

Dear Kempsey Shire Council,

The Wigay Park Management Committee is presently a 355 committee of Kempsey Shire Council, and we are asking that the committee be dissolved, and Council forms an agreement with a new incorporated committee. The committee wishes to incorporate (with NSW Fair Trading), obtain public liability insurance and register as a not for profit organisation with charity status.

The park established as a charity to promote reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between Australians in the Macleay Valley by:

- Recognising the Dhungguti people as the traditional owners of the land, which is now home to the Macleay Valley Community.
- Celebrating the Dhungguti people's culture as an integral part of the culture of the Macleay Valley Community.
- The park will promote and preserve areas of importance to the Dhungguti people.
- Develop as a tourist attraction demonstrating the environmental, cultural and social aspects of the Dhungguti people.

At present, there are too many barriers stopping the park from moving forward. Incorporating the group will allow us to:-

- Apply for [Mutual Obligation](#) workers from Human Services
- Apply for our own public liability insurance and volunteer workers insurance
- Register as a charity to access philanthropic grants and funding
- Respond quickly to grants and funding on timelines

The park is a community asset of value to the entire community in a bushland setting giving the public access at all times.

- To the Aboriginal community to conduct cultural tours
- As a healing place to hold workshops such as weaving and craft
- It is a multicultural place for everyone to gather and share learning about other cultures
- Other not for profit organisations could raise funds with regular markets and events
- Horticultural enthusiasts can educate people on the plants and propagation
- Demonstrate the Dhungghti culture to visitors.

As a not for profit group, the park will access the over 55's mutual obligation workers to give the maintenance necessary to weed, prune, mow, rake leaves and keep pathways clear. Working with the over 55's, they have the skills from earlier employment to work safely without supervision, following assessment of their workplace health and safety knowledge. The park will provide the equipment (mowers, fuel and cover repairs to the machinery) and clean the toilets.

The park committee would like the Kempsey Shire Council to continue paying the rates and water accounts to give the committee time to increase the park's usage by the community, until such time as the Park becomes financially viable.

If the Council accepts this proposal, it will be beneficial to both parties with minimum cost. The committee will have a business plan with a five-year strategy to increase usage and lobby for funding and sponsorship. The new committee would collaborate with all organisations as [previous letters to Council](#) have requested, and this would be a park of reconciliation inclusive to all the community.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Waite

Secretary

Wigay Park Management Committee