

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group Monthly Report – April 2019

1. Action Plan for the Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan “CBDVMP”.

Viewing Platform in the Demonstration site at Berry Street.

Update

Construction of the viewing platform has been commenced and most of the hard works appear to have been completed. It would appear soft works to address safety risks of people falling/tripping over the side or end of the access way have yet to be addressed.

Similarly, an ongoing solution to mitigate the safety risk from erosion caused by discharge of the storm water from the storm water pit at the end of Berry St which meanders through the dune and discharges adjacent to the access way remains outstanding. This risk was previously described by the public during a rain event in 2017 and in a DPOP for 17/18.



Entry point when storm water from pit at road head overflows across dune into access way. Previously reported to Council with pics “erosion from storm water as a safety risk.

Safety Risk to trip or fall



Surveillance Cameras

Update

The Councillors voted 9 votes to 2 at the Development and Environment Committee on 3rd March 2019. "That Council not install surveillance cameras along Collingwood Beach".

During discussion by Councillors it was identified to install cameras at Collingwood would create a city wide precedence for many beaches.

Other vegetation issue – "City wide Draft Vegetation Vandalism Strategy"

Update

At the Development and Environment Committee Meeting on 5th March 2019 the original proposal by staff to "Adopt the City wide Draft Vegetation Vandalism Strategy for public exhibition" was not adopted by Councillors, and instead was replaced by a motion voted 12 votes to one that "the matter be referred to a Councillor Workshop".

Dune Vegetation Management Plan

Ongoing

The planting regime near Berry Street specifies the inclusion of 4 gum trees that could grow to 30m tall and excludes any plan to manage propagating new growth banksia. The owners do not endorse these two decisions.

The lack of any plan to manage the propagation of new growth banksia has been the cause of all of the issues that have arisen for over 30 years.

With respect to gums it is prudent to remember that the NSW Supreme Court of Appeal unanimously held that SCC was liable for the death a resident who died instantly when a 25 metre spotted gum fell on a house in South Nowra during a windstorm in 1998. At that time SCC staff had inspected the tree on two occasions and declared it to be safe. Gum trees are however notoriously unstable and hence the colloquial name of 'widow maker'.

It is trusted Council's risk assessment takes into consideration people that knowingly create hazards will be held responsible and prosecuted under the Work Health and Safety Act.

The CBPG continues to encourage SCC to develop a meaningful and effective Dune Vegetation Management Plan for Collingwood Beach that complies with the NSW Coastal Dune Management Manual. The CBPG looks forward to a positive outcome from the two demonstration sites currently underway on Collingwood Beach.

2. The status of the Coastal Management Program “CPM”.

Ongoing

Between now and 2021 action will be taken to replace the CZMP with Coastal Management Program “CMP” which will comply with the Coastal Manual developed for Councils to meet the requirements of the Coastal Protection Act 2016. The community has yet to be advised of the timeline and actions for completion of the CMP.

It is expected actions missing from the CZMP re storm water will be picked up in the CMP. The CBPG brought this matter to the attention of SCC in its submission on the draft CZMP suggesting that a separate Action Plan be included.

3. Beach Erosion – Risk assessment on discharge of Storm water.

Ongoing

The CBPG as key stakeholders and SCC are in ongoing engagement after representatives of the CBPG and SCC conducted an inspection of a sampling of the storm water outlets in December 2018. The inspection is recognised as the starting point for a review of the risk assessment to be incorporated into the Coastal Management Program “CMP” due to be actioned by 2021.

Update

The CBPG is, among other risks, pursuing the matter of inaccurate inundation lines.

A picture of typical damage arising from a substantial rain event on 14/3/19 , further support for action to be taken to mitigate the consequences from discharge of storm water. The eroded part of the dune which is heavily used to traffic movement of both people and storm water is now being used to place beach umbrellas and the berm of the dune being scraped with kayak paddles to form smooth surface for youngsters to slide down. Such practices will increase the risk of blow out of the dunes in a major storm event and consequential risk to the protection the dune provides to both public and private assets.



Storm water discharged from Storm water pipes through the dune cause erosion.

Now 2.5m deep



4. Slow Down LBD - Safety Signage.

Ongoing

The CBPG will work with the SCC's Road Safety Officer in a risk assessment and action plan to capture near misses and safety initiatives to make the shared pathway / cycleway at Collingwood Beach a safe place for the community and visitors.

Any members or guests who are subject to near misses are encouraged to report such incidents to Kym Snow on 4429 3484 or to vrra.ccb@gmail.com in order to ensure the shared pathways/cycle ways provide a safe environment.

Update

The presence of powered skateboards on both the shared pathway/cycleway and the beach is now happening. It is suggested this be in the scope of the risk assessment.

J Stuchbery Chairman
Collingwood Beach Preservation Group

MOTION:

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group – Sub Committee Monthly Report
The CCB adopts the sub committee's report and that the Minutes including the report are distributed to All Councillors.

The Council is sought to collaborate with the sub committee on the safety issues.

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