

## Attachment [3.1.1] - Community Consultation Forum Summaries on District Networks and Clusters

### Individual Forum Input

The table below lists attendance and main comments from each of the 7 forums held during October and November.

Forum	Participants	Comments on key questions
Nyora	4 (Nyora and Ranceby)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild support for development of District Clusters</li> <li>• Require Council to facilitate operations for success</li> <li>• Support for Councillors to attend and participate</li> <li>• Logical cluster: Nyora, Poowong and Loch as Bena and Ranceby stronger connections with Korumburra</li> <li>• This forum did not address who should be members of a cluster?</li> <li>• Forum did not address if cluster should be involved in Council resource allocation and</li> <li>• Attendees suggested that the lack of attendance indicated that there was a lack of interest in creating clusters</li> </ul>
Ruby	2 (Leongatha and one local media rep)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum ineffective with the one community participant focused on his own issues rather than any discussion of the forum topic.</li> </ul>
Tarwin Lower	5 (Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and one Councillor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for establishment of District Clusters</li> <li>• Cluster: Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Walkerville, Waratah Bay and possibly Meeniyan/Stony Creek</li> </ul>

Forum	Participants	Comments on key questions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong connections with Inverloch from this area and</li> <li>• Grant submission to develop a Strategic Plan for the Tarwin River Precinct will be considered in November</li> <li>• Suggestion that a cluster may create itself from the consultation if this application is successful</li> <li>• Little interest in a role in resource allocation and</li> <li>• Little discussion of who should be members of a cluster committee</li> </ul>
Fish Creek	6 (Fish Creek, Foster and Sandy Point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support for establishment of district networks that are supported by a Council officer</li> <li>• Cluster: Sandy Point, Yanakie, Fish Creek, Foster and possibly extend to Meeniyan</li> <li>• Little interest in cluster allocating resources</li> <li>• Strong interest in cluster providing direct advice to Council on local issues and local priorities in all aspects of Council responsibility and</li> <li>• Opportunity for individual communities and groups to access support from Council officers and funding should remain.</li> </ul>
Mirboo North	4 (Mirboo North, Allambee South, and Berrys Creek)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirboo North district communities already work together on an ongoing basis</li> <li>• Council role could assist with information flow between these communities</li> <li>• Council established cluster should focus on matters that the local cluster does not deal</li> </ul>

Forum	Participant s	Comments on key questions
		<p>with. An example includes seeking better health services for the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support for elected Councillors to attend and participate in any cluster meetings, activities etc.</li> <li>• Logical cluster: Darlimurla to Hallston to Mirboo. (Please note that Mirboo North / Allambee work regularly with Thorpdale / Yinnar / Boolara all outside South Gippsland Local Government Area)</li> <li>• Essential to be supported by a Council funded project officer to ensure that messages get back to Council</li> <li>• Support Essential so that Mirboo North town issues do not dominate at the expense of smaller communities</li> <li>• Concerns raised that if one staff member was responsible for a number of clusters that local issues might not be heard</li> <li>• Cluster would need to be convened when there was an issue/opportunity rather than to just meet and share information and have an end date set</li> <li>• Council needs to note that volunteer community already under pressure and this might be the reason for a small attendance and</li> <li>• The attendees suggested that the lack of attendance indicated that there was a lack of interest in creating clusters</li> </ul>
Koonwarra	5 (Koonwarr a, Meeniyan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good support for establishment of district clusters</li> </ul>

Forum	Participants	Comments on key questions
	Leongatha South and one Councillor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear cluster boundaries</li> <li>• Clusters need to be quite small to maintain interest</li> <li>• Some rural districts don't quite fit anywhere. For example, Leongatha South. Koonwarra population mostly links with Leongatha Stony Creek / Middle Tarwin and Meenyan / Koonwarra</li> <li>• Clusters will need to have specific purpose for coming together that is wider than just information sharing</li> <li>• Important to get people involved who are not already heavily involved with existing groups. "New blood" with possible maximum term of three (3) years on a cluster committee. Individuals welcome shouldn't have to be an active member of an existing group</li> <li>• Suggestion considering European Citizen Assemblies model and a revisiting of former local Community Trusts</li> <li>• Important that Council continues to support shire wide special interest networks as well as new clusters and</li> <li>• Participation by Councillors at cluster meetings seen as very important</li> </ul>
Toora	10 (Toora, Welshpool and Mt Best)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support for an Eastern Districts cluster (similar format to current process) but with four meetings per year rather than two meetings per year.</li> <li>• Cluster: Port Franklin to Hedley / Mt Best to Port Welshpool.</li> <li>• Suggestion that Foster should not be part of this cluster but that Council could assist with</li> </ul>

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		<p>communication with Foster as a specific community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cluster meetings need to have a specific and promoted theme/key matters.</li> <li>• Elected Councillors should participate</li> <li>• Cluster committees should not replace shire wide specialist networks but compliment them</li> <li>• Clusters should not replace opportunity for individual communities and groups to get direct help from Council</li> <li>• Participation at cluster meetings should be open to anyone interested, not be restricted to representatives of existing groups. This could help with recruitment of new people to assist existing groups/projects</li> <li>• Vital that the new clusters are supported by Council staff which includes organising the meetings and setting agendas based on local issues.</li> <li>• No support for new cluster committees taking a role in resource allocation and</li> <li>• Strong support for clusters to provide advice on local priorities</li> </ul>
Towns and Districts Association's network	7 (Ruby, Korumburra, Kardella, Welshpool, Tarwin Lower, two councillors and two participants attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support for establishing district clusters that meet on a regular basis</li> <li>• Uncertain on the boundaries of new clusters and this group expect Council to take the lead on this matter</li> <li>• Important to keep existing specialist networks going as well and</li> </ul>

Forum	Participant s	Comments on key questions
	later forums as well)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="703 315 1358 434">• Important that Council continue to work directly with individual communities on specific issues</li></ul>