

ITEM NO: 6**SUBJECT: THE GULLY CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****FILE NO: F01286**

Recommendation:

That the Council establishes The Gully Cooperative Management Committee under the Terms of Reference attached to this report.

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:**Introduction**

The Gully Aboriginal Place is an area of approximately 90ha located adjacent to the residential and commercial urban centre of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains (Figure 1) and is made up of both Community Land owned by Blue Mountains City Council and Crown land under the Council's control. The Gully is deemed to be of special significance to Aboriginal culture and declared an Aboriginal Place under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* on 17 November 2002.

Prior to declaring an Aboriginal Place, the relevant Minister requires an Aboriginal Place Report to be prepared outlining the significance of the area to Aboriginal people. In relation to The Gully, the report to the Minister identified three culturally significant aspects of The Gully:

The Upper Kedumba Valley is significant to living Aboriginal people in three ways. The Valley contains significant pre-contact Aboriginal archaeological site. The Valley also contains the physical remnants of a post-contact Aboriginal settlement (dating from 1894-1957) which is of major significance to local Gundungurra and Darug ex-residents and their descendants. It was a place of ongoing occupation by Aboriginal people, until forced eviction in 1957.

The Gully, as it is known to these people, is still visited regularly and is an area regarded as having cultural and spiritual significance. The protection of the Aboriginal heritage of the Valley is regarded as important by many people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, in the Blue Mountains community. The Valley is seen as a place of co-existence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the past and therefore significant to the on-going process of reconciliation in the local community.

(Upper Kedumba Valley, Katoomba – Report on the cultural significance of Upper Kedumba Valley for declaration as an Aboriginal Place – Di Johnson and Dawn Colless 2002, BMCC, p157).

- Fauna values including: a number of threatened species, such as the Blue Mountains Water Skink.
- Water Catchment values: including maintenance of the swamps and sedges and the fact that drainage from The Gully feeds waterfalls at Katoomba Falls Reserve, which forms part of the drinking water catchment of Sydney.
- Recreation values: The Gully is a heavily used recreational resource for the Katoomba and broader Blue Mountains communities. Recreational uses include bicycling, bushwalking, dog walking, jogging, passive recreation such as picnics and informal play, as well formal recreation areas such as the oval and caravan park.
- Social and cultural values: The Gully provides scenic value to neighbours and the people of the Katoomba community by providing bushland open space in an urban environment. The area also has the potential to be used for increased educational opportunities. The area is socially significant to both the Aboriginal and broader Blue Mountains community as a meeting place and a place of community involvement and activism.

This report recommends a way forward in terms of the future management of The Gully.

Ongoing Aboriginal Involvement – The Gully Co-operative Management Committee

To ensure that the Aboriginal community have an ongoing, formal and meaningful role in the management of The Gully, it is proposed to establish “The Gully Co-operative Management Committee” made up of key Council staff and representatives of the Aboriginal community who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents.

The Objectives of the proposed Gully Co-operative Management Committee are to:

- Recognise the significance of The Gully to the Aboriginal community, specifically those Aboriginal people who were residents, or who are descendants of residents, of The Gully;
- Ensure that The Gully is managed in a way that respects, conserves and maintains the Aboriginal values of The Gully, including pre and post contact Aboriginal heritage values;
- Formalise the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of The Gully, including decision-making in relation to all land management activities; and
- Manage the public lands within the Gully in a balanced way to provide the greatest benefit to the community.

The key components of this proposed management committee are outlined below.

Membership and Chair

It is proposed that the formal Committee will be made up of eight representatives. Five Committee members will be representatives of the Aboriginal community who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents, drawn from *The Gully Traditional Owners Inc* (GTO). The GTO will be asked to nominate five Aboriginal people who are members of the GTO to sit on the proposed Committee. The GTO committee members may nominate delegates if they cannot attend but those delegates must also be Aboriginal members of the GTO and former residents or descendants of former residents of the Gully.

The remaining three members will be the Council Manager, Environmental Management or delegate; Manager, Corporate & Community Outcomes or delegate; and the Manager, Assets & Contract Management or delegate.

Other GTO members who meet the criteria (i.e. are from the Aboriginal community and who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents) may also attend meetings, in addition to the five nominees, and be involved in decision-making processes.

