

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

4.1. Cassowary Coast Youth Advisory Committee

Prepared by: KiraJean Clark, Acting Manager Community Relations & Services

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022

Executive Summary:

Council is committed to embracing the unique perspective of youth across the Cassowary Coast, informing and guiding the regions future.

The purpose of the report is to provide a platform for youth across the Cassowary Coast to communicate with Council on current and emergent themes impacting youth in the region.

The Youth Advisory Committee will aim:

- To be an advisory committee to Council on issues that are important to youth across the Cassowary Coast
- To provide insight about youth involvement and representation in Council's planning and decision making
- To assist and advise Council on it's engagement and consultation approach with youth
- To capture the brave and bold ideas of the region's future from those who may lead it
- To ensure the voice of youth in the Cassowary Coast are put forward, represented and considered.

Recommendation:

"That Council resolves to:

- 1. Endorse the Terms of Reference for a Youth Advisory Committee; and**
 - 2. Request an expression of interest be commenced as per the Terms of Reference."**
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Background:

In April 2022 Council asked our community to join the conversation and share feedback on what is important to residents and where Council should focus its attentions through the Cassowary Coast Community Scorecard.

The scorecard provided the opportunity to hear local residents perceptions and allowed Council to evaluate and adjust its priorities to fulfill community needs. Council committed to meeting community needs through the endorsement of the Stage One: Community Voice Action Plan. The Community Voice Action Plan took the top community priorities and grouped them into 6 goals, with each goal priority a commitment was made to undertake a set of priority actions throughout 2022.

Youth Services was one of the 6 goals the community identified as priorities and included three priority actions:

1. Adoption of a Terms of Reference for a Youth Advisory Committee
2. Submission of three funding applications towards youth activities
3. Activation of existing spaces with youth activities and events

The endorsement of a Youth Advisory Committee and a guiding terms of reference will be another continued step towards meeting community needs by undertaking the priority actions identified in the Community Voice Action Plan. A Youth Advisory Committee will be crucial in showcasing the bold ideas youth have in creating a region they want to live, work and stay in.

The Committee will focus on meaningful youth participation and will work collaboratively to ensure the voices of youth in the region are heard.

The Membership of the committee will:

- Reside in the Cassowary Coast
- Aged between 15 to 24 years

- Have a membership that reflects the diversity of youth living in the region

Link to Corporate Plan:

COMMUNITY - OUR PEOPLE

What we want to see by 2025

Council working in partnership with the community, to enhance and promote pride in and livability of the region.

Strategic Objectives

- C1 Increase community engagement, consultation, transparency in decision making and ease of access to information
- C3 Promote safe, active, healthy, resilient and prepared communities
- C5 Promote a single Cassowary Coast community
- C8 Promote arts, culture and events as a key feature of the region's lifestyle, livability, vitality and character
- C10 Provide opportunities for youth, that incentivise the Cassowary Coast lifestyle a a long term option

Consultation:

Consultation has been had with:

- Secondary Schools across Cassowary Coast
- Student Leadership Representatives
- Through the Community Scorecard
- Tablelands Regional Council

Legal Implications (Statutory basis, legal risks):

Staff facilitating the Youth Advisory Committee would need to adhere to the National Standards for Working with Children Checks.

Members under 18 years will be required to have the permission of a legal guardian.

Human Rights Act 2019 - Considerations

The *Human Rights Act 2019* provides that it is unlawful for a public agency to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights, or to fail to give proper consideration to a human right. This necessitates understanding the human rights that are protected. When making decisions or taking actions, consideration needs to be given to how that may impact on a person's human rights. Where there is a restriction on a person's human rights the restriction must be no greater than is justifiable to protect the rights of others or the community at large.

The contents of this report do not infringe upon the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Policy Implications:

Information Privacy and Confidentiality Policy.

Risk Implications (Corporate, Operational, Project risks):

National Standards for working with children checks are applicable.

Financial & Resource Implications:

The support of the Youth Advisory Committee would be resourced through a current role within Council.

Volunteers and students do not have to pay for their blue card application when they are linked to the organisation they are volunteering or studying with.

Council will support the Working with Children Blue Card Application Fee for all members who are required to hold a Blue Card and are not eligible for an exemption card application.

Council will support the Working with Children Blue Card Application Fee for staff who are required to hold a Blue Card in their roles to support the Youth Advisory Committee. Budget submissions will be made in accordance with the requirement.

Report authorised by:

Daniel Horton, Acting Director Delivery Services

Supporting Documents:

1. Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference