

Agenda

C Ward Committee Meeting **14 May 2026**

A C Ward Committee Meeting will be held at Crawford House, 10 Wardell Road, Alstonville on **14 May 2026 commencing at 5.00pm.**

1. Acknowledgment of Country
2. Attendance and Apologies (including updates/changes in membership)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Presentations
5. Confirmation of Minutes – Thursday, 12 March 2026
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Thursday, 12 March 2026
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

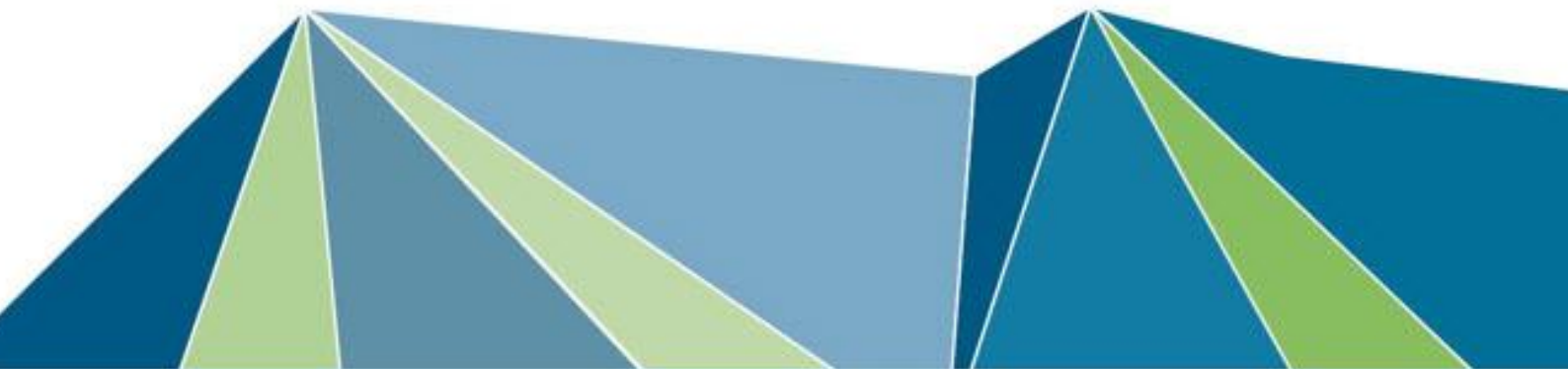


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-

1. Acknowledgment of Country

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)

Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Cr Simon Kinny
Jeff Cush – Wardell & District Progress Association

New Member – Natalie Young representing Wollongbar Community Preschool

3. Declarations of Interest

4. PRESENTATIONS

AT THE APRIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING THERE WAS A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE WARD COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE. A COPY OF THE WARD COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE IS BELOW. CHANGES ARE IN RED TEXT AND HIGHLIGHTED YELLOW.

LINK TO CODE OF CONDUCT IS ALSO PROVIDED AS A REFRESHER:
[CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY](#).

WARD COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH FEEDBACK AND POLICY ADVICE ON MATTERS REFERRED BY COUNCIL, OR RAISED BY MEMBERS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, AND TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY.

SCOPE

- ENABLE COMMUNITY GROUPS TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM COUNCIL
- PROVIDE INFORMATION TO COMMUNITY GROUPS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST
- ENHANCE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS
- PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS

OBJECTIVES

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

-
- STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 - FACILITATE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION
 - ENHANCE COMMUNITY WELLBEING
 - INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

WARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IS REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. MEMBERS MUST BE COMMUNITY (NOT-FOR-PROFIT) ORGANISATIONS BASED IN EITHER A, B OR C WARD OF THE BALLINA SHIRE. **MEMBERS CAN BE REPRESENTED ON MULTIPLE WARD COMMITTEES.** MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THE ELECTED COUNCILLORS WHO REPRESENT THAT WARD, AS WELL AS THE MAYOR.

