



Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

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**General Meeting
7 April 2025 at 7.00pm
Community Centre, Dent Street, Huskisson**

AGENDA

Everyone has the right to be heard. All speakers need to be relevant and brief. One person speaks at a time – please do not talk over others. We discuss issues, not people. We learn from history but will not dwell on it. The Chair has the right to advise a speaker to finish.

Attendance: Jo Warren, Penny Davidson, Lisa Brown (SCC), Leslie Lockwood, Maureen Noonan, Abe Mehmet, Carol Blake, Daniel Payne, Bert Payne, Jemma Tribe (Cllr), Martine Moffatt, Kristy Mayhew (SCC), Walter Salmon, Carol Rizzuto, Tony Rizzuto, Billie Vlies, Bill Vlies, Margot Curtis, Roger Hart, Alex Paton, L Paton, Megan Jobson, Lyn Baekhoven, Camilla Hamilford, Rachel Marsden

1. Acknowledgement of traditional owners
I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.
2. Welcome, introduction and apologies
Apologies: Tim Peach, Shirley Fitzgerald, Mark Wareham,
3. Minutes of previous meeting
Motion: that Minutes from the meeting 17th February 2025 be accepted.
Moved: Alex Paton
Seconded: Walter salmon
4. Business arising from Minutes (number of letters still to write)
 - a. OFS GIPA for 45 degree data – returned to original policy
 - b. No action on LEP revision
 - c. No submission for Community Participation Plan
 - d. Submission objecting to DA25/1051
 - e. Response to query about church block – HHA felt it wasn't their place to make decisions/ offer proposals – no legal requirement to maintain the site.
 - f. Citizen science monitoring of water from tip – creek was tested by citizen science - results not out of the ordinary for that location. Generally speaking, pH turbidity, couldn't test for heavy metals, but wasn't out of ordinary
5. Treasurer's Report – see end of minutes – balance: **\$1,708.21**

Treasurers report accepted

6. Outstanding Correspondence – nil – Noise complaint for pub – received update that the investigation identified non-compliance. Copy of correspondence was given to Jemma Tribe.

7. Lisa Brown – Business and events coordinator, and Kristy Mayhew Manager – Cultural & Community Services (Acting) from Shoalhaven City Council.

Lisa has been 18mths in role, and grew up in the area. She is familiar with effect of events.

Community tourism and economic development is now one team in Council.

How event management works

- Tourism events had Council funding previously commenced approximately 8 yrs ago – event attraction program to bring in targeted groups, and bring events at certain times of year, and to certain locations – have to go here, and have to be this time of year
- With that program they had the ability to influence what happens. In Feb 2024 that funding was removed under Councils Financial Sustainability Measures. No funding to events now. No plan to reinstate in foreseeable future.
- Event application process – council provides permit for each event on council owned or managed land – applicant applies, and depending on the event there are different rules, and trigger points. Any person can apply to use any land as long as the proposed use fits with Councils adopted Event Policy. They receive 250 to 300 applications per year, including small community to large events to regular markets.
- Every event has fees and charges – community fee is 75% of private rate, there is a commercial rate and private use rate (where a fence goes up)
- Size of the event triggers the need for a parking plan – 200 people doesn't need a parking plan, but a 2000 people event needs a parking plan, risk assessment, public liability, site plans etc. Council don't approve the event – they permit the use of the land as long as they meet the requirements.
- Husky tri – is a private event – ticketed and fenced off park.
- Clr Proudfoot asked a lot of these questions, triggering a review of cost benefits of events, they have had 2800 responses to their tourism survey
- They are going to put responses in a report and give a breakdown of finances – fees and charges – all public charges and set fees. This should be available in a late May Council meeting.

Considerable concern about the triathlon was raised at the meeting.

Query: Events appear to be focused on Husky – is there an upper limit, and monitoring?

Response: Have to abide by current policy – the policy is being reviewed in second half of year. Council has no ability in policy to say 'no', or to 'move them'. They are currently researching what other councils do. They don't have a mechanism to cap events. It has been ok in the past – needing to cap events hadn't arisen. Council don't actively try to bring events into Huskisson.

Pending the number of people involved in an event they are considering the need to look additional requirements.

Query: Events are getting bigger, it seems that there is a policy to agree to any application?

Response: Council can only permit one event organiser 52 days per year ie one a week in line with the Shoalhaven LEP. If they want more they have to do a DA. The Local Government Act requires this approach – along as they follow their own plan of management

Council does have debriefs with organisers, and go through the complaints, and make suggestions.

Noted that Triathlons are very popular.

Audience raised concern that the triathlon is greatly disadvantaging existing businesses, and the community.

Cost-benefit

Council don't get involved in financial aspects of the events.

They have been asked to look at cost benefits. This was done originally when events were funded through the Tourism Event Support Program, but not part of the event application process right now.

Query: How do they know about numbers of attendees?

Response: from mobile phone data – other data sources which will give the average occupancy rates, visa card data, money spent in shops etc

So will use some of that data in the report to council – can look at event period compared to non-event period.

In the Council public Survey there was huge support as well as concern.

Query: so there isn't really a mechanism to analyse / keep track of the cost-benefit of events?

Response: When people get locked out of public space – have to tell council what will be happening in the space – charge per location and they pay for that privilege.

As part of events we work with rangers and brief them what is about to happen. We get them to review the road closures, the timing, post event catch up with rangers to go through what happened. We get feedback from TfNSW and police, also meet with park staff – and that informs the debrief. If we receive multiple complaints – that indicates something is going wrong.

If they breach condition of permit – that is when council can do something. We open a review. This takes a while. Event organiser will get fined, and Council might increase requirements.

