

From: Evelyn Edwards [evelyn.c.edwards@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 April 2016 12:20:22 PM
To: Kyogle Council; Clr Danielle Mulholland; Clr Lindsay Passfield; Clr Maggie Creedy; Clr Ross Brown; Clr Chris Simpson; Clr Janet Wilson; Clr John Burley; Clr Bob Dwyer; micheal.reardon@kyogle.nsw.gov.au; Jeff Breen; admin@maraseeds.com.au; ian.dibley@hotmail.com; Rob Sinnamon; Elizabeth Lahrs
Subject: ASSISTING KYOGLE SHIRE COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOT ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

KYOGLE SHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2025
(submissions for public comment close 22 APRIL 16)

I believe Council would appear to be supporting more inclusively, businesses and ratepayers West of the range, if, in the C.S.P. they acknowledged 3 of the biggest agricultural industries on the North Coast, which also operate within Kyogle Shire and it's adjoining shires. (page 8 last paragraph refers)

Mountain Blue Farms employs in excess of 400 people and when their packaging plant on Jacksons flat road is operational, even more people will be employed.

Mara Seeds is a processing facility on the Bruxner Highway who process oilseed, soy flour, stock feed ,& compost & generate local employment and Mara Global are global exporters who operate from Culmarin creek road.

Yugilbar station is a 35,000 acre beef and grain industry supplying Casino meat works and Riverina stock feeds.

The roads linking these industries to the Bruxner Highway which is their arterial supply and delivery road, are unsealed and in an extreme state of disrepair. Annual grading of these roads gives approximately one months relief of wear and tear on industry vehicles before these roads return to their usual state. The reason for this is a lack of road base, nearly all of the roads have been eroded down to bedrock.

These roads are not identified and listed as a major priority in the C.S.P. (page 8 LIST OF MAJOR PRIORITIES refers)

Evelyn Edwards

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From: Evelyn Edwards [evelyn.c.edwards@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 6 April 2016 5:42:09 PM

To: Kyogle Council; Clr Danielle Mulholland; Clr Lindsay Passfield; Clr Ross Brown; Clr Chris Simpson; Clr Janet Wilson; Clr John Burley; Clr Maggie Creedy; Clr Bob Dwyer; Clr Michael Reardon; Jeff Breen

Subject: AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS EMAIL AFTER ADVICE FROM MARA SEEDS - IN RED FOR EASIER READING

Subject: RE: ASSISTING KYOGLE SHIRE COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOT ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

I believe Council would appear to be supporting more inclusively, businesses and ratepayers West of the range, if, in the C.S.P. they acknowledged 3 of the biggest agricultural industries on the North Coast, which also operate within Kyogle Shire and it's adjoining shires. (page 8 last paragraph refers)

Mountain Blue Farms employs in excess of 400 people and when their packaging plant on Jacksons flat road is operational, even more people will be employed.

Mara Seeds is a processing facility on the Bruxner Highway who process stock feed, compost & generate local employment for eighteen staff members. *Mara Global Foods specialises in gluten free flour milling and export to numerous countries. Mara Global Foods operates from Culmaran creek road and employs over 25 staff members.*

Yugilbar station is a 35,000 acre beef and grain industry supplying Casino meat works and Riverina stock feeds.

The roads linking these industries to the Bruxner Highway which is their arterial supply and delivery road, are unsealed and in an extreme state of disrepair. Annual grading of these roads gives approximately one months relief of wear and tear on industry vehicles before these roads return to their usual state. The reason for this is a lack of road base, nearly all of the roads have been eroded down to bedrock.

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From: Graeme Mtjt [graeme@morethanjusttalk.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 7 April 2016 1:20:01 PM
To: Kyogle Council
CC: Clr Danielle Mulholland
Subject: SUBMISSION Draft Community Strategic Plan 2015-25

The General Manager

The General Manager, Kyogle Council

council@kyogle.nsw.gov.au

Dear General Manager

Draft Community Strategic Plan 2015-25

Please accept my submission on this plan.

By way of background I am new to Kyogle and come with a long and active interest in local government and community engagement. I particularly believe the local sphere offers opportunities to reinvigorate democracy, which many believe is currently suffering a malaise.

I attended a session at council on 29 February when background to the plan was presented and various aspects of the plan were discussed. An observation made by some of those present related to the small numbers in attendance; about 12 I think, including council representatives.

Small numbers participating on consultative processes is common throughout local government and indeed all levels of government.

Some may think this is a sign that residents are happy with the way things are, and see no reason to involve themselves. This is undoubtedly at least partly correct. Others, and I would be one, think it a sign that people have lost an understanding of participation in civic life and probably don't think it will make any difference.

There are means available to engage citizens in the future of Kyogle. This isn't easy or quick and needs a determination and a deep commitment that it is worth doing.

Which brings me to the CSP where I suggest that the Governance and Community Strategies and Actions strand should relate directly to and use the language of council's Community Engagement Policy. Section 5 (page 3) of the CEP says community engagement may include provision of information, consultation or active participation and partnerships. It is in "active participation and partnerships" that opportunities for strengthening local democracy lay. The CSP currently refers to keeping the public well informed.

I'm happy to discuss further if you wish.

Graeme Gibson

7 April 2016

General Manager Kyogle Council
PO Box 11 Kyogle, 2474

Dear Sir

Re Draft Community Strategic Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the Draft Plan.

Rather than make many detailed comments on the small particulars of the Plan, we have chosen to communicate our views on the approach and basic framework.

Reads as a top down bureaucratic document now being presented to the community. "In presenting this plan to the community, Council is showing that it is **Ready to Grow**" ... "In preparing this plan, Council has considered the issues and pressures that may affect the community"

"It articulates the outcomes from the focus groups, expressed in terms of an overall vision, strategies and actions for each of the priority themes with catalyst strategies and actions intended to invigorate and activate development and implementation of **Council's vision for the future**. (as opposed to the community's.)

We trust this was not the intent BUT?

The Document does not adequately capture the diversity of community viewpoints and aspirations.

Does not meaningfully address many locally relevant issues, incl

- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- High school retention levels
- Community capacity, social capital
- Reconciliation
- Emergency Management, particularly within a Climate Change scenario

The document does not address four key questions for the community:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be in ten years' time?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know when we have arrived?

There are no performance measureables – No current state (baseline) or desired outcome (targets). Please refer "Imagine Lismore" for examples.

The document would benefit from a stronger direction and timeline. The community not only wants aspirational visions, but also wants tangible achievable visions that are clearly communicated; and runs on the board from Council

The document refers to critical terms and concepts where a shared understanding of meaning is required, for without this it is highly probable that misunderstanding and confusion will occur. The community does not have a shared understanding of many terms, including growth; prosperity, well being, fulfilment; inclusiveness; sense of place. For example, growth means – ever more residents, ever more houses, ever more money, cars per household, education, small businesses, sense of community, equality, recreation, equity, waste, landfill, water consumption???

The Strategy even talks of "growing cultural diversity"??

It is a serious error to assume everyone is on the same page, without clarity, without a framework and boundaries, and without in this example a relevant Growth management strategy.

Ready to Grow is without meaning – meaning something different to every reader – bordering on a trite slogan. Prosperity led also means ???

The document is exceedingly verbose and at times gets lost in rhetoric, jargon, and buzz words. Generally unfriendly to the community who are supposed to own the plan. *“Systems, products, services and other opportunities will have facilitated the expansion into neighbouring and further regions to add value and enhance sustainability across the council footprint.”* We are led to believe this means you will work cooperatively with neighbouring councils to reduce duplication, achieve economies of scale; and share resources”???

Reduce, simplify language and stick to the key points – objectives supported by big picture strategies
Why say it in 100 words when three dot points will suffice.