COUNCIL STAFF PREPARE THE AGENDA, AND ATTEND THE MEETINGS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE, ANSWER QUESTIONS AND RECORD THE MINUTES. NON-ATTENDANCE FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS WILL RESULT IN COUNCIL WRITING TO THE MEMBER SEEKING CONFIRMATION AS TO WHETHER THEY WISH TO REMAIN ON THE COMMITTEE. NO RESPONSE WILL RESULT IN TERMINATION OF THE MEMBER'S ELIGIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE.

MEETINGS, AGENDAS, AND REPORTING

WARD COMMITTEES MEET FIVE TIMES A YEAR IN MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, AND NOVEMBER, TYPICALLY AS FOLLOWS:

- A WARD – ON THE SECOND TUESDAY AT 4.00PM
- B WARD – ON THE THIRD MONDAY AT 4.30PM
- C WARD – ON THE SECOND THURSDAY AT 5.00PM

MEETING TIMES CAN BE VARIED BY CONSENSUS OF THE MEMBERS. THE AGENDA FOR EACH MEETING IS ISSUED PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND MINUTES ARE RECORDED DETAILING THE AGREED OUTCOMES. AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE CALLED FOR PRIOR TO THE MEETING (DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS UNDER ASSESSMENT WILL NOT BE TABLED). MINUTES ARE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF EACH COMMITTEE.

MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND ADDRESSED PREVIOUSLY THROUGH A COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE RELISTED ON MEETING AGENDAS, AND WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS ITEMS WITHOUT NOTICE, WHERE IN THE VIEW OF THE CHAIR, IT IS REASONABLE TO ALLOCATE MEETING TIME TO AGAIN CONSIDER THE MATTER.

CHAIR

WARD COUNCILLORS WILL CHAIR MEETINGS, WITH THE CHAIRING TO BE SHARED EQUALLY DURING THE COUNCIL TERM, UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED BY THE WARD COUNCILLORS.

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DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND VOTING

WARD COMMITTEES HAVE NO DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY CONSENSUS. VOTING CAN TAKE PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO CONSENSUS. THE STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THE AGENDAS AND MINUTES WILL FOLLOW UP ON ALL RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION FROM THE ELECTED COUNCIL, TO BE REPORTED TO COUNCIL.

REVIEW

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE REVIEWED AFTER EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION OR AS REQUIRED.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

A copy of the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2026 were distributed with the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee confirms the Minutes of the C Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2026.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

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Nil Items

7.1 Vale to Marine Rescue Volunteers

7. General Business

7.1 Vale to Marine Rescue Volunteers

Vale to Frank Petsch and Bill Ewen, our heroic Marine Rescue Volunteers who lost their lives during a rescue on 4 May 2026.

May they continue to be honoured and acknowledged for their bravery and contribution to the community.

The committee members observe one minute silence.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.1 Business With Notice - Update on Quilt previously Displayed at the Alstonville Cultural Centre

8. Business With Notice

8.1 Business With Notice - Update on Quilt previously Displayed at the Alstonville Cultural Centre

A request was made for the Committee to receive updates on this matter.

Staff Comment

The Ballina and District Historical Society have agreed to accept the quilt.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.2 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Invasive Weed Species

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Invasive Weed Species

Ballina Environment Society is increasingly concerned at the ever increasing proliferation of uncontrolled plant weed species in the area. Of particular note is Camphor Laurel, Privet, Lantana, Golden Rain tree, Singapore Daisy, Wandering Trad etc. These invasive plants are aggressive and have potential to dominate the landscape seriously threatening the survival of our unique native species and suppressing natural regeneration.

What is Council doing to control weed species plants, educate residents and encourage landholders to remove plant weed species?

Staff Comment

Rous Council is responsible for weed biosecurity across the local government areas of its constituent councils, including private land. Information on Rous' role and programs can be found at [Weed biosecurity — Rous County Council](#). Rous' programs include community education initiatives.

Ballina Shire Council implements weed management programs on public land managed by Council based on available resources. This includes vegetation restoration works in accordance with vegetation management plans and adopted programs. A recent example of a specific program undertaken by Council is bitou bush control in the coastal reserve.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.3 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request for Additional Seating Wollongbar Skatepark

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Request for additional seating at Wollongbar Skate Park, specifically adjacent to the playground area.

