

Agenda

A Ward Committee Meeting 14 May 2024

An A Ward Committee Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina on **14 May 2024 commencing at 4:00 PM.**

1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Presentations
5. Confirmation of Minutes – Tuesday, 12 March 2024
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Tuesday, 12 March 2024
7. Business With Notice
8. General Business
9. Business Without Notice
10. Council Documents on Exhibition
11. Next Meeting/Future Meeting Dates
12. Meeting Closure

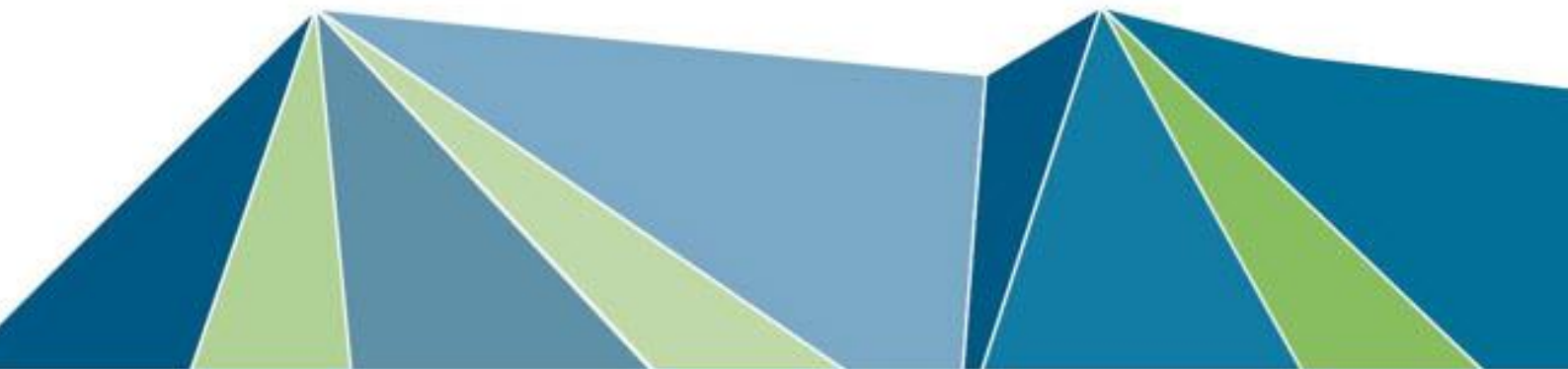


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1. Acknowledgment of Country
 2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
 3. Declarations of Interest
 4. Deputations
 5. Confirmation of Minutes
-

1. Acknowledgment of Country

In opening the meeting, the Chair will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the Nyangbul peoples of the Bundjalung nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Presentations

5. Confirmation of Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 were distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Minutes of the A Ward Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 be confirmed.

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Reschedule September Ward Committee Meeting Date

6. Business Arising from Minutes

6.1 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Reschedule September Ward Committee Meeting Date

The Committee confirmed its preference for the September 2024 meeting to proceed. Agreed that the meeting date is to be brought forward to 27 August 2024.

Action: Council to reschedule the September 2024 A Ward Committee meeting to 27 August 2024.

Staff comment:

September A Ward Committee date has been rescheduled to 27 August 2024 due to the Local Government Elections.

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Ballina Lighthouse Surf Lifesaving Club - Reserve Access / Parking Issues around Surf Club

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - Ballina Lighthouse Surf Lifesaving Club - Reserve Access / Parking Issues around Surf Club

Therese Crollick thanked Council staff for blocking off the access near the storage shed / gym, however people are now driving up the footpath from the carpark to park on the grass area outside the clubhouse (the emergency vehicle / Council vehicle access area). Patrol witnessed it on Australia Day, a couple (young) and their family who took up the whole of the front and side of the clubhouse with their BBQ, etc. and told us they "didn't want to carry all their gear from the carpark". Jo has also recently seen a car parked in this area during the day which was not a Surf Lifesaving / Council / emergency vehicle. Bollards or sandstone blocks to block off access from the car park may be necessary, although it will be difficult because due to the disabled access including the ramp from the disabled parking spots.

The information contained in the March agenda was noted.

Therese Crollick added comment regarding concerns about safety of pedestrians and blocking of the emergency access point.

Matthew Wood advised enforcement of reserve access restrictions is also an option.

Action: Open Spaces Section to review reserve access options and management.