Would benefit from simplification /clarification, and focusing on key points, and a review of presentation. Would also benefit from inclusion of material from the Kyogle Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015, and in particular our comments on the draft of this Policy – please find these attached.

There is a stark contrast between the Kyogle document and the brevity and clarity of the NSW Premiers and State Priorities; Imagine Lismore; and the Northern Territory Government Framing the Future document.

It is suggested that perusal of the above documents and adoption of some of the approaches will benefit the revision of the Kyogle document.

The document has an often confusing mix of aspirations and sometimes detailed implementation actions. It is our understanding that the document should deal with objectives and strategies, whilst the delivery and operational plans focus on general and precise actions.

The document would benefit from a review of actions, focusing on retaining (clarifying) only the high level actions. Priority Actions need review eg “Build a LGA wide Community Calendar and Community and Business Directory accessible through Council’s website and in hard copy”. This has been done many times – time to stop going around in circles – time to change our thinking and move forward!! Definition of insanity – keep doing the same thing and expecting a different result!!!

Aside from the fact that operational actions should be in another implementation document, we will not comment on them at this time except to say that many require a reassessment.

In a number of sections, statements that identify potential opportunity somehow seamlessly morph into a statement of current reality. “Free Trade Agreements are also fuelling *opportunities* for the council area’s *potential* agricultural resurgence through an *expected* increase in demand for Australian agricultural products.” I think I know what is being said – “that there is a perception that something is happening which may or may not possibly result in something else”???

The document is all encompassing, better focus is required, Aspirational and achievable need to be clearly identified, and allocated timeframes and priorities. Get runs on board.

The document adopts an inadequate generic approach to identification of partners, and in the process neglects to identify the broad range of relevant partners that exist.

Council puts its hand up too often to be driver, and often inappropriately identifies itself as the driver of tasks that are clearly the responsibility of existing government agencies or other funded organisations. In the environmental sphere, which is very poorly addressed, partnerships include Landcare, Agricultural Producer organisations, Local Land Services, NPWS, etc A higher level of creativity is required in identifying and establishing partnerships

Document would benefit from a stronger focus on people and community

The document appears to not only be in denial of the socio economic status and disadvantage that exists within the LGA, which can be readily demonstrated Eg T Vinsan "Unequal in Life"; but it also appears uncomfortable in dealing with concepts of well being, fulfilment, community capacity, social capital, and once again would benefit from definitions; an assessment of current state and drivers; and inclusion of performance measureables.

There is no statement of principles aligning with the quadruple bottom line priorities as it appears is required by the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

There is an inadequate focus on delivery of the quadruple bottom line as required. In particular the environmental bottom line is very poorly addressed. This is difficult to understand given that the area attracts tree changers who value the rural and natural environment; the fact that we want to promote clean green produce; and the fact that we have a highly marketable asset in World Heritage vales as a backdrop to most of the LGA.

Poor demonstration of connectivity and alignment with higher level plans.

Tourism poorly addressed at the strategic level, and yet has an over emphasis on operational planning, albeit poorly executed. At the strategic level, does not include leverage opportunities afforded by the backpacker harvesters at Mountain Blue – agriculture development zones

The document neglects the tourism values of the Upper Clarence

Document largely neglects community enabling infrastructure – open spaces, urban streetscapes; community meeting places; sporting and recreation facilities; cultural spaces; public transport; affordable housing.

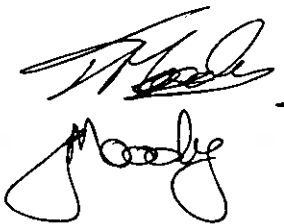
We have spent enough time on this document.

All in all, we believe significant changes are required to make the document fit for purpose.

We strongly urge a review of the Imagine Lismore document.

We are available for discussion / clarification. We look forward to a new draft.

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is more stylized and appears to be 'Terry Moody'. The bottom signature is more legible and appears to be 'Jenny Moody'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry and Jenny Moody

att: Comments on Kyogle Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015