The GTO is considered the most appropriate Aboriginal community group to seek Aboriginal nominees to sit on the Committee. This is because the GTO as outlined in its Certificate of Incorporation:

- Has been specifically established to advance the public awareness of The Gully, and to identify, record and maintain Gully Aboriginal sites and heritage;
- Limits its membership to Aboriginal persons “who are and can be identified as a Gully person”; and
- Does not limit its membership to Aboriginal people from just one tribal group.

It is proposed that the Chair of the Committee will be a committee member, as elected by the Committee at their first meeting. The Chair will be re-elected every 12 months.

Councillors will be updated on the work of the Committee and the management of The Gully through regular Councillor briefings and a formal annual Council Report on the work of the Committee.

Function and terms of reference

The purpose or function of the Committee will be for the Council and the Aboriginal community to manage The Gully in a co-operative manner. Decisions of the Committee will direct the Council in terms of land management and other activities within The Gully. The Committee’s role will be to make decisions and give direction in regard to all land management and other issues within the Aboriginal Place.

Given the intensive nature of the development which has already occurred at the swimming pool, caravan park and sporting field areas, the operational management of these areas is not included in the scope of the Committee’s decision making. The map attached in the terms of reference outlines the management area of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee. Although the areas stated above do not fall under the direct management of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee, they still form part of the declared Aboriginal Place and as such require Aboriginal community consultation in terms of any Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) approval process.

The Committee’s broad role encompasses all land management issues within The Gully, which recognises that Aboriginal values, both tangible and intangible, are inextricably linked to how The Gully is managed in totality. The role of the Committee is therefore to make management decisions including and beyond those perceived to be directly related to the conservation of Aboriginal objects or sites.

Decision-making of the Committee will be via a consensus model, with all decisions and directions being accepted by *all* committee members attending. Where the Committee cannot reach consensus decision-making, then dispute resolution will be pursued using a

facilitator. Any Committee member(s) can also request the DECC to be part of any dispute resolution process but not as a facilitator or mediator. A timeframe for resolution of any dispute will be set by the independent facilitator. If the issue still cannot be resolved, it will then be referred to the Council's General Manager for a final decision. The General Manager will consult with the Gully Traditional Owners before making any decision.

The terms of reference for the proposed Gully Cooperative Management Committee are attached.

Governance

It is recommended that the Committee be appointed for two years, with new nominations for membership sought at that time for appointment for the following two year period.

In terms of governance issues in relation to the Committee, the following is recommended:

- The Committee will meet bi-monthly at a minimum and more frequently as required;
- The Council will provide the resources to prepare draft agendas (in conjunction with the Chair) and record formal minutes, including any outcomes and decisions of the Committee;
- The Council will circulate draft agendas and draft Minutes to all Committee members, and store the records of the Committee;
- Meetings of the Committee will be at the Katoomba Council administration centre, or another venue as required; and
- Members of the Committee will receive no payment to attend meetings. The Council will supply meals and refreshments, and pay a contribution to the reasonable travel costs of community members.

The effectiveness and operations of the Committee will be reviewed by the Committee within a four year period and reported to the Council.

National Parks and Wildlife Act

Where activities and works have the potential to impact on Aboriginal objects and values within an Aboriginal Place (AP), the landholder responsible for an Aboriginal Place is legally obliged to seek an approval from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

A number of the proposed works in The Gully Aboriginal Place, including those outlined in the Upper Kedumba River Valley Plan of Management and the recently awarded Reconnecting to Country grant as well as ancillary activities, could require a Section 90 permit under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. As a separate process the Council or the proposed Gully Cooperative Management Committee would need to apply for consent for some on-ground works.

DECC has issued guidelines in terms of the Aboriginal consultation they would require before considering issuing an approval. These guidelines require broad consultation with a variety of stipulated Aboriginal community groups including the Local Land Council.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting):

Effects	Positive	Negative
Environmental	Traditional owner land management perspective incorporated into all decision making for The Gully which may improve environmental outcomes.	Nil
Social	Traditional owners actively involved in managing declared Aboriginal place.	Nil
Economic	Initiatives could lead to improved culturally appropriate tourism.	Nil

Financial implications for the Council

All recommendations and decisions arising from the Committee need to fit within the Council’s existing budgets and budgetary process. There is no fixed budget allocated to this Committee. There will be some minor expenses associated with facilitating and supporting committee meetings.