Staff comment:

Additional inspection of the site undertaken by Council staff, noting no additional land management changes are proposed, with a continued focus on monitoring and enforcement actions is the current management preference.

Attachment(s)

Nil

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association - Hydrological Survey for River Drive and the impacts on the road

6.3 Business Arising from Minutes of 12 March 2024 - The Ballina Peninsular Residents Association - Hydrological Survey for River Drive and the impacts on the road

Ros Felsch recently met with Council staff within the Civil Services Division to discuss River Drive South Ballina and outstanding works following the 2022 floods. Ros providing the following comments:

- Sand bank in the middle of the river has moved 500m north and east.
- The channel runs close to the riverbank.
- Funding allocated last year with works not undertaken yet.
- No shoulder or reduced speed limit exists.
- Further funding required.
- Hydrological survey progress.
- Erosion exists under the road, concerns the road will eventually give way.
- Limited access at present, River Drive provides the only access to residents and businesses.
- Strategy required from state government to mitigate risks with solutions in the river explored.
- Ongoing planning required.
- “Band-aid” approach will not provide the solutions into the future.

Action: Engineering Works to provide an update to Ros on the progress of hydrological survey.

Staff comment:

An update will be provided at the meeting.

Attachment(s)

Nil

7. General Business

7.1 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28

This report provides information on Council's draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the four-year period from 2024/25 to 2027/28.

The Office of Local Government's (OLG's) Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework require councils to regularly review the Delivery Program and prepare a new Operational Plan each financial year.

A summary of the major elements for each document is as follows.

Delivery Program

- A council must have a Delivery Program, that identifies major projects and services it will undertake to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategic Plan, within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.
- A council must prepare a new Delivery Program after each ordinary election of councillors to cover the activities of the council for the four-year period commencing on 1 July following the election. The Delivery Plan is based on a four-year plan.
- The General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the council, with respect to the activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every six months. Council receives quarterly updates.
- A council must review its Delivery Program each year when preparing the Operational Plan.

Operational Plan

- Council must have an annual Operational Plan, adopted before the beginning of each financial year, outlining the activities to be undertaken that year, as part of the Delivery Program. The Operational Plan focuses on actions and activities to be delivered during the current year.
- The draft Operational Plan must be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days and public submissions can be made to Council during the period.
- Council must consider any submissions made on the draft Operational Plan before adopting the Operational Plan.
- A copy of the adopted Operational Plan must be placed on the Council website, within 28 days after the Plan is adopted.

Council produces a combined document that encompasses the Delivery Program and the Operational Plan.

This combined document will be on exhibition from 6 May to 5 June 2024 for public comment. Other documents on exhibition, at the same, as part of the IPR Framework, include the Long-Term Financial Plan, Council's detailed budget, the Workforce Management Plan and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

7.1 Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28

Items that are typically of interest to the community in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, include the proposed changes in rates and charges for the next financial year, major capital works planned and any other key actions that Council will be undertaking.

In respect to rates and charges the average increase for a residential property for 2024/25, as compared to 2023/24 is as per the following table.

Rate or Charge	2023/24 Average	2024/25 Average	Increase (%)
Ordinary Rate (Land Rates)	1,215	1,271	4.6
Domestic Waste Collection Charge	437	438	2.5
Water Access Charge	236	250	6.0
Water Consumption (150 kilolitres)	399	423	6.0
Wastewater (Sewer) Charge	1,063	1,074	1.0
Stormwater Charge	25	25	0.0
Total	3,375	3,481	3.1

The 4.6% increase for the Ordinary Rate is the rate peg limit set by the State Government for Council for 2024/25.

The reason for the large increase in water charges is that Council purchases water from Rous County Council (as does Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley). Rous has increased their water charges to Council by approximately the same percentage for 2024/25.

This continues a number of increases by Rous in recent years, and planned for future years, as part of their water demand strategy for the region. The purchase of bulk water from Rous, represents approximately 60% of the operating costs for Council's water operations.

Capital works planned in 2024/25 and beyond of note in the draft documents include:

- Alstonville Cultural Centre (ACC) – Council has resolved to support a refurbishment estimated to cost approximately \$16m.

The project is moving through the planning stage with the consent now issued. Grant funds remain an important funding source for this project, particularly with the library component, as there are likely to be more opportunities for library expansion grants. After grants and developer contributions, the balance of the funding will need to be sourced from Council internal reserves and loan funding.

Council is awaiting the outcome of a major Federal Government grant for approximately \$6m for this project.