Currently, there is no seating available near the playground, which poses challenges for parents and carers supervising their children. Installing covered seating in this location would create a more inclusive and inviting space, and it would be greatly appreciated by families with young children who use the park regularly. Although there are three undercover seating areas at present, two of them are situated on the opposite side of the park and are rarely used due to their distance from the playground equipment. I will attach photos for your reference to illustrate the current setup.



Staff Comment

Council is aware of the popularity of the Wollongbar parkland, including the playground.

The park has been constructed in accordance with an adopted master plan, with all seating elements completed. The benefits of shaded seating are recognised but at present there is no funding allocated for the installation of additional covered seating in the park, and these works are not listed in Council's draft works program for the next four years.

Attachment(s)

Nil

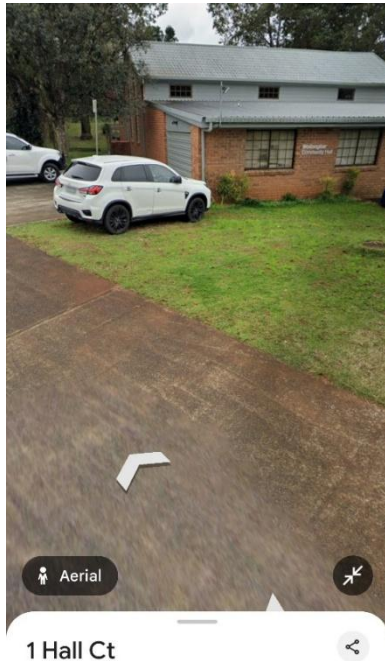
8.4 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request for Grassed Area at Preschool to be formalised to Parking

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Request for grass area in front of community hall to be replaced with concrete or asphalt to provide parking for preschool staff.

I would like to address the ongoing parking concerns at Wollongbar Community Preschool. There is a persistent problem with parking for both parents and staff. Hall Court, which leads up to the preschool, is a small driveway shared by several houses and the community hall. Staff members do not have a dedicated parking area and currently rely on a small patch of grass in front of the community hall. Issues have arisen regarding the maintenance of this lawn, and at a previous Ward C meeting, it was directed that council should inform the preschool staff when mowing is scheduled so they can park elsewhere. This communication has not yet occurred, and the issue remains unresolved. The request is to find a solution that provides preschool staff with parking close to their workplace, avoiding the need to park on the grass. With the library temporarily using the community hall during the construction of the new cultural centre, parking challenges are likely to increase. During school drop off and pick up times are extremely busy times on Hall court, especially school pick up from Wollongbar Public School.

Attached photo's for reference.



Staff Comment

As previously advised, there is currently no funding allocation for any increase in the hardstand area for car parking in the vicinity of the hall and preschool.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.5 Business With Notice - Wollongbar Community Preschool - Request to Clean Footpath in Hall Court near Preschool

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Request to gurney and maintain Wollongbar Community Preschool foot path.

Over the past year, the preschool administration contacted council on four separate occasions via email to request maintenance regarding the condition of the footpath. Unfortunately, they have not received any response to these requests. Because of the overgrown vegetation above the footpath, it becomes very slippery and dangerous for the parents and children using the footpath that leads into preschool. Can council respond to their requests and is it possible to make a regular maintenance schedule for this area. Attached photos for reference.



Staff Comment

Staff advise that the vegetation along the eastern side of Hall Court is scheduled to be removed on Wednesday 6 May, weather permitting. The cleaning of the footpath will be carried out following the vegetation removal on a date to be confirmed. Contact has been made directly with the Wollongbar Preschool by email on the vegetation removal works.

Attachment(s)

Nil

8.6 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Climate Change

8.6 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Climate Change

Ballina Environment Society (BES) submitted the follow item and questions.

BES appreciates the attention given by Ballina Shire Council in developing a Climate Change Policy illustrating the enormity of applying numerous short term, medium term and long term strategies required to achieve Net Zero Emissions' targets by 2030 and 2050.

1. Will Council maintain its Net Zero Emissions target (2015 Paris Agreement) and ignore the abandonment of Net Zero policies by the National, Liberal and One Nation political parties?