Legal and risk management issues for the Council

Committee members will be required to manage the land consistent with all relevant existing legislation and policies, including the *NSW Local Government Act* and the Upper Kedumba River Valley PoM, the *NSW Crown Lands Act*, the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act*, *Blue Mountains LEP 2005* and other relevant legislation. The Committee cannot request the Council to undertake a management action or activity which is inconsistent with the Council’s legislative obligations as the landowner or as a Council.

All committee members and those involved in decision making of the committee are required to abide by the Council’s Code of Conduct.

External consultation

This report was prepared in consultation with the Gully Traditional Owners.

Conclusion

The Council recognises the significance of The Gully to the Aboriginal community, specifically those Aboriginal people who were residents, or who are descendants of residents, of The Gully. The Council and the Gully Traditional Owners will ensure that The Gully is managed in such a way which respects, conserves and maintains the Aboriginal values of The Gully, including pre and post contact Aboriginal heritage values and formalises the involvement of Gully Traditional Owners in the management of The Gully, including decision-making in relation to land management activities.

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Attachment:**The Gully Co-operative Management Committee - Terms of Reference****Intention**

The Council recognises the significance of The Gully to the Aboriginal community, specifically those Aboriginal people who were residents, or who are descendants of residents, of The Gully. The Council and the Gully Traditional Owners Inc. will ensure that The Gully is managed in such a way which respects, conserves and maintains the Aboriginal values of The Gully, including pre and post contact Aboriginal heritage values and formalises the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of The Gully, including decision-making in relation to land management activities.

Introduction

The Gully Aboriginal Place is an area of approximately 90ha located adjacent to the residential and commercial urban centre of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains (see Attachment 1 for a map). The Gully was deemed to be of special significance to Aboriginal culture and declared an Aboriginal Place under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* on 17 November 2002.

The Gully Aboriginal Place is made up of three parcels of land owned and managed by Blue Mountains City Council, and one parcel of land which is a Crown Reserve owned by the Crown through the Department of Lands but under the care and control of Blue Mountains City Council. The Council owned and managed land is classified as "Community Land" under the *NSW Local Government Act* (LGA).

A Plan of Management (*Upper Kedumba River Valley Plans of Management*, BMCC, 2004 hereafter the Kedumba PoM) has been developed to guide the Council's management of the Council owned and managed portions of The Gully and other adjacent Council owned and managed land which does not form part of The Gully. The portion of the Katoomba Falls Reserve which is Crown Reserve managed by the Council is not included in the Plan of Management and therefore is not subject to it.

Prior to declaring an Aboriginal Place, the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment requires an Aboriginal Place Report to be prepared outlining the significance of the area to Aboriginal people. In relation to The Gully, the report to the Minister identified three culturally significant aspects of The Gully:

The Upper Kedumba Valley is significant to living Aboriginal people in three ways. The Valley contains significant pre-contact Aboriginal archaeological sites. The Valley also contains the physical remnants of a post-contact Aboriginal settlement (dating from 1894-1957) which is of major significance to local Gundungurra and Darug ex-residents and their descendants. It was a place of ongoing occupation by Aboriginal people, until forced eviction in 1957. The Gully, as it is known to these people, is still visited regularly and is an area regarded as having cultural and spiritual significance.

The protection of the Aboriginal heritage of the Valley is regarded as important by many people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, in the Blue Mountains community. The Valley is seen as a place of co-existence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the past and therefore significant to the on-going process of reconciliation in the local community.

(Upper Kedumba Valley, Katoomba – Report on the cultural significance of Upper Kedumba Valley for declaration as an Aboriginal Place – Di Johnson and Dawn Colless 2002, BMCC, p157).

The Aboriginal Place Report for The Gully outlines in detail the Aboriginal cultural values of the area, including the significance of The Gully as a post contact site to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The Report, as well as additional archaeological studies (e.g. *Katoomba Falls Creek Valley Investigation of Pre-European and Post Contact Aboriginal Sites* by Val Attenbrow, 1999, BMCC), document evidence of pre and post contact archaeological sites within the Gully.

