 94 funds:

- Imbalance and distribution of Section 94 around the Shire
- Ear-marking to specific areas. Location to be specifically defined.
- Council policing Section 94 funding – responsibility – eg Lot 107 maintenance
- Using Section 94 funding to match \$ for \$ with other government organisations
- Exploring cross funding relationships
- Education and communication in implementing Section 94 Funding
- Transparent accounting of the Section 94 funds – how much available?
- Community wants to know what’s available for their area.

Exercise 3: “Indicate what impacts on your capacity as a local resident to use the following facilities and Infrastructure”

The main issues raised within this exercise were related to a lack of maintenance and a lack of funding.

Issues raised:

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--|---|--|
| Brunswick Heads Community Centre | | |
| Ocean Shores Community Centre | | |
| Beach | Many people utilising | Not enough parking |
| Road maintenance | More traffic, buses etc | School built since, safety and large shopping centre |
| Swimming pool | No swimming pool | |
| Sports field Lot 107 | Difficult to use | Not mown or maintained |
| Public Transport | Growing population | Affordability, availability |
| Bikeways | | None provided |
| Ocean Shores | | |
| Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores Community Centre | Revenue and expenses impacting on services | |
| Beach | No parking | No bridge access |
| Shara Boulevard Lot 107 | Difficult to use | Not mown, not developed |
| Public Transport | Isolation | Availability |
| Public phones | Isolation | Don't know |
| Brunswick Heads | | |
| Community Centres | Affordability, meeting rooms \$15-\$22, expenses/financial management | Expensive for small groups |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|---|--|--|
| Memorial hall | Needs renovations/repairs/stage floor polished etc/parking | |
| Riverside Parks – Memorial Park, South Beach Road | Car parking in parks | Parks boundaries not clearly defined, permitted access |
| Community Transport | Access, affordability, availability and publicity | |
| Library | Small space, expand services, hours/access, information centre | Future need |
| Brunswick Heads Community Centre | Affordability | Financial management |
| Car park | | Clearing defined areas |
| Swimming pool | New growth | Need lanes in pool for serious swimmers |
| Lot 107 | Not useable | Not allowed to slash |
| Transport | | Affordability – eg Lismore |
| Bus Shelters | | Protection for residents |
| Ocean Shores Community Centre | Affordability | |
| Sporting Fields Shara Boulevarde | Not slashed | |
| Brunswick Community Centre | Affordability | Bad financial management |
| Ocean Shores Community centre | | |
| Car parking | Use of parks re parking | No areas available |
| Lot 107 sportsfield | Hard to get to but no access | No maintenance on grass etc |
| Community facilities | Transport | Affordability, availability |
| Community hall PCYC Nugel | Far too small, no parking | Unsafe conditions |
| North Head Road | Never any parking | Unsafe – vandals |
| Vacant blocks | Safety | Snakes |
| Transport facilities | | Affordability |
| Public phones | Access | Safety |
| Indoor sports centre | Youth development | After hours activities |
| Blue light youth centre | Sports | Low crime |
| Brunswick Heads/Ocean Shores Community Centre | Affordability | Impact on service delivery |
| Beach – Ocean Shores | Nowhere to park, on busy summers day | Not enough parking area |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Lot 107 playing fields | Difficult to use | Not mowed or maintained |
| Swimming pool | | |
| Community Facilities | Transport | Affordability, bus shelters, availability |
| Bike track | Leads nowhere | |
| Mobile library | Only ½ day a week | Only good for young children and old people |
| Lot 107 playing field | Difficulties to use | Grass too long, no pathways, not maintained |
| Swimming Pool | Doesn't exist | |
| Transport | Limited bus trips | Affordability not available |
| Public phone | No phone on Balemo | Not here |

3.4 Bangalow Residents Meeting

Four people attended this meeting of Bangalow residents. Participants were first given an overview of the project, the scope of the project, the definition and uses of Section 94 and the process of the consultation. Participants were then involved in a number of activities, the results of which are summarised below.

