

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

6.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - MAIL DELIVERY TO COOYA BEACH

COUNCILLOR Cr Abigail Noli

NOTICE OF MOTION

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following Motion at the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 September 2022:

That Council:

1. **Call for an update to the 29 March 2022, Notice of Motion.**

BACKGROUND

The Notice of Motion that was carried unanimously stated.

That Council:

1. *contacts Australia Post on behalf of Cooya Beach and Newell Beach residents and requests that Australia Post conducts a survey into mail delivery requirements in these suburbs;*
2. *assists, if necessary, Australia Post to conduct the surveys with any available resources;*
3. *notes the petition to Australia Post is to be tabled at 26 April 2022 Douglas Shire Council ordinary meeting; and*
4. *contacts State and Federal MPs and ask for assistance in advocating for Cooya Beach and Newell Beach residents.*

Councillors have been contacted by residents of Cooya Beach who believe the survey conducted by Australia post in June/July of this year was flawed and have requested further assistance to present their case that mail delivery to premises is necessary and desired in Cooya.

Residents request answers to the following questions:

1. How many voting forms were distributed?
2. How were they distributed?
3. How many votes in total were received?
4. How many voted yes?
5. How many voted no?
6. How was delivery of voting forms verified against the number of households?
7. How was the final percentage calculated?

Furthermore, correspondence directed to Councillors includes:

- All non replies were counted as a “no”.
- Everyone did not have an opportunity to vote. Every post office box registered to a Cooya resident did not receive a voting form.
- The only advertising was done through Facebook, no posters or signs were displayed anywhere.
- Residents were warned that Post Office box rates would increase if Cooya started to have mail delivered.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Council Resolution was carried out as follows:

- Australia Post conducted a survey of Cooya Beach residents in June / July 2022.
- Australia Post did not request/require any assistance from Douglas Shire Council as this matter is outside the jurisdiction of Local Government.
- The petition was tabled as per the Resolution.
- Officers have not contacted State or Federal Government on behalf of Council as Australia Post initiated the survey as per the Resolution.

The information provided to Councillors indicates there are some residents who are disappointed with the outcome of the survey and are questioning Australia Post's methodology.

Officers have no information about the veracity of the survey process, and it is considered unlikely that Australia Post will give Council answers to these questions posed by residents.

It would have been expected that Australia Post could have provided residents with a summary of survey results, showing methodology, number of responses received, and the yes/no/maybe responses shown in actual and percentage, and compared to all households in Cooya Beach. It appears Australia Post has not done this.

Officers are not aware of any evidence that non-responses to the survey were counted as being opposed to mail delivery.

Options for further action could include:

- Through the Mayor and Councillors, advocating to Australia Post to answer the questions raised above.
- The Mayor and Councillors encourage the local residents to write directly to the relevant Federal Minister, who has oversight for Australia Post.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Aust Post Vote Reply Aug 2022 [6.1.1 - 1 page]



5 August 2022

COOYA BEACH

Re: The mail delivery arrangements in Cooya Beach will remain unchanged.

Dear Resident,

The current mail delivery arrangements in Cooya Beach will remain unchanged following a recent mail poll that was conducted between 27th June and 24th July, 2022.

The poll asked eligible residents to vote on whether they wanted a change to street mail delivery. 43 per cent of residents voted in favour of the change, which is below the required threshold of 50 per cent for a change to take place.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking part in the poll. If you'd like any further information on the process or the outcome, please do not hesitate to contact me via the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Name
Joyce McLennan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joyce McLennan', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Email: joyce.mclennan@auspost.com.au