

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group Monthly Report – February 2019

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

1.1 The following response was reported to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 29th January 2019 in respect of questions submitted to Council by Councillor Gartner :

“Response from Director Planning & Development

All existing signs regarding tree vandalism have been removed from Collingwood Beach..

The location for the viewing platform has been agreed and works for completion have been programmed. It is hoped to complete works by April this year; however this is still subject to confirmation.

The draft Shoalhaven Tree Vandalism Policy has been drafted and is currently being reviewed internally by Staff. This will be reported to Council in the near future and include commentary on signage.”

1.2 CBPG position re the Action Plan

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 gums must not be planted for public safety reasons and the historical evidence informs us that planting them on the fore dune will cause damage to the fore dune in a major storm event.

Benchmarks of the risks to public safety from fallen gums or their branches is evidenced by pictures from members exposed to recent incidents with gums.

- (i) Incident adjacent to an owners property in Sydney in Dec 2018, and
- (ii) Incident with significant limb which cracked away from a gum on Council managed land in Huskisson in Feb 2019.





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.

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”.

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.

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. 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.

4. Slow Down LBD - Safety Signage.

The VRRRA 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.

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 investigate the safety risks and liabilities linked with gum trees to be planted so close to the public pathway/cycleway and beach as the planting of Gum Trees on the fore dune is in contradiction to the Coastal Dune Management Manual which is endorsed by the Office of Environment and Heritage."

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