Exercise 1: “Please identify any areas that you think could benefit from Section 94 funding”

Participants responded to this question with the following issues:

- Lack of active open space and embellishment;
- Lack of cycleway/walking tracks and the strategic links;
- Lack of town car parking; and
- Funds have been contributed for road upgrading (Rifle Road – Lismore Road) but no plans to provide.

Exercise 2: “Identify any issues with the current Section 94 Plan”

The following provides a summary of the issues that were raised within this exercise:

- BSC not smart enough to negotiate with developers;
- BSC targeting the small person and not the large developers;
- New subdivision open space has largely been flood effected and hence not useable;
- BSC not intelligent enough to manage sophisticated developers;
- Lack of enforcement by BSC based on current LEP;
- Lack of consistency by BSC in administering its plans (s94/LEP/DCP);
- The funds are being collected and not been spent;
- The S94 funds that are being collected for Bangalow are being spent elsewhere in the Shire; and
- Management of the accounts.

Exercise 3: “What impacts on your capacity as a local resident to use the facilities in your area?”

The following issues were raised in response to this question:

- Lack of swimming facilities (no pool in Bangalow);
- No community centre/youth facility in Bangalow at the moment – closest is in Byron Bay;
- The residents are looking at plans to link and integrate the town centre – creek – playing fields;
- There is a safety issue with the roundabout at top of street and heavy vehicles;
- Major stormwater concern in Bangalow and downstream impacts;
- BSC being its own watchdog is a problem; and
- As the S94 plans are under review, no funds should be paid until the new plans are in place.

3.5 Older Residents Forum

Using the network of clients of local community organisations who work with older people, individuals from this target group were invited to attend this consultation. During the consultation a number of questions were posed which particularly focused on infrastructure and facilities to meet the specific needs of the aging population.

Four people attended the older resident forum. The issues they raised are presented below.

Exercise 1: “Complete a List of Projects for Section 94 funding by expenditure area/sector”

Responses to this exercise were categorised as either falling into the category of “Community Facility” or “Public Space”. The following table outlines the issues that were raised by participants in this focus group.

Issues raised:

| Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Community Facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramp to beach at Byron Bay disability access and surf boat access • North Power building in Mullumbimby – computer wiring/no access/upgrading. • Library (Greg BSC (Brunswick) needs upgrade – needs parking and have hall attached – idea of BH community centre) • Accessible toilets at community centre/library Mullumbimby • Old Council Chambers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surf club at Byron • Has large shed attached – idea = cultural activities especially visual arts. • Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores • Mullumbimby neighbourhood and Mayors room overhead. |

| Type | Facility/Infrastructure | Location |
|------------|--|---|
| Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbour House – Suffolk Park, Sunrise Beach community meeting place • Public art • Swimming pool – change rooms/upgrading (check may be required) • Sports facility for youth – attached to youth centre • Bikeway (bike hire at Brunswick and Byron Bay) • Walkway to lighthouse – section where walk on road • Underpass under Broken Head Rd • Access – Tarikina Beach • Affordable housing/mobile home village – older residents/forced to move out of Shire – long term • Parents resource centre/youth centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railway Park • Mullumbimby • Byron Bay • Ocean Shores – Brunswick Heads, Suffolk Park – Byron Bay • Clarke Beach caravan park to Wattagoes • Baywood Chase/Byron Hills • Existing community centre – renovation fit out?? |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaggan Park – Suffolk Park, opposite Beach Hotel • Skate Park – • BBQ, bikeway, park • Croquet Club • Parks – sports fields, football, cricket, multi purpose • Parking and access point • Boardwalk behind pub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences with child proof gates at playgroup • Bangalow/Ocean Shores/Byron Bay – Butler Street/Suffolk Park • Butler Street, Byron Bay • Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads • Ocean Shores • Ocean Shores Beach |

Exercise 2: “Indicate what impacts on your capacity as a local resident to use the following facilities and infrastructure?”

For this exercise participants were given a list of local facilities and infrastructure and given the opportunity to identify any factors that may impact on their ability to utilise them. A summary of these issues is presented in the following table.