- Evacuation Route Raising Ballina - Council has secured \$40m in grant funding through the State Government's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience (NRRR) Program.

The actual works component of this grant for Council is \$39.4m, with \$600,000 allocated to the State Government's audit and assurance of the project. The funding must be expended by 30 June 2026.

There are four main projects to be delivered with this funding:

- Fishery Creek Bridge Duplication (including approaches)
 - Canal Bridge Duplication and Tamarind Drive approaches (Kerr Street to Ballina Gardens Holiday Village)
 - North Creek Road Four Laning – Tamarind Drive to Southern Cross Drive
 - Evacuation Route Raising (improvements to primarily River Street to reduce flooding impacts).
- Wardell Town Centre – Council adopted the Wardell Village Centre Revitalization Master Plan in 2023, with this plan identifying three key focus areas:
 1. Connecting to the River – estimated cost \$1.1m
 2. The Street – estimated cost \$2.2m
 3. Community Green Space – estimated cost \$1.1m.

Council has approved funding for the Community Green Space, with the works scheduled for the end of 2024.

There are numerous other capital works proposed for roads, playgrounds, stormwater, sports fields etc.

Council is encouraging submissions to the draft documents, during the exhibition period, with all submissions presented to the June 2024 Ordinary Council meeting. This allows Councillors to consider the submissions, amend the documents if necessary, and adopt the documents at that meeting.

Once adopted, the role of the General Manager and senior staff is to implement the actions included in the adopted documents.

During the exhibition period, community members are also encouraged to submit questions via the YourSayBallina engagement platform. Answers to these questions will be published online.

Council will also host the following Community Information Session:

- 6pm to 7.30pm Wednesday 15 May Wardell War Memorial Hall

An online video presentation will also be available on [YourSayBallina.com.au](https://www.yoursayballina.com.au)

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Club Incorporated - Hampton Park Reserve Master Plan and Plan of Management Update

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Ballina Croquet Club Incorporated - Hampton Park Reserve Master Plan and Plan of Management Update

Ballina Croquet Club requested an update as they are as a stakeholder with a vested interest in the review of the 2005 Hampton Park Plan of Management and Master Plan. Ballina Croquet would like clarification about the plans progress and when the drafts will be available to the public for comment.

Staff Comment

Staff are currently reviewing community feedback received to inform the preparation of a draft master plan.

Presently it is anticipated that draft plans will be reported to the Council mid year.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.2 Business With Notice - Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond - Advice of District Conference

8.2 Business With Notice - Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond - Advice of District Conference

Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond advise that the District Conference is being held in Ballina commencing on Friday 17 May 2024 through to Saturday 18 May 2024 followed by a dinner and presentations.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.3 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc - DA2022/173 - Maintenance and Infrastructure Concerns

8.3 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc – DA2022/173 - Maintenance and Infrastructure Concerns

The Cumbalum Residents Association Inc (CRA) notes that a development application for subdivision (DA2022/173 PAN-210153) will add an additional 93 lots to the estate and would like to know what budgeting and infrastructure measures has Council put in place to ensure that this significant addition of lots is adequately resourced.

Specifically, numerous residents have put complaints in around the current maintenance of open spaces, roundabouts, and roadside vegetation, long delays with the shopping centre developments and public facilities around the sporting centre and there are concerns that this has not been addressed as this is an ongoing issue.

The CRA is concerned that an additional 93 lots without an adequate increase in the management budget and forward planning for increased availability of public park infrastructure/spaces will exacerbate an existing issue even further.

Please provide comment on what increases in maintenance and infrastructure budgets have been accounted for should this subdivision be approved and if any voluntary planning agreement has been put in place to address the ongoing issues around poor availability of public amenities/infrastructure in the estate.

Staff Comment

The long term financial plan proposes an 11% increase in the open spaces general operating budget (\$272,000) for the 2024/25 financial year. This funding applies to operations shire wide.

There is no voluntary planning agreement in place in relation to public amenities and infrastructure in the Ballina Heights Estate.

The planning framework for Ballina Heights and Banyan Hill incorporates open space and community space in the form of parks (local and district level facilities), sporting fields and a community facility in line with the projected population for the locality.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.4 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc - Request for Update Following Meeting with State Government re: Cumbalum Interchange

8.4 Business With Notice - Cumbalum Residents Association Inc – Request for Update Following Meeting with State Government re: Cumbalum Interchange

The CRA requests an update on the recent consultation that the Council has had with the State Government (Roads) regarding the Cumbalum interchange.

