



**Building a better future**  
GREATER TAREE CITY COUNCIL



**For Immediate Release**

Friday 20 November 2009

## **Media Release**

### **Community discussions begin regarding options for the future**

Greater Taree City Council is set to go back to the community for another round of discussion on the Manning Valley's 20 year plan. This time Council will be asking residents how much they are prepared to invest to achieve their aspirations and address the Valley's growing infrastructure problem.

The consultation program will include five community meetings, starting on Tuesday night (November 24) at Hallidays Point. There will also be opportunities to participate on line via Council's website and a community survey.

Mayor Paul Hogan has encouraged all residents to take part in the discussions.

"This is a critical time for our community," he said. "We have come to the proverbial fork in the road and there are some tough decisions to be made.

"Council wants to have an open conversation with the community about the options."

"I won't pretend for a moment that where we are now as a City is a healthy or sustainable picture. We have a wealth of good people in this Valley, with a real passion for this place, but we also have some serious financial problems which need to be addressed.

"I believe we can move forward, if each of us is prepared to invest in our future – not just financially, but through our time, ideas and energy – building a stronger community and celebrating the positive things about our Valley."

To open the community conversation, Council has released a discussion paper on key issues and options for the future. The document is based on the first round of community discussions, earlier this year, where residents outlined their priorities and aspirations for the next 20 years. It also looks at the Valley's infrastructure issues and the level of funding that will be required to fix our ailing roads, bridges and community facilities.

The discussion paper and a summary document are available on Council's website: [www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au) and at Council offices and libraries. Details of community meeting times and venues are also on the site.

The meeting program is:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Hallidays Point Uniting Church Hall | Tuesday November 24   |
| • Harrington Community Hall           | Wednesday November 25 |
| • Taree Visitor Information Centre    | Monday November 30    |
| • Wingham Town Hall                   | Tuesday December 1    |
| • Old Bar Surf Lifesaving Club        | Monday December 7     |

**ENDS**

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