

## Meeting Notes - Meeting No.14

Clarence Correctional Centre - Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Tuesday 23 June 2020: 2:00pm – 6:00pm

**Location:** Clarence Correctional Centre, Avenue Road, Lavadia

**Chairperson:** Margaret Harvie

**Community representatives present:** Julie Perkins, Tania Williams, Bob Thompson, Geoffrey Jones, Jason Connell, Martin Oates

**Local Government representative:** Dan Griffin (Clarence Valley Council - CVC)

**Northern Pathways representatives:** Peter McIntosh (Serco), John Myers (John Laing), Glen Scholes (Serco)

**In attendance:** Bree Hiatt (Serco)

**Apologies:** Sharron Lee Todd

Item	Description	Details
	<b>Site Tour</b>	Meeting commenced with a site tour of the Clarence Correctional Centre (the Centre), in advance of its opening on 1 July 2020.
1.	<b>Welcome, apologies and introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Margaret Harvie (MH) acknowledged that we are meeting on Aboriginal land and welcomed:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Myers (JM) who is replacing Mike Cramb</li> <li>Dan Griffin (DG) who is taking over from Elizabeth Fairweather (EF) as the representative of Clarence Valley Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Around the table introductions for the benefit of John and Dan.</li> <li>MH expressed thanks to Mike Cramb for support to the CCC and also later thanked Peter McIntosh (PM) who would not be attending future meetings with the Centre moving to the to the operational stage.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Declarations of pecuniary and other interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geoffrey Jones (GJ) is a business owner who already provides food supplies to Juvenile Justice and Corrective Services NSW and is discussing future contracts through Northern Pathways.</li> <li>Tania Williams (TW) is a TAFE NSW employee. TAFE NSW has entered into a contract for the provision of vocational education and training to the Centre. Tania is not directly part of the group that is contracted to the Centre.</li> <li>Julie Perkins (JP) is the Chairperson of the Gurehlgam Corporation, an organisation that provides services for Aboriginal people.</li> <li>Martin Oates (MO) wife is currently going through the training process to become a correctional officer and an employee of Serco.</li> </ul>

3.	Actions Arising from Last Meeting	<p>Action items outstanding from the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Aboriginal Legal Service – Ongoing item - PM to report to the CCC on meeting/discussion with representatives from the Aboriginal Legal Services and Legal Aid in Coffs Harbour to update them on the Centre’s progress.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bob Thompson (BT)</b> spoke to the fact that the lack of Aboriginal Legal service advice will become an issue for us all if there are not enough resources. Lawyers need to attend with files and connect people to the information in those files.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION</b> - Glen Scholes to establish communications through informal discussion and ask Legal Aid what support the Centre and hence the prisoners would be receiving. GS will track and report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>JP to provide Bree Hiatt (BH) with an additional contact for Aboriginal Legal Service.</b> Names supplied being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEO- Karly Warner <a href="mailto:Karly.Warner@alsnswact.org.au">Karly.Warner@alsnswact.org.au</a></li> <li>• Chairperson - Mark Davies <a href="mailto:Chairperson@alsnswact.org.au">Chairperson@alsnswact.org.au</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>PM will share at the next meeting more detail on what is intended to be measured under the impact areas.</b> This item to be dealt with as item 5</li> <li>4. <b>PM to get more information about food storage and provide a response.</b> GJ had raised this question that has since been answered with there being a full seven days of food held on site at any time.</li> <li>5. <b>EF will share with the CCC the Clarence Valley Social Economic Indicators Report, August 2019</b> Sent to the CCC with minutes of the last meeting</li> <li>6. <b>BH to circulate media statement and newspaper article</b> Sent to the CCC with minutes of the last meeting</li> </ol>
4.	<b>Correspondence to the CCC</b>	<p>Sharon Todd raised a concern via email from a community member in relation to a radio interview that was conducted. The email is attached to the minutes (below) for the information of members.</p> <p>Glen Scholes (GS) responded to this correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The comments were made in the context of Grafton having had a gaol for 120 years.</li> <li>• There have been benefits for the town including employment,</li> </ul>