Staff Comment

The formal position of Government has not changed, namely that the Government does not see the upgrade of the interchange to a full interchange as a strategic priority.

Notwithstanding this, we continue to advocate for this infrastructure. In recent weeks we have discussed the upgrade with the Parliamentary Secretary for Roads and also with the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

In these meetings, and in meetings with Transport for NSW officers, we also continue to advocate for improvements to the overland flood management along Tamarind Drive and at the interchange.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - First Nations Employees at Council

8.5 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - First Nations Employees at Council

St Vincent de Paul congratulates Council on employing a First Nations Cultural and Heritage Officer and enquires about the number or percentage of First Nations employees at Council.

Staff Comment

Council is committed to increasing workforce diversity to ensure our staff are reflective of the community we serve. Two new positions have been created including the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Partnerships Officer, which has been filled, and a Trainee Environmental Health Officer, which has yet to be filled.

This takes the overall ATSI people employed by Council to eight employees or 2.15% of total staff.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update Request - Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

8.6 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Update Request – Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

St Vincent de Paul requested an update on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Staff Comment

Council is continuing to progress a partnership agreement with Aboriginal stakeholders. Refer to item 8.9 in the September 2023 agenda for further background information. Refer to link provided below.

[Agenda of An A Ward Committee Meeting - September 2023 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/agenda/2023/09/01/agenda-of-an-a-ward-committee-meeting)

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Homelessness and Mental Health Training

8.7 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Homelessness and Mental Health Training

St Vincent de Paul enquired about Council Rangers' training regarding the link between homelessness and mental health issues and where can rangers refer people sleeping rough with mental health issues.

Staff Comment

Information regarding Council Rangers and interactions with homeless persons was provided in the March 2024 agenda. Where possible, Council officers refer homeless people to services where they are known and available. Refer to link below.

[Agenda of An A Ward Committee Meeting - March 2024 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/agenda/2024/03/ward-committee-meeting)

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Report Progress on Council Support for Youth Activities and PCYC Venue

8.8 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Report Progress on Council Support for Youth Activities and PCYC Venue

St Vincent de Paul requests a progress update on Council support for youth activities and PCYC venue.

Staff Comment

Information relating to these two items was provided in the March 2024 agenda.

Following consideration of representations regarding youth matters, Council's Finance and Facilities Committee recommended *that Council investigate options for additional youth services and activities in the Ballina Shire*. Council staff are currently preparing a report in response to this.

Further, Council staff will be meeting with the Youth Program Manager from Social Futures in May 2024 to discuss youth services matters.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.9 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Suggestion for Aboriginal Community Involvement in Rehabilitating the Land on River Street and Burns Point Ferry Road

8.9 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Suggestion for Aboriginal Community Involvement in Rehabilitating the Land on River Street and Burns Point Ferry Road

St Vincent de Paul enquires if Council has any plans to rehabilitate the land on River Street and Burns Point Ferry Road and suggests Aboriginal community involvement in rehabilitating the land.

Staff Comment

This land is private land. Council does not have any plans for publicly funded rehabilitation works on this site.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.10 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Short Term Trial of a Night Patrol by Elders if the Community

8.10 Business With Notice - St Vincent de Paul - Short Term Trial of a Night Patrol by Elders if the Community

St Vincent de Paul provided newspaper articles (see below) and submitted the following enquires:

- Council would consider allocating funds for short term trial of a Night Patrol by Elders of the Community (if the Community wants it)
- further funding could be sourced elsewhere
- the initiative could be built into Council's RAP.

Staff Comment

This type of initiative is not currently funded or part of Council's delivery program and operational plan. If members of the community are seeking implementation of a program like this, a submission should be made to the public exhibition of the long term financial plan and delivery program and operational plan so it can be considered in association with the full work program.

These types of approaches can be considered in consultation with the Aboriginal community as part of the partnership agreement process.

Attachment(s)

1. News articles provided by St Vincent de Paul

8.11 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Plastic Fence/Tape Removal/Replacement Request - Waters Edge between Meldrum Park and Missingham

8.11 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club – Plastic Fence/Tape Removal/Replacement Request - Waters Edge between Meldrum Park and Missingham

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club requests removal of plastic fence (ASAP) on the water's edge between Meldrum Park and Missingham, as the fence is coming apart and small pieces of plastic are going into North Creek.

