

Item: 4.4 PUBLIC MEETING SOUTH GRAFTON – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report is a summary of the public meeting regarding law and order issues held in South Grafton on Wednesday, 27th July 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council makes representation to Hon Carl Scully Minister for Police for an urgent review of Police strength in the Clarence Valley.

BACKGROUND

This public meeting was called by me and held in response to law and order issues including anti-social behaviour that were raised during the Management Plan consultation held in South Grafton. At that time I gave an undertaking at the Management Plan consultation to convene a public meeting at a later date in South Grafton to discuss these issues in more detail with the Police Area Commander present.

The public meeting was well attended with around 53 people present including local business people, residents, Councillors, Council staff and the media. I opened the meeting by encouraging those present to use it as an opportunity to find solutions to the local issues.

Paul Fehon Local Area Commander of the Coffs/Clarence Valley Local Area Command gave a presentation on Police activities and strategies in the Local Area Command particularly concentrating on the Clarence Valley. Rose Bishop representing the Liquor Accord then gave a brief overview of the Liquor Accord. The meeting was then opened to questions from the floor and considerable positive discussion ensued.

ISSUES

A wide range of issues were raised during the meeting. These issues broadly fell under law and order including anti-social behaviour, for example the excessive consumption of alcohol and its associated anti-social behaviour and law and order problems. The policing of these issues was a key concern raised especially with regard to Police presence/visibility and Police numbers. At the meeting conclusion I suggested, and with the support of the Area Commander it was unanimously determined that CVC should make urgent representations to Minister for Police Scully for a review of Police strength in The Clarence Valley. This is the purpose of the mayoral minute to Council.

OPTIONS

1. That Council makes representation to Carl Scully Minister of Police for a review of Police strength in the Clarence Valley.
2. That Council not agree / determine another course of action

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil except some staff time.

IAN TILEY
MAYOR