

MAYORAL MINUTE

Bowral South Flooding Concerns

It is very clear that there remains a lot of frustration and anxiety in the community about the Bowral South development, with the biggest contributing factor being issues surrounding flooding. I am very glad to see the recommendation for the establishment of the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee on the Council agenda for this meeting.

The establishment of such a Committee will play a crucial role in linking Council, state agencies, key stakeholders and the community to develop and implement a flood risk management plan by contributing ideas, professional expertise, experience, and local knowledge.

Consultant Briefs for Councillors

Councillors have a clear role in making strategic and policy decisions. One way that this can occur is through the provision of briefs for the engagement of consultants for projects that have significant and long-term strategic impacts on our community. Council engages consultants to undertake work on its behalf from time to time for work where there is a need to engage expertise not found in Council (e.g economists) and/or because of grant opportunities and/or where additional resources are required. Whilst during the period of Administration, briefs for this type of work have been put into the business paper, I would like to formalise this for both the Council and the community.

The provision of briefs provides the opportunity for the community and Councillors to understand and have input into the scope of the Brief prior to the commencement of a project. This also supports our commitment to transparency and accountability, as the public can see that decisions are based on thorough professional assessments rather than assumptions or limited information.

To ensure that our focus stays at the strategic and policy level, I propose that briefs for the engagement of professional services are presented to Council for endorsement where the:

- engagement is estimated to be over \$250K; or
- impact is long term; or
- impact on more than 10,000 people and/or Shire wide.

It is not intended that this is for technical or construction projects, however will be used for plans and studies, for example integrated transport strategies and land use planning studies.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. The General Manager provide briefs for consultancy services for the preparation of plans, strategies or studies to Council for endorsement where the project:**
 - Engagement is over \$250K; or
 - Impact is long term; or
 - Outcomes impacts on more than 10,000 people and/or Shire wide.
- 2. It be noted that this does not relate to technical or construction projects.**