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Community Health – Kim Kendal | 30% clients have been in Byron less than 6 weeks | |
| Parking in Byron Bay | Holiday period | |
| Road crossings in Byron Bay | Too much traffic | Accessible path of traffic (ie pedestrian) |
| Parking at lighthouse | Limited walkway access during whale watching season | |
| No heated pool in the Shire | Hydrotherapy pool – people use resorts and Lismore | Existing pools not heated |
| Byron – Broken Head Rd | Outside caravan park (Gasby's) | Alternate tourist route and increase population |

3.6 Ocean State School Consultation

This consultation was designed to build on the responses gathered in the previous Section 94 survey work that was undertaken in 1995. Children from the Ocean Shores Primary School were asked about the facilities they (and their families) currently used, as well as the facilities they would like to see in the Shire in the future. The format of this consultation was group discussions and individual exercises where participants were asked to draw or write responses.

Three questions were posed to the children involved in this consultation:

1. When I'm not at school I...
2. What impacts on your ability to used facilities?
3. What facilities would you like to see in Byron Shire?

Exercise 1: "When I am not at school I..."

The most common responses to this question were:

- Play sport;
- Ride bike;
- Go shopping;
- Go to the Beach (Golden, Brighton, Brunswick, Fern);
- Go to the movies;
- Go to theme parks on the Gold Coast;
- Visit friends and/or relatives;
- Go to Water Lily Park;
- Do homework;
- Read;
- Go to nippers; and
- Skateboard.

Exercise 2: “What impacts on your ability to use facilities?”

Responses to this question included:

- Theme Parks too expensive;
- Equipment needs upgrading in Water Lily Park;
- Problems with the Skate Park in Brunswick: too far away, toilets in poor condition, equipment unsafe and needs updating;
- Canal is polluted;
- Problems with Bilo shopping centre: too small and access points need upgrading; and
- Untethered dogs are dangerous.

Exercise 3: “What facilities would you like to see in Byron Shire?”

- Movies;
- Skate park;
- A Shopping Mall and more shops;
- More sporting fields;
- More open space and parks;
- Bikeways and pathways;
- Playground equipment;
- Youth spaces and recreation;
- Public Library;
- Another school;
- Swimming pool;
- Better public toilets;
- More rain forest;
- More pedestrian crossings;
- Graffiti on the wall at Brunswick; and
- More safety houses and safety areas.

3.7 Coorabell Primary School

Two classes participated in the workshops, these being a Year 3/4 class and a Year 5/6 class.

The year 3 and 4 class were asked the following questions:

1. When I'm not at school I...
2. The two things I'd like most in my area are...
3. What barriers are there for the use of these facilities?

Exercise 1: “When I am not at school I....

The most common responses to this question were:

- Play computer games such as Nintendo and Gameboy
- Watch movies;
- Go to the beach, swim, surf and body-board;
- Eat;
- Horse ride;
- Play with friends;
- Play sport/ skateboard;
- Ride bikes;
- Little athletics;

- Play a musical instrument or sing;
- Swing off a rope into the water; and
- Go to Ballina Slide.

Exercise 2: “The two things I’d most like in my area are....”

The things that the respondents wanted in the area included:

- Motor cross course;
- Public art and art gallery;
- Skate and horse park;
- Entertainment area and community halls;
- Rope swing at pools, diving board and waterslides;
- Sport oval and tennis courts;
- More open space;
- Theatres;
- More trees;
- A library;
- Bikeways; and
- More parks and play equipment.

Exercise 3: What barriers are there for the use of these facilities?

- Theatre only in Ballina;
- Too far to travel for facilities such as motor cross;
- Replant and replace trees;
- Some facilities are not available or not allowed; and
- There are not enough resources.

Twenty-four students participated in the Year 5/6 workshop, their ages ranging from 10 to 12. The Year 5/6 class was asked the following questions:

1. What facilities do you currently use?
2. The two things I’d most like to see in my area are...
3. What barriers are there to the use of facilities in the area?

Exercise 1: What facilities do you currently use?