Lisa goes to events to check what is happening with road closures etc with the aim to hold them more accountable and to check what is happening on the ground.

If you see any issues please tell her about it – time, place, what happened

Lisa Brown <Lisa.Brown@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>

Concern in the room that the February event had outgrown the town, and it is a situation where one private business essentially closes the town down, causing many problems, unacceptable to businesses and community.

Query: Can they do another survey? Many people in the room hadn't done the survey.

Response: Usually have 300 responses to surveys, so in this instance have had a high response. Feel that representative voices have been heard. Elected officials have taken notice. Lisa is sure there will be some level of change. Change will impact all events.

Other events:

RSL also books events through them – not charged., still has to be permitted. They are automatically booked.

Query: Sea change festival – had to apply for each event – and to manage traffic had to have people who are trained – is that still the case?

Response: Yes it is, have to be trained traffic controllers. Following feedback this year will now be looking at every person's ticket – so monitoring that in more detail.

Query: If police support the events by their presence is this diminishing local availability?

Elite energy pay the police to attend. They come up from Batemans bay- 'user pay police'. Allocated through head district –usually come from another area.

On behalf of other businesses can point out that business is down 5% week before tri, then the weekend of the tri they shut the shop, the week after Huskisson is a ghost town. The community loses 3 weeks of wages. Overall perception: Airbnb will do well in Feb anyway, and Coles – it's the residents and other businesses that are impacted. The triathletes don't come to eat burgers.

Council: Acknowledged that the event should be a different time of year, that would have less impact on businesses. Have discussed that with Elite but there is a triathlon year schedule and the February event fits that, also the sea temperature is warm. But just before Easter would be good – water still warm.

Meeting concern: events that close people out of public space – fenced, blocked from toilet, disturb nesting shorebirds, blocked disabled access.

Concern about 4 lots of fireworks across 6 weeks:

Pointed out that the original fireworks are run by the Chamber of Commerce who work very hard to raise the money, and organise. They have looked at lasers and drones - 4 times the price, and very weather dependent.

Council: there is a separate fireworks policy and can only have fireworks in association with an event. No limit on number of fireworks at present. Can only be used if open to community – can't be private. Fireworks are ultimately 'approved' by Safework NSW.

Fireworks policy will be put into the events policy.

Note Carnival have to put in a DA which they do very early in the year.

Meeting was surprised that Council is unable to control what happens.

Query: What happens to fees and charges?

Response: the event organiser is invoiced and the money goes back to that location. For example White Sands park use, the money goes back to that park, and the district that maintains roads, traffic team. The money is routed to relevant team. It's an additional revenue stream for council.

Council has 6 destination park. Now council is able to charge a special 'destination park fee' – 50% more than other parks. Council is hoping to push events out to other towns / areas and they have been able to get on event to go to Plantation point instead of Husky.

Council is listening but changes are not instant. For example, they have increased fees and charges.

Query: The support and concern is not 50:50 – it's all 'against' in some places.

Response: It is State legislation that allows events to not have to do a DA, they just need a permit from council. Events on private land still do need a DA. So most events don't have to do a DA.

Events are temporary and the State has simplified and streamlined the planning process – similar to complying developments.

Lisa is happy to come out any time to our meetings.

Lisa's email address to community so they can contact her.

Lisa.Brown@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Also share the event website, and the

[What's On - Shoalhaven - South Coast NSW](http://www.shoalhaven.com/events/) - www.shoalhaven.com/events/

Jervis Bay weekend to subscribe to

[Jervis Bay Weekend | Get away with everything | What to do in Jervis Bay](http://jervisbayweekend.com.au) - jervisbayweekend.com.au

Big thank you to Lisa and Kristy for working for us, and listening.

8. Other Business

- a. Alex – liquid amber trees on Duncan St – roots under fences – breaking fences, under driveway, approaching footings of houses. Council tree – broken footpath, coming up in lawn; Leslie – some time ago – replacement policy – thought that take every third and replace ... Alex to draft letter – what is the policy re trees, can they be replaced
- b. Carol – contacted council – hold my hand – blue dinosaur group – they will get into contact with Vincentia, hoping to get those up in Husky for Easter – White Sand, Bowen, Hawke and Nowra. Thank you. Megan put up for the VRRR – some have spare stickers.

- c. Roger – bridge over the creek at Edendale St – head wall damaged from floods, three deep potholes over the bridge, not holding up well, developer hasn't done anything – has been reported to council – HWCV write to reinforce - detail from Margot /Roger
- d. Danny – trees with lights, starting to tighten on trees - LEDs control from phone, and laid loose – tree people came and cut through lights, gateway paid to put in, council wont' replace lights, but they do maintain the veg and area. Reported that council has been cleaning the main street and now have lots of bins. And the faulty pavers have been replaced. Everything getting done now.
- e. PFAS sign – why isn't it bigger? Need to write and ask

Meeting closed 8.30

Next meeting

- o 2nd June 2025

2025 HWCV meeting dates:

2nd June

4th August

13 Oct (holidays on 6th)

10th Nov

Huskisson Wollamia Community Voice - Treasurers Report

Monday 7 April 2025

	Date paid	Amount
Balance b/f (from meeting on 18 November 2024 and meeting on 17 February 2025)	n/a	1,449.01
Meeting room hire (meeting on 17 February 2025)	19/03/2025	17.9
Elite Energy donation (Mark Wareham volunteering at Big Husky event)	20/03/2025	295.0
Meeting room hire (meeting on 7 April 2025)	7/04/2025	17.9
Closing balance		1,708.21