

Item: 4.8 YAMBA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

REPORT SUMMARY

This Minute responds to the aspirations of residents of Yamba and environs for a community health centre and propose that Council now commence representations to State Government for such a facility.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council make representations to the State Minister for Health to build a community health centre at Yamba and provide health services according to the Northern Rivers Area Health Services Plan 2002 for Yamba and surrounding areas, with necessary enhancements to match the population increase since 2002

BACKGROUND

On 1st June 2005 at the Yamba Management plan public meeting, Mr Jim Agnew, on behalf of the Yamba Health Services Working Group, addressed the meeting bringing to council's attention the urgent need for a Community Health centre to be co-located with the Ambulance Station at Treelands Drive Yamba. I indicated at the public meeting that I would prepare this Minute and make the above recommendation.

The former Maclean Council had developed a precinct plan and made land available for the Area Health Service to build such a centre at the Treelands Drive site and a Health Services Plan was developed in 2002. A Community Centre and Ambulance Station have now been constructed.

The 2002 Health Services Plan of the Area Health Service suggested a proposed model of care for health service provision in Yamba catchment area based on a "spectrum of health care provision" which included promotion of good health and prevention of illness as well as early and/or brief intervention.

ISSUES

The same Plan also highlights the high proportion of people over 55 years of age and the high percentage of indigenous peoples living in the locality. There is no community health facility in Yamba, the nearest being at Maclean, which is inaccessible in times of flood. The case for a Centre to promote wellness and disease prevention in Yamba locality is compelling. It is appropriate for Clarence Valley council to show leadership in this important issue and to commence representations to government for such a facility.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council has ownership of the proposed site for the centre which will represent a significant contribution to the project.

IAN TILEY
MAYOR