- The facility with the highest use among this group was the beach (55%).
- Approximately 50% of respondents listed the following as activities that they are regularly involved with:
 - Shopping;
 - Sport;
 - Bike riding; and
 - Cinema.
- Other activities and facilities noted were:
 - Playing a musical instrument;
 - Skating;
 - Eating and shopping for food;
 - Going to theme parks;
 - Playing computer games/Nintendo;
 - Other outdoor recreation such as rock climbing and horse riding; and
 - Indoor recreation such as theatre.

Exercise 2: “The two things I’d like most in my area are....”

The main services and facilities that were mentioned in this workshop were shopping, sporting and cinema facilities.

Some of the other issues raised in this exercise were:

- New community centre;
- Theme park in Byron;
- Upgrade parks and introduce more facilities such as a flying fox;
- Water slides;
- Cheap horse riding place;
- Gymnasium;
- More nurses for hospitals and aged people;
- More people who care about the environment;
- Bike and BMX tracks;
- Proper day care;
- More bus depots and train stops;
- More bins;
- More fire brigades and police;
- Fast food outlets;
- Public art;
- Better selection in the library; and
- A good theatre

Exercise 3: What are the barriers to the use of facilities in the area?

The following were put forward as barriers to the use of facilities in the area:

- Expense;
- Bike tracks need renovating, and there needs to be more of them;
- Not enough sporting facilities;
- Movie theatre does not show recent films, and there needs to be more than one cinema;
- Parks need to be kept clean and safe, and have new equipment;
- There should be more rubbish bins;
- Signage is needed;
- Access is a problem because you can’t ride on the highway;
- New footpath near Byron High School but no-where to cross;
- New developments may impact on endangered species;
- There are no water slides or flying foxes;
- Need better hospitals;
- Facilities are not spread out enough and hard to use during peak season; and
- Population growing therefore growing demands for facilities.

3.8 Mullumbimby High School

Thirty-one students, aged 15 to 17, participated in this workshop. They were asked the following questions:

1. What facilities do you currently use?
2. What facilities would you like in your local area?
3. Indicate any barriers to using/accessing local facilities?

Exercise 1: What facilities do you currently use?

- 90% of respondents cited the beach as a facility that they currently use. This was used for swimming, surfing, wake-boarding and beach walks;
- Over 80% of respondents cited the movies as a facility that they currently use. The locations of the cinemas that respondents frequented were at Tweed Heads, Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay, Coolangatta, Gold Coast (Surfers Paradise and Pacific Fair), Sunshine Coast, and Cabaritta.
- Nearly 70% of respondents cited eating out as something that they do for recreation. This included eating at restaurants as well as fast food places such as McDonald and Pizza Hut. The same proportion cited shopping as a recreation activity. Popular shopping areas were Tweed Heads, Byron, Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby, Ballina, Gold Coast (Pacific Fair, Surfers Paradise, Robina), Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.
- Around 50% of respondents played various sports for recreation. A similar proportion worked in the Byron Shire.
- Other activities included:
 - Underage night clubbing;
 - Dancing;
 - Bike riding;
 - Fishing; and
 - Boating.

Exercise 2: What facilities would you like in your local area?

The main issues raised within this activity were:

- A new youth club;
- Extended train lines;
- Graffiti walls in Brunswick;
- Underage nightclubs/raves in Byron;
- Cheaper bus travel/transport and more of it (especially night transport);
- Upgraded local cinema with updated movies or a new cinema;
- Skate park;
- Theme park;
- Theatre;
- Shopping mall;
- Indoor sport stadium and ice skating ring;
- A takeaway franchise in Byron Bay;
- Visual reality centre with laser games, sound and light entertainment;
- Outdoor recreation (such as rock climbing, golf course, Go Kart track, bungee jumping and water slide) and parks;
- Gym, ten-pin bowling and indoor pool
- Bike track from Ocean Shores to Byron through Brunswick;
- Art gallery and better public library;
- Upgraded BMX track;
- More jobs;
- A high school at Ocean Shores;
- Clean up Brunswick River and stock local water with fish;
- Meeting place for youth (youth centre)/ area for bands;
- Better lit streets and parks;
- Better rural roads;
- Teenage support facilities such as hostels and councillors; and
- Less power failures.

