



Report

By Collingwood Beach Preservation Group "CBPG"

As a sub committee of

The Community Consultative Body "CCB" in respect of the

Coastal Zone Management Plan "CZMP".

(Photo ex SCC Fit for the Future package May '15)

"The purpose of the group is to share knowledge, ideas, and potential solutions. The group will foster communication amongst beachfront owners and other concerned users of the beach on matters vital to preserving the amenity of Collingwood Beach, both as a place to live as well as a place for others to enjoy"

Summary

1. Motion - Collingwood Beach Preservation Group – Sub Committee Monthly Report

The CCB/VRRA adopts the sub committee's report and that the Minutes including the report are distributed to All Councillors.

2. Motion – Forward estimates / budget.

Council is requested to provide \$100,000 in forward estimates for 2015/16 or the 2016/17 budget for removal of inappropriate vegetation and preparation of dunes for new plantings.

3. Motion - New structure for roll out of Dune vegetation plan.

Council is requested to consider a new structure with specific objectives related to the implementation of the adopted "dune vegetation management plan".

The new structure reflects the transfer for the care of the dunes on Collingwood Beach to a Dune Care group under the leadership of the key stakeholders working within Council guidelines.

4. Motion – dedicated community engagement sessions for Coastal Management Planning.

Council is requested to:

-provide dedicated sessions similar to the floodplain management of Currumbene Creek for the key stakeholders, i.e. ratepayers with a risk assessment of a high consequence from the hazard lines for properties.

-communicate directly to the ratepayer's "rate address" for the key stakeholders to inform them of a dedicated information session for the key stakeholders.

5. Motion – Coastal Reforms Stage 2

Council is requested to:

Write to the "rate notice address" for every ratepayer subject to hazards lines from a Coastal Management Plan or Floodplain and inform them:

-the coastal reforms are on public exhibition. Submissions close on 29th February.

-the potential consequences of the reforms on their property

Write to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, Local members of the both houses of State Government and request the public exhibition be extended by two months to provide adequate time for ratepayers to review and make submissions. Express it is a significant denigration of Community Consultation to place the proposed legislation on exhibition over the Christmas period and furthermore whilst the Council merger is also on public exhibition.

17th February 2016

COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP "CBPG"

Progress Report to the CCB - February 2016

1. Sea Level Rise Policy- consequences on hazard lines.

No change- still awaits result of application for OEH grant to redraw lines. Expected for 2016-17.

2. Collaboration with Shoalhaven Council.

No change – still await feedback on status of motions from CCB requesting supply of soft copies of critical reports identified by Council in the evolution of the coastal management plan. Includes the SMECC (2009), Worley & Parsons peer review "WP" (2011) and the Manly Hydraulics "MH" (2013) reports. Collaboration continues with Council.

Still await collaboration with staff on outcomes of November Coastal Conference.

3. Dune Care Vegetation.

The Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Plan Committee which comprises all Councillors will be meeting on 25th February to workshop an updated Dune Vegetation Plan to be presented by the consultants "ngh".

The CBPG technical expert, George Kruk will make a deputation at the start of the meeting.

The CBPG consider the Councillors and Community now understand the research of the science has established 90% of sand is collected within the first 50cm of the dune. It is considered the Dune Vegetation Plan should be designed on the basis of grasses and shrubs below 1metre.

An updated vegetation plan from ngh is expected to be reported back to the Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Plan Committee or the Strategy and Assets Committee, depending on whether outcomes of the meeting on the 25th February is acceptance of the plan put to the committee on 25th February or identifies further changes to be referred back to the Committee. Once a final plan is accepted by the Committee it will be put to the Strategy and Assets Committee for approval to put on public exhibition.

In preparation for next steps after the completion of the public exhibition process:

: Council is requested to provide \$100,000 in forward estimates for 2015/16 or the 2016/17 budget for removal of inappropriate vegetation and preparation of dunes for new plantings. The source of funds should not be an issue. The individual ratepayer on the waterfront pays in excess of \$1,000 per annum in rates more than the property owners on the opposite side of Elizabeth Drive.

: **Council consider** a new structure with specific objectives related to the implementation of the adopted "dune vegetation management plan" (a consideration noted in the papers for the Strategy and Assets Committee on 8 Dec 2015). It is understood this is needed because the primary objectives of a dune care vegetation plan is to help stabilize the dune surface and to continue to trap sand that blows off the beach, as opposed to the primary objectives of a bush care plan to perform ecological/habitat/biodiversity function. The new structure will realign to the character of dune care group which existed before advent of bush care group in the mid-nineties. The embracing of the key

stakeholders (waterfront property ratepayers) into the CCB provides an opportunity for the next stage in the maturity path for the transfer of the care of the dunes on Collingwood Beach to a Dune Care group under the leadership of the key stakeholders working within Council guidelines.