The report also outlines the important post-contact history of The Gully, including the dispersal of The Gully community and the eviction of Gully residents in 1957 with the construction of the racing track. Non-tangible Aboriginal values of The Gully are also documented in the report including mythological stories, areas of spiritual significance and why the area is important to Aboriginal people as both a pre and post contact site, and as a place for continued efforts at reconciliation by both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community.

In addition to its Aboriginal heritage values, The Gully and the Upper Kedumba Valley, is valued by the community because of:

- European heritage values: including early mining and farming, The Gully as an area of Aboriginal and European co-existence and post World War Two heritage.
- Natural vegetation values: including a nationally and state listed endangered ecological community (Blue Mountains Swamp), regionally significant vegetation communities, several listed threatened plants and regional significant plants.
- Fauna values including: a number of threatened species, such as the Blue Mountains Water Skink.
- Water Catchment values: including maintenance of the swamps and sedges and the fact that drainage from The Gully feeds waterfalls at Katoomba Falls Reserve, which forms part of the drinking water catchment of Sydney.
- Recreation values: The Gully is a heavily used recreational resource for the Katoomba and broader Blue Mountains communities. Recreational uses include bicycling, bushwalking, dog walking, jogging, passive recreation such as picnics and informal play, as well formal recreation areas such as the oval and caravan park.
- Social and cultural values: The Gully provides scenic value to neighbours and the people of the Katoomba community by providing bushland open space in an urban environment. The area also has the potential to be used for increased educational opportunities. The area is socially significant to both the Aboriginal and broader Blue Mountains community as a meeting place and a place of community involvement and activism.

Ongoing Aboriginal Involvement – The Gully Co-operative Management Committee**Background**

To ensure that the Aboriginal community have an ongoing, formal and meaningful role in the management of The Gully, it is proposed to establish “The Gully Co-operative Management Committee” made up of key Council staff and representatives of the Aboriginal community who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents.

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- Recognise the significance of The Gully to the Aboriginal community, specifically those Aboriginal people who were residents, or who are descendants of residents, of The Gully;
- Ensure that The Gully is managed in a way that respects, conserves and maintains the Aboriginal values of The Gully, including pre and post contact Aboriginal heritage values.
- Formalise the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of The Gully, including decision-making in relation to all land management activities; and
- Manage the public lands within the Gully in a balanced way to provide the greatest benefit to the community.

Membership and Chair

- The formal Committee will be made up of eight representatives.
- Five Committee members will be representatives of the Aboriginal community who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents, drawn from *The Gully Traditional Owners Inc* (GTO). The GTO will be asked to nominate five Aboriginal people who are members of the GTO to sit on the proposed Committee. The GTO committee members may nominate delegates if they cannot attend but those delegates must also be Aboriginal members of the GTO and former residents or descendants of former residents of the Gully.
- The remaining three members will be the Council Manager, Environmental Management or delegate; Manager, Corporate & Community Outcomes or delegate; and the Manager, Assets & Contract Management or delegate.
- Other GTO members who meet the criteria (i.e. are from the Aboriginal community and who were Gully residents, or are descendants of Gully residents) may also attend meetings, in addition to the five nominees, and be involved in decision-making processes.
- The GTO is the most appropriate Aboriginal community group to seek Aboriginal nominees to sit on the Committee. This is because the GTO as outlined in its Certificate of Incorporation:
 - Has been specifically established to advance the public awareness of The Gully, and to identify, record and maintain Gully Aboriginal sites and heritage;
 - Limits its membership to Aboriginal persons “who are and can be identified as a Gully person”; and

- Does not limit its membership to Aboriginal people from just one tribal group.

Only GTO members who are Aboriginal, and who are ex-residents of The Gully or their descendants, will be able to be nominated to be on the proposed Committee.

