



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. Actions outstanding from previous CCB meetings.

Motion

Council be followed up for actions submitted from previous CCB meetings in respect of:

Assessment of Moona Moona Creek for Estuary management Plan

Assessment of opportunity for Xmas promotion of "Slow Down–Holiday Time" with the Blue Dinosaur Group.

Request to Council to engage directly with the sub-committee on 11th September".

Request for letter from Council to Shelley Hancock for community representation on Coastal Reforms panel.

2. Motion

The CCB/VRRA adopt the sub committee's report and the report be consolidated into the minutes.

17 August 2015

COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP “CBPG” Progress Report to the CCB August 2015

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

The primary stakeholders, (i.e. the property owners with hazard lines ruled through their properties) still await engagement from Council on the consequences of the new sea level rise policy (adopted by Policy and Resources Committee Feb 2015) on the hazard lines ruled through their properties. Trust is placed in Council this issue will be resolved in the proposed meeting between the Director of Planning and Coastal Resources team with the executive of the CBPG. This issue is subject to robust discussion along the NSW coast for plain English discussion with affected property owners on the methodologies being applied for the consequence of sea level rise predictions.

Much comfort was obtained at the meeting of the New South Wales Coastal Alliance and Minister Stokes in December 2014 when Minister Stokes said lot of water would flow under the bridge between now and 2100. The policy adopted by the Councillors was an endorsement of the comments of Minister Stokes. As one of our Councillors confirmed, Shoalhaven Council has adopted a pragmatic approach to the sea level rise policy. The Shoalhaven Councillors are held as the best practice for Councillors along the New South Wales coastline.

The CBPG places trust in the Council planning team **and hopes that** the new hazard lines will reflect the words of the Minister and the Shoalhaven Councillors.

2. Collaboration with Shoalhaven Council.

As reported above, Council has responded in the affirmative to hold a meeting with the CBPG executive team. The logistics and confirmation of a meeting date of September 11th from Council is still “work in progress”.

3. Community Engagement.

The CBPG have explained the importance of the CBPG representing the beach front property owners and being formally recognised as “primary stakeholders” instead of another of the “key stakeholders”. It is proposed the primary stakeholders can add significant value to the forthcoming community engagement on the critical Coastal Zone Management Plan and among other things, the consequences it has had and continues to have on the lives of the owners and their property values.

The CBPG still awaits a response from Council to the motion passed at the June CCB meeting to request Council write to the State Member, Shirley Hancock, to seek the State Government to support community representation on the Coastal Reforms committee.

4. Dune Care Vegetation.

The CBPG trust Council and Councillors will support a solution to remove and replace the monoculture of banksias and acacias which have developed with plantings and consequential spreading of seedlings since the late nineties. Refer to link (attached) for Common misconceptions about beaches for a plain English explanation on a reason for replacing the monoculture.

5. Participation in case study for Association of Local GovernmentThe CBPG has been approached to participate in a case study for the Association of Local Government on a toolkit for Coastal adaptation. The CBPG appraisal of the process and opportunity for participation is still work in progress.

6. Sand Reserves: - Collingwood Beach's greatest asset.

The CBPG feel it is critical the community understand the consequences of the severe storm along the New South Wales coast in May 2015 upon Collingwood Beach. The beach was measured before and after the storms in May 2015. At precinct B the spinifex did the job well and held the dunes. It is most satisfying to report the middle section of the beach was eroded by a mere half a metre. This demonstrates just how effective the beach scraping in 1978 was, and continues to be to mitigate any risk to the preservation of Collingwood Beach. As reported to the CCB in July 2015, sufficient evidence exists to say Collingwood Beach is an accreting beach.

The highlight of the last month has been a visit by Professor Emiratis McLean to Council to discuss "Council and CBPG undertake joint and complimentary ongoing surveying of Collingwood Beach". The CBPG is delighted Council has expressed support for the measurement of the sand reserves at Collingwood Beach. The CBPG has written to Council to acknowledge:

- The process will add value to each other and demonstrate the willingness for collaboration and community engagement between the CBPG and Council.

- Council consider the process with the CBPG is a performance indicator Council could strive for. The performance indicator would be for the Council to win the award for "Community Engagement" at the 2016 Coastal Conference? What a motivator, for the potential for Council to add the Community Engagement Award in 2016, to the Award for the Sea Level Rise Policy won at the 2014 Coastal Conference!

- the ultimate performance indicator would be outcomes which reflect the sands at Collingwood are mirroring the positive results discovered by Professor McLean's measuring process at Bengello Beach, and indeed show our dunes are ensuring the preservation and accretion of Collingwood Beach.

A graph (see attached) of the history of the measurement of sand reserves at Bengello Beach since 1974 reflects sand reserves will be lost during storms and recover after the storms, and demonstrates there is no evidence over this period of sea level rises having any impact.

7. Hazard lines.

As reported above, collaboration in respect to the redraw of the hazard lines is still work in progress.

8. Sharing experiences and benchmarking.

Progress with these is adequately described in the first seven items of this report.

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

No feedback from Council as yet.

10. Request for guidelines for promotion of a "slow down-holiday time" theme with Blue Dinosaur Group/

No feedback from Council as yet.

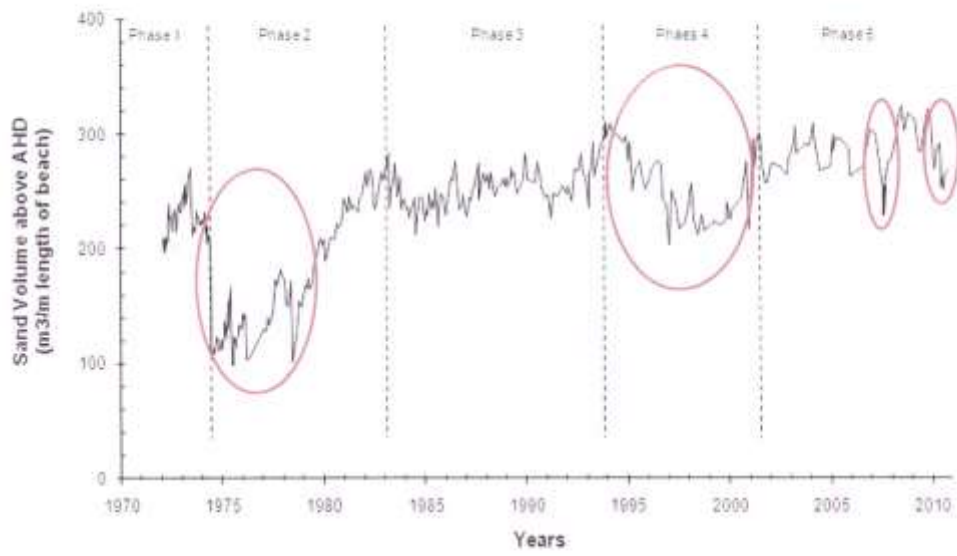
The CBPG continue to strive to be empowered and accepted into the decision making process by Council rather than be deemed to be a group resorting to collaboration by deputations.

Yours faithfully,

John Stuchbery
Chair Collingwood Beach Preservation Group

Link to **Common misconceptions about beaches**

http://lakehuron.ca/uploads/pdf/Beach_conservation_-_common_misconceptions.pdf



Bengello Beach: Time Series of Sand Volume Change January 1972- October 2010