Exercise 3: Indicate any barriers to using/accessing local facilities?

| Facility | Barrier |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses only run during school time that makes it hard to do anything on the weekend; • Cost of buses is expensive; • No transport to the beach; • No transport to friends houses; • No transport to sporting facilities; • No transport to jobs; and • Petrol is very expensive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under age clubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far away, the closest one is Surfers Paradise; and • Parents would be more willing to let kids go if they were closer. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They need more equipment and also need seats; • Current parks are unclean and unsafe; and • Need a good skate park. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Tracks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is too dangerous to ride on the highway; and • Mullumbimby has no bile paths, let alone foot paths. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movies in Byron | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost; • No up to date films; • Equipment is not good; • There is only one; and • Only transport to Byron cinema. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too expensive – it is cheaper to shop at the Gold Coast; and • No transport. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not up to date; and • Any new books are always out. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byron at Night | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No where to go. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surfing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boats go out to the best surf spots, such as the Pass in Byron; • Boats pollute the water; and • No where to learn. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need somewhere to play when it is wet; • Can't sit down and watch sport as there are no seats or grandstands; • Need an ice-skating ring closer; • Need a motorbike track closer; • Golf Course is for members only; and • Being involved in fighting arts is expensive. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far away. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Gallery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local artists don't get recognition. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick River too shallow and dirty; • Potential health risk; and • River overpopulated. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full of potholes; and • Too narrow. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billinudgel Youth Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too old and too small for the facilities run by it. |

3.9 Tourism Sector Workshop

The extension of Section 94 to cover tourism developments requires consideration by tourism operators. Thus existing tourist accommodation providers, as well as regional and local tourist advocacy groups, were invited to attend the consultation. Five tourism service providers attended this workshop. They were involved in a number of activities aimed at gathering information on what services and facilities they thought would best meet the needs of both tourists and local residents.

Exercise 1: “What facilities would you like to see developed for Section 94 funds?”

The following issues were raised in response to this question:

- Fences along beaches;
- Heated pool;
- Bikeway/walkway to lighthouse and Byron Bay to Brunswick Heads (currently disused road);
- Bypass then Byron Bay town centre;
- Access to beach across Wilson Road eg pedestrian walkway or pedestrian crossing;
- Most tourists use Main Beach;
- Community centre attracts tourists because says “its different”;
- Aboriginal cultural centre;
- Clean up Byron Bay town centre
- Parking – no reverse parking because of exhaust issues;
- Widen pathways in Byron Bay town centre;
- Lighting (near Arts Factory) general street lighting;
- Tallow Beach – no safety equipment, need equipment at strategic point;
- Surf life saving all over shire; and
- Designated tourist office – possibly as part of community centre.

Exercise 2: “Identify any issues with the implementation of the existing or future Section 94 Plan”

- Differentiate between types of tourism development
 - hostels
 - hotel/motel – star rating
 - serviced apartments/cabins
 - Bed and Breakfast/guest house/??
- equity – cost of development – per/bedroom preferable to p/bed
- Awareness of \$ of development
 - take into consideration in developing new S94 plan

3.10 Development Sector Workshop

The development sector encompassed professional and trade persons from the following categories:

- Real estate
- Land Developers
- Residential, commercial, tourism and industrial developers;
- Builders; and
- Architects and designers.

Exercise 1: “Identify any issues with the current Section 94 Plan”

The issues that arose from this exercise were:

- Plans must be easy to follow;
- The aim of this review is to get rates/formulas right for the local area and clearly show where the money is going;
- It is difficult to work out what is needed in five years;
- Need basic, reasonable and affordable facilities as part of the plan;
- Money is designated for particular facilities;
- Accounting by catchments is prescribed by legislation;
- Population does not acknowledge their own responsibility ie must be apportioned;
- Whether facilities are built or not depends on development trends – people’s attitudes change therefore no guarantees;
- If Councils say they have a plan than can be longer period otherwise courts generally agree 5 – 10 years = reasonable;
- Community expectations are increased because things have to be done properly;
- Inflationary factor/indexing of Section 94 can link to CPI but substantial changes to proposed development can be difficult if costs are increased; and
- Administrative fee on Section 94 was at 10% but has been increased recently.