- The GTO can change its nominees on the Committee by a written request to the Council.
- A quorum of the Committee will be a minimum of three representative Aboriginal members, and one Council member.
- The Chair of the Committee will be a committee member, as elected by the Committee at their first meeting. The Chair will be re-elected every 12 months.
- DECC will be asked to nominate a representative to attend Committee meetings on an ongoing basis as an observer only, and to provide advice when requested by any Committee member. It is not considered appropriate that DECC, as the regulator, be a formal Committee member. Instead DECC, as an observer, will be kept informed of the decisions of the Committee, but will have no role in, or take part in, the decision making of the Committee.
- Councillors will be updated on the work of the Committee and the management of The Gully through regular Councillor briefings and a formal annual Council Report on the work of the Committee.
- Any Committee member may request, through the Chair, for other people to attend meetings and provide advice/information to the Committee on any relevant issue. However, invitees who are not Committee members will have no role in, or take part in, the decision making of the Committee.

Committee Function

- The purpose or function of the Committee will be for Council and the Aboriginal community to manage The Gully in a co-operative manner. Decisions of the Committee will direct the Council in terms of land management and other activities within The Gully.
- The Council will be the organisation that will undertake (directly or via contract) all on-the-ground activities on behalf of the Committee.
- The Committee's role will be to make decisions and give direction in regard to all land management and other issues within the Aboriginal Place.
- Given the intensive nature of the development which has already occurred at the swimming pool, caravan park and sporting field areas, the operational management of these areas is excluded from the scope of the Committee's decision making. Figure 1 outlines the management area of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee.
- Although the areas mentioned above do not fall under the direct management of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee, they still form part of the declared Aboriginal Place and as such require Aboriginal community consultation in terms of any DECC approval process.

- The Committee's broad role encompasses all land management issues within The Gully, which recognises that Aboriginal values, both tangible and intangible, are inextricably linked to how The Gully is managed in totality. The role of the Committee is therefore to make management decisions beyond those perceived to be directly related to the conservation of Aboriginal objects or sites.
- All recommendations and decisions arising from the Committee need to fit within the Council's existing budgets and budgetary process. There is no fixed budget allocated to this Committee.
- Committee members will be required to manage the land consistent with all relevant existing legislation and policies, including the *NSW Local Government Act* and the Kedumba PoM, the *NSW Crown Lands Act*, the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act*, *Blue Mountains LEP 2005* and other relevant legislation. The Committee cannot request the Council to undertake a management action or activity which is inconsistent with the Council's legislative obligations as the landowner or as a Council.
- All Committee members and those involved in decision making of the Committee must abide by the Council's Code of Conduct when conducting Committee business.
- Decision-making of the Committee will be via a consensus model, with all decisions and directions being accepted by *all* Committee members attending.
- Where the Committee cannot reach consensus decision-making, then dispute resolution will be pursued using a facilitator. Any Committee member(s) can also request the Dept of Environment and Climate Change to be part of any dispute resolution process but not as a facilitator or mediator. A timeframe for resolution of any dispute will be set by the independent facilitator. If the issue still cannot be resolved, it will then be referred to the Council's General Manager for a final decision. The General Manager will consult with the Gully Traditional Owners before making any decision.

Governance

- It is recommended that the Committee be appointed for two years, with new nominations for membership sought after that period.
- In terms of governance issues in relation to the Committee, the following is recommended:
 - The Committee will meet bi-monthly at a minimum and more frequently as required;
 - The Council will provide the resources to prepare draft agendas (in conjunction with the Chair) and record formal minutes, including any outcomes and decisions of the Committee;
 - The Council will circulate draft agendas and draft Minutes to all Committee members, and store the records of the Committee;
 - Meetings of the Committee will be at Katoomba Council Offices, or another venue as required; and

- Members of the Committee will receive no payment to attend meetings. The Council will supply meals and refreshments, and pay a contribution to the reasonable travel costs of community members.
- The mechanism to create the Committee will be via a formal Council Resolution. The accompanying Council Report will outline the following:
 - The make up of the Committee, including community representation;
 - The process for nominating Aboriginal representatives;
 - The terms of reference for the Committee, including its purpose and role;
 - How the Committee will reach decisions (i.e. a consensus model);
 - Any limitations to its decision-making (for instance legislative requirements);
 - Governance issues such as frequency of meetings, minutes and so on;
- Any member of the Committee can request an amendment to the Terms of Reference. A change must be ratified by the Committee and a Council report submitted to the elected Council for approval.
- The effectiveness and operations of the Committee will be reviewed within a four year period.

