

Meeting Notes - Meeting No. 7

Clarence Correctional Centre - Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Monday 27 August 2018 – 3:00pm – 6:30pm

Location: John Holland Site Office, 313 Avenue Road, Lavadia

Attendees:

Chairperson: Margaret Harvie.

Community representatives present: Sharron Lee Todd, Julie Perkins, Martin Oates, Tania Williams, Geoffrey Jones, Bob Thompson and John Griffith.

Local Government representative: Elizabeth Fairweather (Clarence Valley Council)

Northern Pathways representatives: Mike Cramb (John Laing), Paul Cassel (John Holland), Peter McIntosh (Serco)

In attendance: Tiffany Jones (John Holland), Imogene Gardiner (John Laing), Joanne Reid (Chief Inspector – Grafton Police Station), Steve Clark (Superintendent – Coffs/Clarence Police District Commander)

Item	Description	Details
1.	Welcome, apologies and introductions	Round table introduction Apologies: Clint Bambrick
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and other interest	Geoffrey Jones is a business owner who already provides supplies to Juvenile Justice and the Dept of Corrective Services and may have an interest in future contracts through Northern Pathways. Tania Williams as a TAFE employee prior to appointment to the CCC through her work was speaking with Serco as a member of the Northern Pathways consortium to identify training opportunities/ contracts for training future employees.
3.	Site tour	Meeting commenced with a tour of the site to inspect the progress and extent of construction to date. The CCC members toured the site by bus and got out to look at the area where there was pre-casting of the cells.
4.	Presentation from Police Q&A	Joanne Reid (JR) - Chief Inspector at Grafton Police Station Steve Clark (SC) - Superintendent at Coffs Harbour/Clarence Police District Commander introduced themselves. SC and JR sought input from the CCC members as to what information they would like from them. The CCC representative posed a number of questions -the questions and discussion are recorded below. There are concerns among the community that the prison will result in an increase in crime in the community? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the experience of SC crime rates have not increased substantially. He understands that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The families of inmates will visit the area but rarely move here.• It is a very safe design, so it would appear unlikely any

prisoners will be escaping.

- Should a prisoner escape, SC suggests they will not be sticking around, they will be fleeing the area as quickly as possible.
- The police will continue to work collaboratively with Serco and based on observations have confidence in the people running the project.
- The increase in the population due to the infrastructure work taking place means that there is potential for a relative increase in crime proportionate to the population growth.
- While there are no existing studies that police are aware of on the impact of a prison on crime rates - police in other areas seem to confirm they have not experienced increase in crime as result of a prison.

Will more police be employed?

- The number of police for each area is a State government decision.

There are reports of negative experiences where the police have not investigated after a call. What assurance do people have that police will react?

- SC apologised that there had been a negative experience as result of a call.
- Sharon Todd (ST) reiterated that her neighbours are isolated and if a prisoner does escape there is a perception that the prisoner will break into their house.
- SC indicated that police will work with Serco and implement plans and processes as part of that collaborative relationship.

How do we manage the negative community perceptions including the potential negative economic impact, i.e. that housing prices will decrease?

- Several CCC members considered that there is too much over-reassuring, the community is looking for acknowledgement of the issues and honesty around this.
- Police are happy to attend more community meetings to reassure people.
- Security systems will be in place - contingency exercises with emergency services are run regularly.
- While the CCC understand some of the way in which problems are being addressed, the wider population does not.
- Further to the outcomes of the review of the CCC the need to have better ways to get messages out into the community has been highlighted – topic of later discussions.

What is the expected length of stay for the families of prisoners who are visiting?

- That is dependent on each individual and family.
- There will be different cohorts, many will be local and likely to visit as part of day trips, or overnight trips. Visiting hours will be every day.
- Police also see potential for visitors to the area to boost the local economy as they will spend money. As already mentioned there

