

AMENDED ITEM

Item No: 6.3
Title: Notice of Motion - Forgotten North Gateway
Disgrace
Department: Councillor



24 August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14127991
Author: Greg Best, Councillor
Bruce McLachlan, Councillor

Councillors Best and McLachlan have given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 24 August 2020 they will move the following motion:

- 1 That Council notes with great concern the continuing deterioration in the visual amenity and overall public safety in and around the Toukley Bridge Gateway precinct due to:**
 - a The RMS graffiti laden worksite known locally as the 'RMS Shanty Town'.**
 - b The concrete shell known as the 'Toukley Taj Mahal' and its dilapidated abandoned wharf.**
 - c The remnant collapsing and highly dangerous foundations of the old Toukley Bridge (now local Heritage listed).**
 - d The abandoned asbestos laden and dilapidated Gorokan Fish Coop building (including stylish fencing) controlled by Department of Lands.**
 - e The abandoned and again dangerous Coop Wharf.**
 - f The Rotting seaweed removal platform and gaol like fencing.**
- 2 That further Council notes the disappointment/complaints and local outrage at such a disgraceful display in the gateway to our Scenic North.**
- 3 That Council write to the RMS and Department of Lands on behalf of our Local Community demanding that their areas of responsibilities be immediately addressed.**
- 4 That Council request the Chief Executive Officer provide a thorough report for Council and indeed the Community's consideration as to the best way forward to beautify and take more seriously this important gateway.**
- 5 Further in contrast Council congratulates Staff on the recent installation of the state-of-the-art Community Exercise and Play Area installed in the Gorokan Bridge Silver Playground Area.**

Councillors Note

I have attached a series of photos to assist you and making it abundantly clear that the continued deterioration of The Toukley Bridge precinct must now end.

The long list above in this Motion is a failed Report Card on every level. From a visual amenity, travelling into our Scenic North, it is a disgrace. From a public safety perspective it is dynamite.

I have personally witnessed large groups of children playing and jumping from the dilapidated, nail-infested foundations of the old Toukley Bridge. We have multiple wharves abandoned in the area, again real navigation hazards, compounded by dilapidating buildings on both sides.

I appreciate the Department of Lands is in a DA process for demolishing the Fish Coop however this building has been dilapidated for nearly a decade and even if they receive a DA there is nothing compelling them to pull down this fibro bomb immediately.

With regard to the Toukley Taj Mahal on the eastern side of the Bridge, these ruins have been the subject of numerous Notice of Motions by myself in the former Wyong Council and legal action has been taken against the owners. As the deterioration has escalated and public safety is clearly an issue, I would appreciate Staff commentary around what further options may be available to Council.

On the issue of the locally known RMS Shanty Town, it is an irony that on the bunting around the graffiti laden demountables is the slogan "Investing in Regional Roads." In my view this third world village is an absolute slap in the face to our local Community and to all those that try and make Toukley and Gorokan a destination. The hard work of our shopkeepers and all those they employ rely on a good impression when people come to visit. I appreciate the RMS is conducting works under the Toukley Bridge and they have been I believe for almost two years now, however this is no excuse for such an ad hoc and poorly maintained worksite that is a blight on our Community.

In conclusion the most staggering observation is that the dilapidated rotting remnant, Toukley Bridge studded with two inch rusting spikes protruding from it (see photos attached) has by this Council been identified as a Local Heritage Item. If it collapses killing unsuspecting fisherpersons, who will be held responsible?

Councillors, simply put, we can do better for our Community and I appeal to you to give the above Motion the 'unanimous' attention that the Community demands.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to genuinely thank our Staff for their excellent efforts in bringing to life such a wonderful Community installation that of

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the Public Exercise and Play Equipment recently installed that is a glaring contrast to the disgrace that is literally across the road. Also, we should not forget the extraordinary efforts by the Veterans Community to beautify and memorialise the southern adjoining park areas that the Community now enjoy.





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**Chief Executive Officer Response:**

The Chief Executive Officer considers that this Notice of Motion has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the meeting. As a result, the Chief Executive Officer will provide a report in relation to the Notice of Motion. This report will be provided as a Late Item and will be made available by close of business on the Friday prior to the Council Meeting.

Attachments

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| 1 | CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Forgotten North Gateway Disgrace | D14145110 |
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Title: CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Forgotten North Gateway Disgrace

Department: Environment and Planning

24 August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14145110

Author: Brian Jones, Unit Manager, Environment and Certification

Executive: Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning



Summary

This report provides a response to Item 6.3 - Notice of Motion – Forgotten North Gateway Disgrace.

Motion:

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Staff Comments:

Should the Motion be adopted, Council staff can write to the RMS and Department of Lands to seek their prompt action in relation to these matters.

To enable a thorough report to be prepared in response to the motion, a report could not be presented to Council until November 2020 to detail available options for this location.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal A: Our community spirit is our strength

A4: Enhance community safety within neighbourhoods, public spaces and places.

Attachments

Nil.