Conclusion

The Council recognises the significance of The Gully to the Aboriginal community, specifically those Aboriginal people who were residents, or who are descendants of residents, of The Gully. The Council and the Gully Traditional Owners will ensure that The Gully is managed in such a way which respects, conserves and maintains the Aboriginal values of The Gully, including pre and post contact Aboriginal heritage values and formalises the involvement of Gully Traditional Owners in the management of The Gully, including decision-making in relation to land management activities and tourism activities.

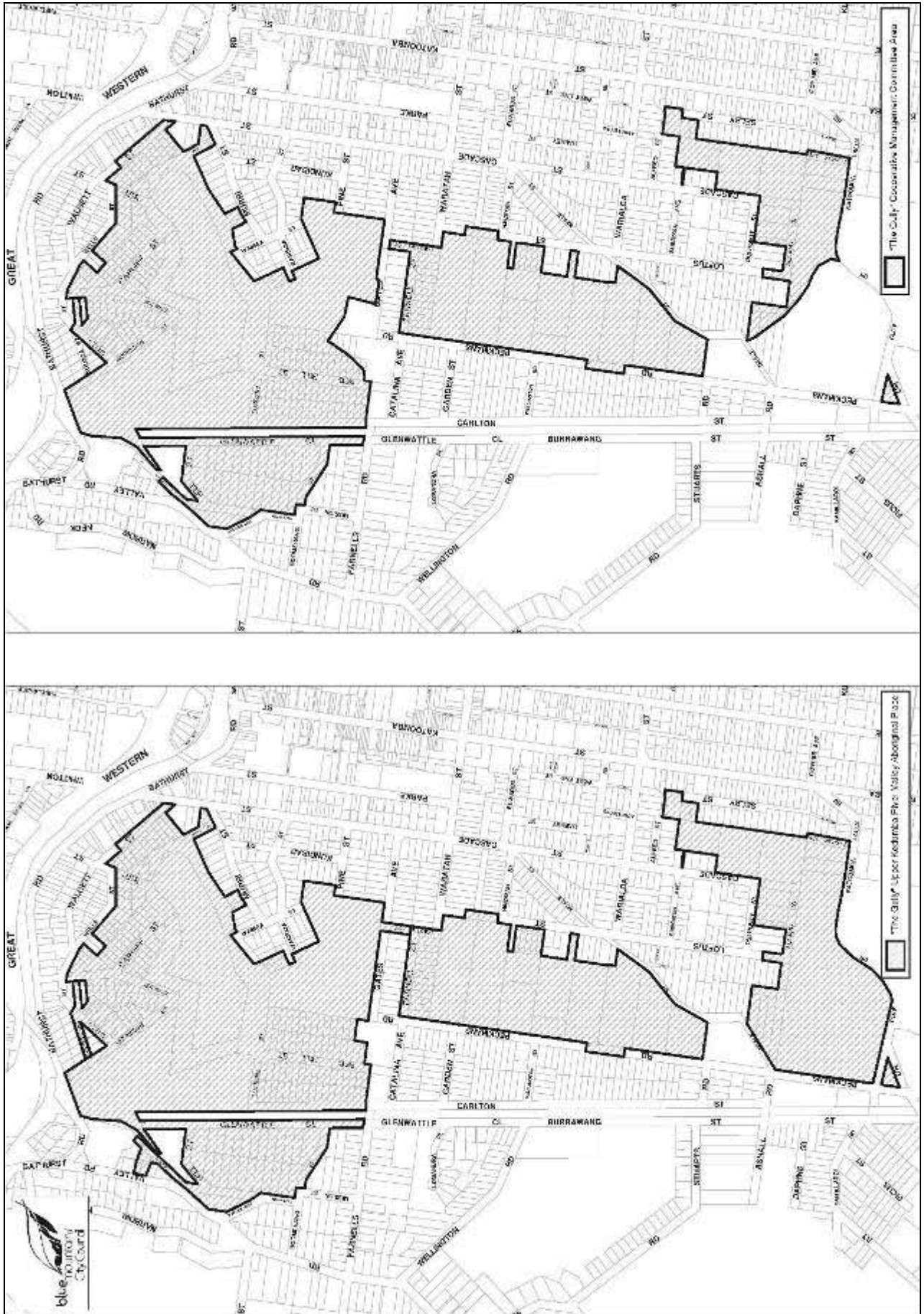


Figure 1

ITEM NO: 7

SUBJECT: UPPER KEDUMBA RIVER VALLEY ADVISORY FORUM

FILE NO: F00264

Recommendation:

That the Council note the proposed way forward in relation to the establishment of the Upper Kedumba River Valley Advisory meetings.

Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:

Background

The Blue Mountains community have maintained a strong interest and involvement in the Council managed land in the Upper Kedumba River Valley, including the Council owned and managed community land within The Gully Aboriginal Place.

The Council adopted the Upper Kedumba River Valley, Plans of Management (PoM) at the 27 April 2004 Council meeting. One of the objectives of the plans was the active involvement of Blue Mountains people, especially Aboriginal people, in the ongoing management of the Valley and The Gully. The plan also listed as a desired outcome providing a coordinated management group representing all interests.

A separate report is presented to this meeting specifically about Aboriginal involvement in the management of The Gully. This report proposes to provide an avenue for the broader community to provide input into proposed projects and upcoming works within the Upper Kedumba Valley covered by the PoM (i.e. the Council owned and managed community land).

A stakeholder meeting was held on 10 July 2008 to discuss how ongoing stakeholder involvement could best be achieved. Representatives of the following groups were invited to attend the meeting:

- Friends of Katoomba Falls Bushcare
- Kedumba Creek Bushcare
- Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute
- The Australian Historic Motor Club
- Blue Mountains Conservation Society
- Neighbouring Residents
- Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley
- Friends of Catalina Park
- Gully Traditional Owners
- Dog off-leash group

The views of the stakeholders were considered in the preparation of this report.

Proposal

It is proposed to hold public input forums relating to the public lands shown in Figure 1. Community members will be given an opportunity to provide input to proposed works and projects, as well as provide feedback on work undertaken in the preceding period to the advisory forum. Comments would be received both at the forums and subsequently in writing in response to the information provided at the forum. The primary purpose of the forum is information exchange and advice. The intent is to broadly canvas community views and opinions, which will then be taken into account by both the Council (in the management of the Upper Kedumba Valley generally) and the proposed Gully Co-operative Management Committee (in the management of The Gully).



Figure 1

The key components of this initiative will be:

- A public forum will be held at least annually, but more frequently as needs dictate, to outline upcoming works and projects in the next 12 months for the Upper Kedumba Valley, where anyone with an interest in the area will be encouraged to attend.
- Additional forums will be held as appropriate for major projects or initiatives. Community members can request that the General Manager calls a meeting for a specific purpose.
- The forum will be advertised in the local paper and through the Council’s website. However, community groups who have an interest in the area, such as the Friends of Kedumba Valley, Bushcare groups and neighbours, will be specifically invited to attend or send representatives.
- The focus of the forum will be the area covered by the Kedumba PoM which is the Council managed community land (Figure 1), *not* the broader Gully Aboriginal Place area which includes the Crown Reserve.
- The public forum will be chaired by the General Manager or delegate with members of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee in attendance.
- The purpose of the annual forum is to 1) update the community on work undertaken in the last 12 months; 2) outline to the community the upcoming work program for the next 12 months; 3) receive advice from members of the community on issues they view as important.
- The provided community input will be considered as part of the decision making process of the Gully Co-operative Management Committee.
- All view points at the forums are considered valid and therefore there will not be any opportunity to raise motions from the floor, or vote on issues.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting):

Effects	Positive	Negative
Environmental	Potentially better environmental outcomes through community involvement	Nil
Social	Community input for decision making. Community issues considered early for planning and management.	Nil
Economic	Nil	Nil

Financial implications for the Council

There will be a minor cost of organising and supporting the advisory meetings.

Conclusion

An Upper Kedumba River Valley Advisory Meeting will be held at least annually to directly canvas the views of interested community members on the activities and future management of the community land within the Upper Kedumba River Valley.
