

# Minutes: Tamban/Eungai Community meeting and consultation

19<sup>th</sup> January 4pm

Unkya Reserve – Eungai Creek

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**Meeting chaired by** Soozie Coumbe and Benita Schuh

**Meeting opened** at 4.15pm

## **Attendees:**

See attached attendance list

Benita Schuh, Soozie Coumbe, Steve Hughes, Lisa Hall, David Hall, Robert Seaman, Jo Foster, Martin Foster, Peter Ross, Gill Stott, Kev Ord, Bronwyn Hughes

**Apologies:** Josh Watts, Dave Dunne, Pauline Rayner, Richard Coumbe, Linda Craig, Jennie and Paul Simmons, Glen Foster, Domina Calhoun.

## **Correspondence in:**

Letter from Michael Coulter, general manager Nambucca Shire council: calling for community feedback in regards to the future of Fischers Bridge Tamban.

Verbal report presented by Soozie Coumbe on the short meeting with Michael Coulter on wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan

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## **Call for discussion:**

General discussion was held on the proposals outlined in the Council letter and the following was noted

- Why only a few residents received the letter from the council
- How the possible closure of Fischers Bridge will affect our community.
- Road safety in general, and the lack of general road and bridge maintenance.

**Impact of possible closure of Fischer's bridge: the following points were discussed in depth.**

- **Social Cohesion:** The bridge and access are vital for community access to Eungai Creek which is the vital hub for community resources the school, post office, Hall. Cutting the access will cause isolation of part of the community affecting health and wellbeing.
- **Impact on businesses:** The valley has diverse business enterprises beyond the traditional agricultural practices, the following was noted:
  - Air B and Bs
  - Honey production
  - Timber and logging

- Buffalo Cafe and tourist outlet
- Cattle production
- Flowers and produce.
- Residents commuting to places of work outside of the valley

Vital trades and services, deliveries etc to assist these businesses and residents would be hindered by lack of access and extra travel time and costs.

**Emergency Access:** Fire brigade, ambulance, SES: access would be hindered.

- The alternative access route via Elliots road would add additional traffic and safety issues – due to the windy and narrow nature of this road; plus the flooding factor during heavy rains.
- The use of Soutbank Road as an alternative road adds extra distance for emergency vehicles to travel – placing the community safety at risk and is also the first access to be affected by floods.
- The valley is surrounded by forest and is in a position needing excellent escape routes- closing access routes would hinder safe evacuations of the valley

**School Bus route and general traffic diversion:** The current bus route and possible diversion would be severely impacted, and would result in extra traffic on the roads this would affect:

- Increased possibility of road accidents due to extra traffic
- Increased road usage and dust creation for roadside homes
- Increase environmental footprint- more petrol usage and increased costs
- Extra time for school bus and disability services pick up for residents.

**Road safety:** The extra road traffic on the alternative routes of Elliots road and Soutbank road would include the possible issues:

- Increased possibility of road accidents-
- Lack of visibility due to dust
- Elliots road not designed to carry heavy capacity of vehicles, small narrow windy road; not able to safely carry passing vehicles
- Feed in roads affected by extra traffic – Sanders and Partridges roads. Recent accidents on Southbank road/ Tamban road are points to consider.

**Affects on Land and property values:**

- Lack of access affect existing land values and businesses.
- Landowners bought properties with good access in mind- decreasing access will, in turn have a negative impact on land values in the valley.

**Other road issues:**

The grading of the bus route has been positive and is undertaken regularly, but the other feeding roads have been neglected and are in desperate need of maintenance.

It was decided to hold this issue over for another meeting.

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### Discussion on alternative options put by council:

Discussion was held on the alternative proposals and after much discussion the overall consensus of the meeting was that:

Fischers Bridge is a vital access crossing for our community and must be replaced and retained.

The community is urging the Council to investigate all possible funding opportunities and will present the feedback from this meeting to assist in this process.

It was decided by consensus that the meeting minutes and report be sent to the General Manager – Michael Coulter for feedback, with the possible view of forming a working group of interested parties.

Meeting closed 5.15pm