

Section: MOTION ON NOTICE 24 February 2009

Item: 10.016/09 MEMORIAL TO CLARENCE VALLEY INDIGENOUS PERSONS

SUMMARY

I propose that the following report and notice of motion be adopted by Council.

PROPOSED MOTION:

That Council place before the Clarence Valley Aboriginal Consultative Committee for consideration, suggestions and referral to local aboriginal elders for permission and support the possibility of construction of a suitable memorial to advance reconciliation in

a practical way and to recognise prior occupancy of the Valley by indigenous peoples.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - 10.016/09

(Crs Tiley/Toms)

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Council place before the Clarence Valley Aboriginal Consultative Committee for

consideration, suggestions and referral to local aboriginal elders for permission

and support the possibility of construction of a suitable memorial to advance reconciliation in a practical way and to recognise prior occupancy of the Valley by

indigenous peoples.

Voting recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Williamson, Comben, Dinham, Howe, Hughes, McKenna, Simmons, Tiley, Toms

Against: Nil

BACKGROUND

In May 2005 the first Clarence Valley Council adopted and disseminated a Statement of

Reconciliation to coincide with National Reconciliation Day that year. Since that time a

number of important local initiatives have been progressed as a consequence of council's statement. One such initiative, which has had good success is the Clarence Valley aboriginal Consultative Committee.

In February this year the Prime Minister made a landmark formal apology to the stolen

generations in the Federal Parliament.

ISSUES

A suggestion has been made that as another measure to advance reconciliation in a practical way, some form of suitable memorial could be erected in the Clarence Valley to

recognise the prior occupancy of the valley by indigenous peoples over thousands of years.

Such a project would obviously require the agreement of the local aboriginal elders and

the nature of the memorial should be of their choosing. This motion seeks to commence

a process of consultation so that with indigenous support a memorial may be achieved.

One option may be for Council to conduct a competition through the community or schools for a design to secure the best possible concept.

Another option may be to source a grant from State or Federal government to enable a

national quest for a suitable memorial, perhaps a sculpture or installation, with a substantial prize for the selected work. There are good examples on the web of

reconciliation artworks and sculpture awards. I would be willing to participate in a working group to develop such a process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown at this stage but I would expect that grant funding sources may be available for

several sources such as State or Federal government, RDA or Green Corps. Perhaps

one or more local service club may also be prepared to contribute voluntary labour.

Councillor Ian Tiley

Date: 17 December 2008