



Sunshine Coast Regional Council ABN 37 876 973 913
Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560
T 07 5475 7272 F 07 5475 7277 mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Officer: Coralie Nichols
Direct telephone: 07 5441 8102
Response address: Locked Bag 72
Email: Coralie.nichols@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
Our reference: ECM
Your reference:

14 August 2015

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines
PO Box 15216
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Dr Lynham

CONONDALE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION RESERVE

For many years, the Conondale Memorial Sports and Recreation Reserve (Lot 264 CP M371054) has been under the trusteeship of Conondale Memorial Sports and Recreation Reserve Inc. For convenience, it will be further referred to as 'the Association'.

A search of the ASIC website identifies the Association as still being a registered incorporated association and therefore bound by the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. Council had been led to understand that the Association had been wound up or was in the process of being wound up.

You may be aware that last year at the request of the State, council somewhat reluctantly agreed to take over the trusteeship of the Reserve from the Association. Council had, as a condition of taking over trusteeship, requested the State to assist with certain matters; but these requests were denied by the State. Notwithstanding this, council agreed to still accept the trusteeship as it was thought to be in the public interest to try and arrest the community disharmony surrounding the Association's state of affairs. Council was formally appointed as trustee on 12 January this year.

Through a series of communications over the last 6 months, council has engaged with the community and become aware that a proportion of the community are averse to council continuing to hold the position of trustee and are unwilling to work with council. Some members of the local community have strongly expressed their desire for a new group of local trustees to be appointed and for this group to work directly with the State. Council is also aware that a significant amount of unfunded planning and work will be required for the Reserve.

It is clear that sectors of the community are disillusioned that the Association has been allowed to 'walk away' without accounting for the moneys the Association took while acting as trustees of the Reserve. As you would understand, the Association has legal obligations to account for such money to the Office of Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines under the Land Act 1994. Council understands that the State's demands on the Association to account for the

Association's finances have been unanswered. Aside from any perception that some community members may have of alleged fiscal impropriety (a perception not held by council), council is anxious to understand the Association's past application of rent received by them as the former trustees. Council is even more anxious to understand whether there are outstanding Association funds still to be acquitted to the upkeep of the Reserve land or for future planning of the Reserve. Section 63 of the Land Act requires rent received from a trust lease to be expended on the maintenance or enhancement of the trust land. The ongoing liquidity of the Association and the appropriation of any funds (remaining or otherwise) to the Reserve land is of utmost interest to council and the community generally.

As a result of the strong community sentiment, at its Ordinary Meeting in October, council will be considering its ongoing participation in the role of trustee.

By Wednesday 2 September, 2015 council asks that the Minister:

1. Advise the status of the Conondale Memorial Sports and Recreation Reserve Inc. and the progress, if any, with winding it up;
2. Advise whether the Conondale Memorial Sports and Recreation Reserve Inc. has provided financial statements outlining all revenue and expenditure and whether they have properly accounted for all funds and, if so, what those statements reveal;
3. Advise of any matters that may remain outstanding in respect to the Memorial Sports and Recreation Reserve Inc.'s removal as trustee.

To enable council to be better informed about any decision by it to continue on as Trustee, the State's reconsideration of council's original requests for assistance with –

4. A condition audit of current assets on site to determine future maintenance requirements and liabilities.
5. A financial contribution towards the development of a Land Management Plan including safe site access and environmental considerations.
6. Funding to undertake master planning of the Reserve.

Further to the above, council is also seeking funding to construct appropriate access and egress to the site, a matter which has been deemed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads as critically important for the continued future use of the site by any users.

In closing, council would like to note that it is highly cognisant of the significant importance to the local economy played by the Sunshine Coast Motorcyle Club and their use of the land at Lot 264 CP M371054. Funds raised by Club activities assist in supporting the local school, other community groups and businesses in the area.

Yours sincerely



Ray Turner
A/Chief Executive Officer