		<p>procurement and industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The comments in the interview were not meant as dismissive but rather a reference to history.</li> <li>• GS offered to contact the community member directly.</li> <li>• The committee discussed that the tour that had showed the security and safety measures of the centre.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Future Collection of Data and measures of social impact</b>	<p>BH is working with Lawrence Consulting who were commissioned for the Clarence Valley Social Economic Indicators Report to have them complete the future social impact reports that are part of the Conditions of Consent for the project.</p>
6	<b>Report/ Update on recent events</b>	<p>GS gave a verbal update on the recent events and suggested that many of the questions about the Centre had been answered through the site tour. Further questions are welcome. He highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The staff profile shows that they are spread evenly across Grafton, Yamba and Coffs Harbour areas.</li> <li>• Staff who have relocated to these areas are buying homes with Grafton seeing a 15 – 19% increase in housing sales. This is minimising the impact the area was predicting from the highway and bridge workers leaving. Those with real estate are benefiting from the Centre staff through both purchases and rentals.</li> </ul> <p><b>GJ</b> echoed this sentiment in that a slide was expected in the market, but it has in fact remained stable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal recruitment is on track with more candidates in the pipeline and existing candidates moving forward successfully in recruitment processes and testing.</li> <li>• Overall the centre is seeing an 8% attrition rate. <i>(NOTE - This is not for Aboriginal employees).</i></li> <li>• The Corrections industry has always seen multi-generations of families in employment. The Centre is working toward long time support of the Clarence Valley community through generational employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>DG</b> asked about engagement with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) around access to the centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robyn Barlow Operational Performance Manager has been part of discussions and TfNSW are considering the viability of a bus service.</li> <li>• It is predicted that visitors will use Coffs Harbour as the major centre when visiting the Centre.</li> <li>• It is believed that technology (effective throughout COVID-19) will begin to take over from traditional visits. Contributing factors include costs saving for visitors, time constraints and the reduction in risk of contraband items coming in. Video visits have advantages and have been well received across other Centres in NSW.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Bob Thompson (BT)</b> confirmed his understanding that the Justice Community had been taking advantage of the online options and should continue to make use of this option for legal visits.</p> <p><b>DG</b> talked about the Council’s relationship with the Clarence Valley integrated transport review being conducted by TfNSW (contact person Ahmed). This has included some discussion about a potential bus service with Council pushing for consideration of transport routes. He also noted that there is a transport disconnect for families who might arrive into Grafton on the train that arrives at 1am in the morning. They potentially have no support/accommodation when getting off the train. DG indicated that this is a potential social problem that needs to be addressed before it occurs. DG has raised this issue within Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Centre will be collecting statistics around social visits (when these are again allowed) to see where visitors are coming from and the mode of transport they use to come to the Centre. This will also include times and days.</li> <li>• JM noted that in Junee most visiting families arrived on a Friday night and stayed for the weekend.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - GS will make contact with Grafton Correctional Centre Governor Michelle Payner to gauge any issues or impacts with regard to travel by visitors to Grafton Correctional Centre.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The catchment for this Centre compared to the Grafton Correctional Centre is the same therefore the transport requirements are potentially the same.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - DG to share with Serco his TfNSW contact.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JM noted that the TfNSW in the region is actively working on solutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>JP</b> was interested in how online and video visits impact women and their contact with their children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS said that mothers can see all of their children in video visits. There are not the same limitations as there is for others.</li> </ul> <p><b>JP</b> asked how National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will work within the centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inmates are assessed as soon as they arrive at the centre and information gathered regarding NDIS support requirements. The NDIS assessment occurs in the Centre. Program Delivery Offices make the referrals when required.</li> <li>• JM noted that NDIS support stays with any inmate who was supported prior to entering prison. It continues throughout their sentence.</li> </ul> <p><b>JP</b> asked how these services are coordinated when they are released as this initial support is important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS noted that the No Judgement Just Support model being developed for the Centre will assist with post-release issues by linking them with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and providing online/phone services.</li> </ul>
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<p>7.</p>	<p><b>What we are hearing from the community?</b></p> <p>(Round the table for all members)</p>	<p>What we are hearing from the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MO – indicated that there was very positive feedback on questions from the CCC features in the newsletter.</li> <li>• DG – supported the need for integration with services such as NDIS – helping with the completion of forms etc. and equipping them for the future.</li> <li>• GJ - supported the need for integration with services. He was impressed by Centre tour. Indicated that the community is happy as they are getting jobs.</li> <li>• Jason Connell (JC) thanked Serco for the tour</li> <li>• BT indicated that the Centre is currently staying under the radar in terms of public attention in the community</li> <li>• JP already had her questions on the NDIS addressed</li> <li>• TW nothing to add/ no questions</li> </ul>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Project planning</b></p>	<p><b>Contract Progress - JM Verbal Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant activity since the last meeting</li> <li>• Construction progress/completion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical completion of the Centre has been achieved</li> <li>• The Centre has been gazetted as a Correctional Centre and Complex, the Centre and reserve</li> <li>• Observation and testing of systems have been completed, Fault Free Period is now complete</li> <li>• Seeking to achieve Commercial Acceptance by 30 June 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Operations Update</b></p>	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Emergency Committee Meeting</li> <li>• Clarence Valley Council’s Economic Development Team</li> <li>• Clarence Police District Chief Inspector</li> </ul> <p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Emergency Services for site orientation</li> </ul> <p><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC Radio Interview</li> <li>• DEX Deadly Edition</li> <li>• Newsletter distributed and there are currently 3,753 subscribers</li> </ul> <p><b>Employment Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal update on employment statistics with recruitment on track.</li> </ul>

<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BH provided an update on progress of the question and answers as per the list of questions that were prepared by the CCC for the last meeting. These have been gradually addressed through the newsletter.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - JM to advise where the community questions will now be addressed after Clarence Connect’s final edition is circulated.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TW asked that there be a report to the community on the outcomes of John Holland Infrastructure Legacy Program.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - BH will follow up with Tiffany Jones to see if they can report on this.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TW asked whether the Centre also had plans to create a legacy.</li> <li>There was a discussion about the ongoing employment and economic and social benefits of the centre.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - BH to come to the next meeting with more information about the legacy plans for the Centre.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TW asked in the context of everything being online if inmates are able to keep personal photos with them. GS advised that inmates are able to have a limited number with them and these can be swapped out for other photos from their stored property.</li> </ul>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting and close</b></p>	<p>Next meeting will be at the Clarence Correctional Centre at 4pm on 14 September 2020</p>

**Correspondence**

Email received 21 June 2020

Hi Margaret,

This just came to my attention.

I have received a complaint from a local resident who has asked me to present his concern to CCC.

"On the morning of 25th May 2020, ABC Radio North Coast (Lismore) broadcast an interview with a Gaol Project Spokesperson, this can be listened to from the ABC archive, during this interview the spokesperson was asked by the ABC interviewer about community safety concerns, the spokesperson dismissed these concerns stating that "Grafton has always been a gaol town", the community member who contacted me said this response was "insulting to a concerned community & illogical and not satisfy their personal safety concern".

I request that the spokesperson provide a response that I can give to my neighbour.

Regards, Sharron