Exercise 2: “Identify any issues with the implementation of the existing or future Section 94 Plan?”

- Lots of unauthorised uses – so developers question why;
- Section 94 should be “wish list” therefore must be reasonable in respect to money and not undermine viability of development. Decrease Section 94 is another tax – must be factored in;
- Money for Section 94 is collected makes it onerous for developers because based on margins and loan costs – problem with using rates base for future/forward planning;
- Cannot see expenditure of funds in short term – in a visible sense;
- Mullumbimby subdivision is creating population but associated infrastructure is not keeping pace with development:
 - Public safety issue re pathways – similarly at Fern Beach Ocean Shores; and
 - Immediate expenditure.
- Section 94 plans that are too geographically specific can be detrimental if economic downturn occurs and entire project;
- Different philosophy of small versus large items;
- Linkages between new development and existing development/routes etc;
- Stick to basics eg road upgrading, bikeways, library;
- Essential versus desirable;
- Operating cost of facilities causes difficulties in Council because cannot afford and then expectation/obligation to continue service;
- Too easy to change the facilities ie Council moving the goal post;
- Section 94 must be evolving therefore responding to changing needs;
- Council needs to audit its system of roads, intersections – therefore Council staff between engineering and planning need to communicate (hierarchy of roads); and
- Council is currently getting to thresholds on intersections in urban zones especially roundabouts – can be reflected as gaps in existing Section 94 plan.

Exercise 3: “Identify what infrastructure, if any, would make the Byron Shire a more desirable place for prospective developments?”

1. Bikeways (connected to regional centre, to schools/residential areas, between towns);
2. Access (ageing/retiring population) within towns footpaths/crossings; and
3. Must benefit everyone in the community eg roads/parking – apportionment, therefore must have strong nexus.

3.11 Government/Community Sector Workshop

16 people attended this workshop. The issues that were raised are presented below.

Exercise 1: “What plans does your agency currently have regarding facility provision?”

- DA approval
 - Multi purpose community centre Byron Bay;
 - Community hall, meeting room, mothers room, accessible facilities;
 - Performance space, office space;
 - Library;
 - Service providers/support workers; and
 - Soup kitchen.
- Hospital/community health facility;
- Byron youth service – outdoor extension;
- South Golden Beach – bikeway access;
- Hydro-therapy pool – Mullumbimby pool;
- Mullumbimby – North Power building;
- Extension of Sandhills for early capital and approved intervention service/office;
- OOSH – additional 40 place, v/care 30 place, school grounds or rent space;
- Long term location options;
- Clarke’s Beach – children’s adventure playground (Crown land);
- SLS;
- Bushfire Brigade – 5 year financial plan including equipment generally used for shortfalls; and
- Radio station – Coopers Hoop.

Exercise 2: “What impacts on people’s capacity to use facilities?”