Staff Comment:

Yes. Ballina Shire Council has recently reconfirmed its commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 for Council operations. The Climate Change Policy was recently placed on public exhibition for community comment and will be reported back to Council for consideration at its May 2026 Council meeting.

Council's emissions targets and associated implementation measures are determined through its own policy and governance processes and are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain achievable, evidence-based and aligned with Council's strategic objectives.

2. The post-periods of the six major Oil Shocks between 1956 to 2022 saw economies returning to a reliance on petrol, gas and diesel for transport. Since 2020 the enormous advances in renewable energy technology (especially PV Solar and batteries) and the lessons learned from the current Middle Eastern conflicts has given Ballina and the world an opportunity to divert from fossil fuel reliance for energy provision.

Questions arising from Ballina Shire Council Climate Policy strategies in relation to electrification are:

- a) Will conversion to an EV Fleet of vehicles reduce costs of operation and maintenance and have a positive effect on Council finances?

Staff Comment:

Council has an adopted Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) that outlines a clear, staged pathway to reach this target. The plan focuses on reducing emissions from Council operations through energy efficiency, renewable energy, fleet transition, and improved operational practices.

The CERP includes an action to develop an Electric Vehicle (EV) Transition Strategy. This work will assess whole-of-life costs, operational suitability, charging infrastructure requirements and financial costs.

Evidence from local government trials and industry data indicates that EVs generally offer lower running costs, reduced maintenance requirements due to fewer moving parts, greater cost certainty when paired with renewable electricity. However, Council acknowledges that not all fleet uses are currently commercially feasible or available. A staged transition will be pursued to ensure operational efficiency and financial viability.

8.6 Business With Notice - Ballina Environment Society - Climate Change

b) Is Council entering into any Power Purchasing Agreements?

Staff Comment:

Yes. As part of implementing its emissions reduction actions, Council has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement that supplies 100% renewable electricity for large Council sites and 50% renewable electricity for smaller sites. This arrangement significantly reduces emissions from Council's electricity use and provides long-term price stability.

c) Is Council considering Virtual Power Plant joint ventures?

Staff Comment:

Council is aware of the growing role of Virtual Power Plants (VPP) in supporting energy resilience, peak demand management and increased use of distributed renewable energy. While Council does not currently operate a VPP, this concept may be explored in the future as part of broader renewable energy, battery storage and electrification planning, subject to feasibility, regulatory settings and resource considerations.

In addition, Council is an active member of the Joint Organisation Net-Zero Accelerator (JONZA) program of Northern NSW Councils, which enables regional collaboration on renewable energy initiatives, emissions reduction strategies and emerging technologies, including opportunities that may not be viable for councils acting independently.

Attachment(s)

Nil

9. Business Without Notice

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Nil Items

10.1 Council Documents on Exhibition

10. Council Documents on Exhibition

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Documents on Exhibition

Documents on public exhibition and Council Notices can be found on our website, a summary is provided below with more information at the following link: [Your Say Ballina](#)

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Documents 2026/27 - Submissions close 1 June 2026:

- Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2026/27 – 2029/30
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026/27 – 2035/36
- Draft Fees and Charges 2026/27
- Draft Workforce Management Strategy 2026/27 – 2029/30

IP&R documents can be found at the following link: [Draft plans shaping Ballina Shire now on exhibition | Ballina Shire Council](#)

Community Donations:

- Call for Community Donations for Community Groups – 2026/27 – submissions close 31 May ([Community Donations | Ballina Shire Council](#))

Action Plan:

- [Disability Inclusion Action Plan](#) (review) – submissions close 29 May

Major Projects (not on exhibition):

- Alstonville Cultural Centre Upgrade ([Alstonville Cultural Centre Upgrade](#))
- Bridge Duplications ([Bridge Duplications - Fishery Creek Bridge at West Ballina and Canal Bridge at North Ballina](#))
- Wardell Town Centre Master Plan - Implementation of Stage 2 - Connecting to the River
- River and Martin Street Intersection, Ballina - Roundabout Reconstruction and Improved Paving
- Ross Lane Flood Resilience ([Ross Lane, Flood Resilience](#))

Attachment(s)

Nil

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

11. Next Meeting / Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9 July 2026 at 5.00pm.

10 September

12 November

12. Meeting Closure