

## CARA President's Report 2015

The Cooroy Area Residents' Association (CARA) is a non-political organisation formed to provide information on issues and development proposals affecting our community and to give the residents a forum to express their opinions to the planning authorities.

The past 12 months has seen several development applications in our area considered by the Noosa Council, notably the Cooroy Highway Service Centre and the Cooroy Broiler Farm, both of which were refused by Council. The applicant for the Service Centre lodged an appeal in the Planning and Environment Court on 28 August but there's been no hearings to date. The applicant for the Broiler Farm is likely considering his legal options.

After the horrific accident at the intersection of Swift Road and Lake Macdonald Drive, CARA decided to host a public meeting on road and traffic issues such as speed limits, parking issues, pedestrian crossings, the Elm Street Bridge congestion, cycle lanes, signage, traffic calming, noise issues, and accident procedures.

CARA asked the Noosa Council and State member Peter Wellington for assistance with the Elm Street bridge congestion. Peter replied that the state has a policy of fixing problems that cause the most fatalities. However, Council has employed traffic consultants who conducted research on the Elm Street Bridge and Elm Street – Cooroy-Tewantin Road intersections, which showed that these are both dangerous. Council is hoping that this research will help when presenting a case to the state government for funding new intersection arrangements.

After council elections next year, the new Noosa Council will embark on the huge task of rewriting the Noosa Plan. To gather ideas on changes that would benefit the Cooroy area, CARA hosted a Cooroy planning breakfast (Cooroy: Where To Now?) at the Bowls Club, which was attended by about 50 people and exceeded very capably by Richard Hansen of Inspiring Cooroy.

Councillors and representatives of the Cooroy Chamber of Commerce spoke, and attendees presented many excellent ideas on planning Cooroy's future. A website ([www.cooroy.org](http://www.cooroy.org)) was set up by CARA for interested persons to post and discuss ideas on planning changes to council. Next year, we may hold workshops to finalise any recommendations for changes/improvements to the town plan.

Future CARA information nights: Meet the Candidates (mid Feb 2016) and an EDV debate.

Other 2015 items of interest:

1. April: The custodian of the Butter Factory is now the Lower Mill Board, which has received and extra \$80,000 to firm up their proposal.
2. June: A six-month trial of an RV park at the campground opposite the tennis courts – 4 consecutive nights stay limit. Council to construct a dump point.
3. Formation of the Noosa Community Biosphere Association – membership is free, so go online and join at [Noosacba.org](http://Noosacba.org)
4. The Cooroy Palm Lakes over 50's retirement village started construction in October.
5. Closing of the Cooroy Memorial Hall, possible CARA involvement on the steering committee. Support for NCBA's proposal to apply for and manage a grant to restore the Hall.

2015 has been an interesting year for the residents of the Cooroy area and 2016 looks like having plenty of issues to bring before residents.

Rod Ritchie  
President, CARA