		<p>may also be potential for an increase in crime as with any population increase.</p> <p>Visitors have been seen sleeping in the park because they haven't received their pension yet. There is concern about associated issues with visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police are good at knowing who belongs in Grafton and who does not. • JR cannot think of any instances where the crimes have been related to the people visiting prisoners. Offenders are usually locals and the police know and are aware of them. • The biggest issue with visitors is that they try to smuggle drugs into the prison. <p>As police plan for the expansion of population and increase in police presence, is it possible there will be a decrease in crime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC and JR say that it is difficult to determine. • The NSW Police association are currently negotiating for more staff – the decision for any increase will be made by the State government. But they are currently planning for the future. • Important to remember that not all visitors to the prison are going to be bad people. • Police are seeking to reassure the community. <p>How do we get the message out to the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for opportunities to involve the police to get the message out • Suggestion that Facebook is a vehicle for distributing messages and information. <p>Action: <i>TJ proposes organising a forum and will invite the police along with the CCC members. It may be possible to generate publicity around this.</i></p>
5.	Actions Arising from Last Meeting	<p>Vegetation at Glenugie Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMS phone number has been provided to Geoff Jones (GJ) for him to follow up. If there is need for further assistance or there are issues GJ is to liaise with TJ. It is suggested that if possible the outcomes of actions such as this one are acted upon, resolved and reported to the CCC (either in meetings or via email between meetings) – this is as per suggestions of CCC members as part of the review of the CCC. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue will be added to the next Yarning Circle on Wednesday 19 September. • A request for a page for the Clarence Correctional Centre on the car pool website has been requested and is pending. • ST suggested Tiffany approach Suzanne Lynch from Council to progress this. <p>Action: <i>ST will provide Suzanne's email to TJ.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJ indicated that the car pool website is not very user friendly. • ST asked about potential use of the bus for the indigenous preschool for transport? • PM recommended that it might be valuable to have people register

		<p>their interests in transport to determine the demand for a bus. A private operator might be interested based on demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus companies should be made aware of the potential need - we can indicate to them the hours of operations and offer to promote it to the workers. • TJ advised that a car share notice in the John Holland newsletter had generated no interest. <p>Action: <i>TJ to continue to follow up the status of the inclusion of a CCC page on the Northern Pathways website.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted the issue stemmed from correspondence to the CCC from Alex Lewers of Social Futures indicating that there may be issues for Aboriginal people. • It may be too soon to take much action on the transport issue but we need to keep watch and raise in future meetings. <p>Action: <i>TJ will raise in Yarning Circle the potential need for a bus to and from the site.</i></p> <p>Employment Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NorthernPathways Website has been updated with more information from about Serco advertised roles and when they commence. • Serco are currently running a community awareness campaign. TJ advises people to go to the Serco website if interested in a job. <p>Other actions from the last meeting are the topic of agenda items</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Correspondence to the CCC</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>What we are hearing from the community?</p>	<p>Martin Oates (MF): The community are pleased to see the jobs being advertised. It gives them confidence that job opportunities are coming.</p> <p>Sharon Lee Todd (ST): After the Channel 9 news segment, people at her work are curious about access to iPads by prisoners. There are lots of misconceptions around why and how these might be being used. Conversation went to the Channel 9 report with most CCC members considering that it was positive.</p> <p>TJ reported that Mike Cramb and the whole team discussed with the reporter the prison’s operating model and the focus on rehabilitation and entry back into the community – equipping them to make positive contributions to the community. Not all of this part of the story was reported.</p> <p>Elizabeth Fairweather (EF): The group appreciated the heads up that the story was airing so that the CCC was aware in case the community talked about it.</p> <p>Bob Thomson (BT): Reported that he is still having trouble convincing the community that it is actually happening. People are asking “Have they actually started yet?” and “is it actually happening?”</p> <p>Julie Perkins (JP): Has heard similar comments about the iPads. People are interested in the jobs. Reported that there are ongoing issues around the cultural boundaries and both local groups. JP will refer the issues to the Yarning Circle.</p>

		<p>John Griffith (JG): Shared feedback/ questions from the Clarence Forum Facebook page (about 1,700 members). JG stated that as a community representative, he would like to be able to respond to the concerns that have been raised.</p> <p>Margaret Harvie (MH) advised that care should be taken in engaging using social media as there is a risk of escalating rather than resolving issues.</p> <p>Action: JG to send his list of concerns/ questions from the facebook page to TJ. TJ will provide answers or identify locations of the answers in the EIS. Where appropriate these will be added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list on the Northern Pathways website.</p> <p>Geoff Jones (GJ): The pendulum has now switched from it being “controversial” to people thinking “how do I get a job there?”.</p> <p>TJ and PM confirmed information about employment opportunities is on the NorthernPathways website and this directs through to the Serco’s website. The Serco Grafton website is: https://graftonserco.com.au/</p> <p>Action: PM to provide brochures to members the group to distribute and to refer to when they get asked questions.</p>
8.	Outcomes of the Sponsorship and Funding Applications	<p>11 Submissions were received and evaluated by the sponsorship committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 were shortlisted, and 4 recommended for funding • 2 proposals shortlisted but not recommended for funding will be supported through in-kind design and construction services provided by the consortium. <p>The John Laing Charitable Trust (JLCT) funding beneficiaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Neighbourhood School of Arts • Clarence River Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services • Gurehlgam Corporation • Police Citizens Youth Club <p>The in-kind beneficiaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nungera Co-op • Grafton Ngerrie Aboriginal Lands Council <p>A total of \$337,000 is being provided from the John Laing Charitable Trust and Serco Foundation.</p> <p>The charities have been informed that they have been successful, however are under embargo until the media announcement takes place on Thursday 13 September.</p>
9.	Project Planning – contract progress	<p>Michael Cramb (MC) – discussed that there is a huge amount of progress being made with 500 workers now on site, and precast concrete being delivered daily. The good weather has meant good progress. All major milestones are being met, which is good considering the size of the project. There are 9,000 line items in the project chart, demonstrating it is a big and complex project. There have been constant adjustments to the program but all major milestones are being achieved.</p>

10.	Operations Update	<p>Peter McIntosh (PM) – Explained that there are many registering interest in employment with Serco.</p> <p>Serco are currently developing an Indigenous Employment Initiative which will involve putting applicants in an initially through an employment screening process to establish gaps in them meeting Serco requirements; the intent is to give the applicants several months to bridge this gap, once the gap is filled, they can gain employment with Serco. The initiative will be presented to the Yarning Circle to get their feedback.</p> <p>The CCC were supportive of this process but indicated that people wanted more jobs rather than more training.</p> <p>Q: How is the issue of drugs being smuggled in by visitors addressed?</p> <p>PM: Methods used include screening of visitors, searching and screening of inmates, drug detection dogs, ionizing detection, intelligence. PM provided an overview of the in-cell technology that will be available. Drug detection is one of the more challenging issues even though screening is getting more advanced. X-ray can't be used too often due to the negative health implications.</p> <p>Q: In some prisons, they are making visitors wear zipped up suits, is that an option?</p> <p>PM: No at this stage this is not planned. It is difficult to find a balance as we also want to ensure people are treated with respect and that it is a comfortable environment when visitors, including children, come to see their loved ones.</p> <p>Q: If you're a good prisoner, do you get a room to yourself? Or is it if you are a bad prisoner you get a room to yourself?</p> <p>PM: It is not this straightforward and placement within the complex depends on a number of different factors including security and risk considerations.</p> <p>Q: Why have you chosen the type of locks we saw on the tour, they seem complicated and outdated?</p> <p>PM: There are a range of locks that are suitable on the market including electronic and physical enabled versions. We have selected this type of lock after examining a number of different option as we believe that it is the most suitable for this particular facility.</p>
11.	Construction Look Ahead	The CCC representatives had toured the site prior to the meeting so the report for the construction look ahead was considered as complete.
12.	Update of Roads and Utilities	To be covered in more detail at the next meeting.
13.	Project Progress - Construction	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>The water in Swan Creek is discoloured and there was talk that this was due to the project.</p> <p>TJ clarified that JHG have not released any water since June.</p> <p>TJ: Progress on the cattle movements issue with Gary Barnes from the Department of Premier and Cabinet visiting the site to look at the issue and where, potentially, cattle yards could be put in place.</p>

		<p>Complaints</p> <p>TJ gave a summary of the complaints received and actions being taken.</p> <p>There have been 5 new complaints in the last 2 months. Four are closed, 1 remains open.</p> <p>Noise complaint: JHG conducted monitoring to confirm they were under the allowable EPA noise limits, however they are still going to provide the neighbour with double-glazed windows prior to the operations phase.</p> <p>Dust complaint: JHG confirmed they were under the allowable EPA dust limits, however additional dust watering will occur.</p> <p>Traffic complaint: Some local people do not want the local roads to be used. Issues include that people are coming from the north following their GPS and accidentally coming through Ulmarra.</p>
14.	Report on the Outcomes of the Review of the CCC Operations	<p>Margaret Harvie (MH) gave a brief update on the outcomes of the review of the CCC.</p> <p>Everyone apart from Paul Cassel (suitable time unable to be found) was interviewed.</p> <p>The CCC Representatives should let MH know if they feel like their issues have not been represented or not accurately represented.</p> <p>If there is anything from the review they feel needs to be captured on the Agenda for the next and future meetings please let MH know.</p> <p>One consistent issue is that the CCC Representatives want a larger profile among the community for both the CCC and for the project.</p> <p>Another issue raised was the need to more efficiently close out action items.</p> <p>It was recognised that some of the issues raised may be outside the role of the CCC.</p> <p>Action: <i>The CCC Representatives are to advise MH of any other items raised by the review they feel should be added to the next or future meeting Agendas.</i></p>
15.	Future meetings	<p>The next meeting will be held at 4:00pm on Monday 12 November 2018 followed by a dinner as the end of year Christmas celebration.</p> <p>(Investigations as to whether both the dinner and meeting can be held at the Grafton Hotel are underway)</p> <p>From 2019, all meetings will be held on site at 313 Avenue Road, Lavadia.</p>
16.	Close	Meeting finished at 6:35 pm