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| • Mullumbimby Health Centre/hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bike tracks • Poor access | • Too far to walk and not enough parking, no public transport and difficult for disabled |
| • Neighbourhood Centre – Mullum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor facilities for groups • No disabled toilets | • Cramped, old ancient promises |
| • Byron Community Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overuse, overcrowded • No group rooms | • Ancient promises, impact of tourism, high growth on town centre and growth of transient/homeless population |
| • Byron Community Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No group room • Shortage of general parking | |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--|---|---|
| • Council Chambers | • No disabled access (this if feedback from clients) | |
| • Drill Hall Theatre | • Too small • Poor toilets | • Old – limited capacity |
| • Youth Facilities | • Boredom | |
| • Shopping centre Mullumbimby/ Byron/ Ocean Shores | • Not pram/ wheel chair/ elderly friendly | • Poor public transport |
| • Outside school hours Care – children 5-12 years | • Access • Suitability of premise | • Needs to be within walking distance |
| | • Lack of car parking | • Not purpose built |
| | • Security of tenure | • Use of schools |
| | • Length of time spent by children in school premises | • Difficulty in finding suitable premises • Children spending 9-6 in some space in same space |
| | • Quantify of service diminished and ability to deliver to a wide range of needs. | • Not appropriate premises/ surrounds/ facilities |
| | • Equity of access | |
| • Playgrounds | • Lack of in north of shire • Positioning of around the shire • Shade/sun/water issues • Mixed groups using area | • None have been built even though population has increased • Intoxicated person drinking in park area |
| • Rural Roads | • Access issues for fire brigade • Isolated issues | • Quality of roads • Poor creek/ river crossings |
| • Youth spaces and Recreation Areas | • Lack of skateboarding facilities • Lack of sports grounds in north of shire | • Little commitment from Council • Mixed communications with current commitments |
| • Cultural venues galleries and theatres | • Lack of comfortable theatre | • Drill hall, Epicentre, 2 community halls, double up |
| • Hospice/respice Centre | • Supply does not meet demand | • There is no facility |
| • Bikeway/pathway in South Golden Beach | • Community is physically separated by the river | • No footbridge, bikeway exists across the river |
| • Byron Bay community centre | • Lack of affordable and regular transport from other areas in shire | • Train service altered • Low population |

| Facility | Impact | Reason |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across the Shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of facilities for the disabled eg transport, ramps etc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bypass |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of parking spaces Lack of bikeways Dangerous traffic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited time parking and no lines to maximise available spaces |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of meeting and training space in Byron | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pedestrian crossing at roundabout |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mullumbimby Pool (Byron) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unisex disabled toilet Facilities affects opposite sex carers | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No baggage storage in Byron and Mullumbimby for out of town residents and tourists | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many parks have no shade for children | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many parks do not have adequate equipment or are located poorly such as Apex Park in Byron Bay | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mullumbimby swimming pool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover needed on part of the pool/ grounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessen skin cancer |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bike paths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More bike racks needed | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporting fields parks Ocean Shores | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not provided |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundabouts needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsafe intersections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrances to Sunrise Beach, Beach Club, Industrial estate Byron Bay |

Exercise 3: “Items you’d like to see Section 94 expanded on?”

The following is a summary of the issues raised within this activity.

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tennis court north eg. South Golden Beach; – Gymnastic venue – Byron Bay; – Equipment for BN PCYC; – Public pool – Ocean Shores ideal: lease Country Club pool; – All weather sporting facilities; – Toilets at New Brighton Soccer Club • Bike racks and bikeways (beaches/commercial centres) • Purpose built x 2 north and south OOSH services • SLS – equipment and storage • Library Byron Bay, study area, IT facilities • Community mulcher and recycling facilities • Parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Playground equipment (South Golden Beach) (Byron Bay – Apex Park); – Upgrade Railway Park • Proclaimed place • Fire service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fire patrol/operation centre – Upgrade tankers • Affordable community centre/ meeting space Byron Bay • Beach access (cement steps with rails and ramps) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – South Golden Beach – Main Beach – Brunswick – Torakina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road infrastructure and maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jonson/Lawson Street roundabout; – Well defined crossings; – Byron Bay bypass; – Parking in Byron Bay (Multi-story) • Transport services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bus terminal at Byron Bay; – Bus shelter at Uncle Toms • Shade generally at recreation facilities • Storage facilities for tourists, beach users (lockers) • Street lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fletcher Street; – Woolworths/ Railway Park • Signage – facilities related, multi lingual • Youth facility Ocean Shores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Purpose built; – Change existing community centre • Skate ramps/parks (already DA approval) • Mall – Jonson Street • ATSI cultural centre • Iron Bark housing project • Toilet facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New Brighton – Byron Bay (town and rec ground) – Mullumbimby • Disabled access – buildings, public pool, car spaces, kerb ramps • Disabled access – buildings, public pool, car spaces, kerb ramps • Hospice and respite care centre – possibly co-located |
|---|---|

3.12 Byron Shire Section 94 Community Survey

Part of the Byron Bay Strategy was to undertake a community survey to gather some local input. From the small survey, 10 people were interviewed. Most of the participants lived in Mullumbimby, Main Arm, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores. All interviewed were from English-speaking backgrounds and were over 40 years of age, except one 25-39 years of age respondent. Further, those interviewed came from the broad spectrum of employment levels including full-time, part-time, unemployed, homemaker and retired.