4. Sharing experiences, benchmarking and feedback from the Natural Resources Committee.

As reported in Front Line news edition 3, December 2015, it is proposed to roll out **“Our Coast - Our Lifestyle - Community Engagement”** in first quarter of 2016. Straight Talk is the consultants engaged for this purpose.

A similar, but effective community engagement with different consultant took place at Huskisson on February 11th with the ratepayers affected by the Currumbene Creek and Moona Moona Creek floodplains management plans. It demonstrated the importance of direct involvement with the key stakeholders to ensure they are given the opportunity to share the impact of floodplain management on their properties. In fact the community engagement with ratepayers of Woollamia has set a benchmark for some of the most effective community engagement sessions over the past few years.

Council is requested to:

- (a) Provide similar dedicated sessions to the floodplain management of Currumbene Creek for the key stakeholders, i.e. ratepayers with a risk assessment of a high consequence from the hazard lines through their properties.
- (b) Communicate directly to the ratepayer’s “rate address” for the key stakeholders to inform them of a dedicated information session for the key stakeholders.

5. Coastal Reforms Stage 2.

The NSW State Government placed Coastal Reforms stage 2 on public exhibition in December.

Coastal communities are invited to have their say by 29th February.

Although the dune vegetation issue along Collingwood Beach seems very relevant right now to Collingwood Beach Property owners, the coastal reforms have very real potential impacts on waterfront property owners up and down the coasts into the future. This applies to properties on the coast or on floodplains or rivers, creeks, bays and basins. Such things as the ability to build or renovate on their land, to keep their land should coastal erosion begin to have an appreciable impact, loss of ability to protect their land against storm events, huge fines for attempting to do so, etc. etc. A brief read of the information on Coastal reforms would suggest a state government completely disinterested in any coastal dwelling outside Sydney.

It is disappointing the government would go to public exhibition over the Christmas/New Year holiday period and at the same time expect communities like the Shoalhaven to manage the release of both Council Mergers and Coastal Planning at the same time.

Some basic questions exist for the Shoalhaven owners; be it why are the new hazard lines set in concrete now, rather than being adjusted with fundamentals like the Shoalhaven sea level rise policy, i.e. adjust the lines in the sand upon the actual recordings every 7 years rather than on theoretical computer models to 2100. The CBPG has many other questions.

Council is requested to:

Write to the "rate notice address" for every ratepayer subject to hazards lines from a Coastal Management Plan or Floodplain and inform them of:

The coastal reforms are on public exhibition. Submissions close on 29th February

The potential consequences of the reforms on their property

write to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, Local members of the both houses of State Government and request the public exhibition be extended by two months to provide adequate time for ratepayers to review and make submissions. Express it is a significant denigration of Community Consultation to place the proposed legislation on exhibition over the Christmas period and furthermore whilst the Council merger is also on public exhibition.

6. Request for consideration of an Estuary Management Plan for Moona Moona Creek.

Still await feedback from Council.

7. Safety awareness program for "slow down-holiday time" theme with Blue Dinosaur Group.

It has been a privilege for Vincentia and the CBPG to be selected as the pilot for the Little Blue Dinosaur initiative in the Shoalhaven. The importance of "Hold my Hand" to mitigate the risks arising from the limited cognitive abilities of children has been the most critical learning from the pilot. The reporting of three "near hits" at the Vincentia market place and the Husky Holiday Park reflect the importance of expanding the safety awareness program for future holiday times. The Little Blue Dinosaur appreciated the meeting with the President of the Vincentia VRRRA/CCB and Council's Safety Officer to discuss initiatives to develop and extend awareness programs at the schools and reaching out to the big businesses who own the retail car parks.

Council will remove and hold the signs in storage until the next school holidays.

8. Clean Up Australia Campaign.

The CBPG has registered to clean up Collingwood Beach as a commitment to the preservation of Collingwood Beach. The CBPG will undertake and support the work some diligent residents currently undertake on a daily basis. The CBPG team will assemble on the cycleway outside of 76A Elizabeth Drive (i.e. between Bayswater and Berry Sts) at 8.00am on Sunday 6th March. The clean-up concludes at 11.00am. People can register to participate by clicking on the button "JOIN THIS SITE" and entering their details via the below link.

<http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Collingwood+Beach>

Yours faithfully,

John Stuchbery Chair CBPG