

ORDINARY MEETING 3 JUNE 2014	6
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NOTICE OF MOTION – CR CAREY

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at Council's ordinary meeting to be held on 3 June 2014:

1. *That the Council undertake no less than three (3) community forums engaging with the communities north of the Daintree river within the term of the current Council;*
2. *The first forum to be conducted early in the 2014/15 financial year and the second and third forums to be conducted during the 2015 calendar year.*
3. *That the forums either be general or specific in terms of the issues the Council may seek to canvass*

BACKGROUND

The justification for this motion is that communities north of the Daintree River have in the past, to a significant and somewhat justified degree, felt somewhat ignored and underserved by the former Douglas Shire and Cairns Regional Councils and other service providers. I consider it would be appreciated by those communities if our new Council demonstrated that it has a serious intention to respond to and rectify that reality.

There are many issues affecting the communities north of the river. Some in common with Douglas generally, but some others which are quite unique to the area.

Some of the relevant issues include:

- better rubbish services;
- unauthorised camping;
- electricity supply issues,
- potential improvements to the ferry operations and the ferry experience generally;
- signage controls and uniformity;
- a campsite for low cost travellers;
- development control issues;
- roads and other infrastructure maintenance;
- insufficient or no response from the Council and others to legitimate enquiries;
- seat belts for the school bus.

Obviously not all of these are a responsibility for the Council to resolve. The Council's involvement may vary dependant upon the issue at hand. However I consider that providing forums and opportunities to these communities for direct contact with the Council can only be a good thing. Particularly, if the new Douglas Shire Council is to stay true to its objective of providing open, transparent and inclusive government.

CEO'S COMMENT

Councillor Carey's proposal for the above, now submitted as a Notion of Motion, was discussed by Councillors at an informal workshop. The proposal is considered by staff to be appropriate and workable, and can be adequately resourced.