Transport and Traffic

- Primary means for 100% of those interviewed was the private car
- 2 respondents stated cycling and public transport as other means of transport
- Of those interviewed, 90% stated that local rural roads were not good
- Roads identified as in need of upgrading were Pocket Road, Upper Main Arm, Coolaman Scenic Road, Rajah Road and the local roads around Ocean Shores.

- 90% of those interviewed stated that there was inadequate supply of parking facilities around the town centres.

Community Facilities and Services

- Of those interviewed, 90% used most facilities. High use facilities include the community hall, library and local parks.
- Of those interviewed the level of use of the facilities range from often (parks and open space), to never (child care and youth centres). On average, most facilities were used frequently (at least once per month).
- Those interviewed stated libraries and open spaces and parks to be very accessible and community halls to be accessible.

Community Comments

- The respondents highlighted a need for improved cycle and pedestrian paths, especially along the Left Bank Road and Ewingsdale Road.
- Pedestrian system through the central business district of Mullumbimby
- Library in Mullumbimby and Byron needs upgrading, including more relevant up-to-date materials and equipment.
- Road improvements such as to reduce rat-running through Tincogan Street from Main Arm Road to the highway. A roundabout at the junction of Tincogan and Dalley and Tincogan and Strait
- Increase accessibility to facilities for people with disabilities (swimming pools, Council Chambers, community halls, shops and beaches)
- Costs of hall hire is escalating and small meeting rooms are increasingly difficult to obtain
- Streetscaping and management
- More sporting facilities, especially youth parks such as skateparks
- Improve public toilets in Brunswick Heads

4. Key Themes

4.1 Issues, Opportunities and Constraints

In reviewing the issues raised and prioritised by all groups there were a number of recurring themes and issues that have been identified and categorised as follows:

- Sporting facilities and services:
 - There is a lack of sporting facilities and services in the area;
 - This includes a lack of an indoor sporting facility and indoor pool;
 - Seating is not available for spectators; and
 - Current sporting fields and venues are not well maintained.
- Transport:
 - There is a lack of public transport within the Byron Shire;
 - This includes a lack of transport within towns to recreation facilities and services; and
 - The high cost of transport has also been identified as an issue.
- Environment/Beach and Parks:
 - Limited access to beaches;
 - Parks need more equipment;
 - Parks need to be properly maintained; and
 - Recycling centre needs to be established.
- Roads/Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths/Parking:
 - Need for an extensive bicycle network;
 - Footpaths need to be upgraded;
 - Roads need upgrading, especially rural roads; and
 - Parking availability needs to be improved.
- Cinemas/Shopping facilities:
 - Only one cinema within the area;
 - Cinema does not show up-to-date films and is poorly maintained; and
 - Shopping facilities could be upgraded.
- Youth Facilities:
 - Lack of youth recreation facilities;
 - Lack of entertainment opportunities for young people at night; and
 - Skateboarding facilities needed.
- Government Infrastructure:
 - Disability access within the Shire needs to be improved;
 - Accessible public toilets;
 - There is a need for community space and facilities;
 - There is a need for a library;
 - Street lighting needs to be improved; and
 - There is a need for cultural venues, public art and/ or and Art Gallery.

5. Further Consultation

5.1 Community Exhibition

As part of the consultation program, a community exhibition will be set up at a strategic point within the Byron Shire. This will allow residents access to the results of the consultations, and provide an avenue for feedback that can be incorporated into the Final Byron Shire Section 94 Plan.

The details of this exhibition are yet to be finalised.