Staff Comment

Customer request created CRM number: 135829/2024. Engineering Works staff to investigate fence (temporary tape fencing) and remove/replace when necessary.

Engineering Works confirmed this has now been fixed.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.12 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Accessing Missingham Bridge from the Bike Path (request for steps)

8.12 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club – Accessing Missingham Bridge from the Bike Path (request for steps)

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club raised that people are accessing Missingham Bridge from the bike path on the western side which has caused erosion, and request that Council consider steps.

Staff Comment

Customer request prepared (CRM 135857/2024) Council staff to inspect and investigate.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.13 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Bridge Duplication - Request for Clarification of Timeline

8.13 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club – Bridge Duplication - Request for Clarification of Timeline

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club has heard from people that both canal bridges will be duplicated at the same time and request that Council clarify the timeline.

Staff Comment

Update on plans for duplication of bridges provided in April 2024 Community Connect. Refer to article below.

At this early stage of the project the following program is being advertised.


There has been no decision made on the staging of the bridge construction at this point in time.

For further updates / information follow this link: [Bridge Duplications including Evacuation Routes | Ballina Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/bridgeduplications) and subscribe to receive project updates on Ballina Bridge Duplication.

8.13 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Bridge Duplication - Request for Clarification of Timeline

COMMUNITY connect APRIL 2024

Plans underway to duplicate Ballina Bridges



BALLINA

*Concept Design
Fishery Creek Bridge, River Street*


Council has started preliminary investigation works at Fishery Creek Bridge on River Street, and Canal Bridge on Tamarind Drive, as part of plans to duplicate both bridges.

The project also involves raising portions of the roadway on sections of River Street, between Teven Interchange and Ballina Island, and Tamarind Drive, between Ballina Island and Cumbalum Interchange.

Duplicating the existing bridges and raising these sections of road will improve evacuation options during flooding events and build a more resilient road network.

Once constructed, the duplicated bridges will provide dual lanes in and out of Ballina Island, improve traffic flow and increase the roads' capacity to comfortably cater for future traffic demands.

The Evacuation Route Raising (including bridge duplications) project will be completed across three years and has been funded with \$40 million from the Australian Government through the Emergency Response Fund administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-2023.





*Concept Design
Canal Bridge, Tamarind Drive*

Pre-construction work includes gathering samples using barges and from the roadway at both Ballina bridges. The following changes will be in place during this stage of work:

- ▶ Footpath closure and pedestrian detours - please follow on site signage.
- ▶ A marine barge will be present within both waterways. The boat ramp and navigation of the creek will remain open - please follow on site navigation markers.
- ▶ Construction noise between 7am- 6pm, Monday to Friday and 8am – 1pm Saturdays.

Council will then move into the design and approval phase, with bridge construction anticipated to start in 2025.

➔ For more information and to register for project updates visit ballina.nsw.gov.au

6 community connect APRIL 2024

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.14 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Ballina Coastcare to Remove Lantana Patches along the Sand Dunes near the Dog Beach

8.14 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Ballina Coastcare to Remove Lantana Patches along the Sand Dunes near the Dog Beach

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club has advised that a few lantana patches have developed along the sand dunes near the dog beach and some members of Ballina Coastcare will be removing them soon.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.15 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Request Progress Update re: Land for New Citizens to Plant Native Trees

8.15 Business With Notice - Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club - Request Progress Update re: Land for New Citizens to Plant Native Trees

Northern Rivers Disc Golf Club requested a progress update on some land being set aside for new citizens to plant their trees.

Staff Comment

A similar query was raised at the November meeting of the committee. Refer to item 9.12 of the September minutes and the response provided in the November agenda item 6.6 for the response, which reflects Council's current approach in relation to citizenship trees (refer to links provided below).

[Minutes of A Ward Committee Meeting - September 2023 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/minutes-of-a-ward-committee-meeting-september-2023)

[Agenda of A Ward Committee Meeting - November 2023 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/agenda-of-a-ward-committee-meeting-november-2023)

Attachment(s)

Nil

9. Business Without Notice

9. Business Without Notice

Nil Items

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

Documents on Exhibition

Documents on public exhibition can be found on our website at the following link:

[Your Say Ballina](#)

Council Notices

Council Notices can be found on our website at the following link:

[Link to Council's Notices](#)

Attachment(s)

Nil

- 11 Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates
 - 12 Meeting Closure
-

11. Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9 July 2024 at 4:00 PM.

12. Meeting Closure