

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group– Sub Committee Monthly Report – April 2020

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

The only update to report since February, is the motion passed at the February Council meetings in respect of the “Collingwood Beach – Action Plan Progress Report” to :

1. Receive the report on the progress of the Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Two-Year Trial Action Plan for information.
2. Immediately remove all banksia roots suckers and seedlings and undertake further pruning to create real window views.
3. Continue to implement the Shoalhaven Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Prevention Policy.

2. Safety Alerts – Action required for Risk Management to make pathway and access ways a safe place for Residents and Visitors

- (a) No feedback has been received from Council in respect of **“the history of near misses and the risks from fallen trees and limbs, or combustible vegetation to residents and visitors”** which was highlighted and supported by gallery of pictures in the January CBPG report (see below), and request for feedback raised again in the February report.
Feedback is requested from Council in respect to the issues raised in the January 2020 report.

- (b) It is pleasing Council took action to fill in the dangerous hollows adjacent to the pathway / cycleway in April 2020.



These hollows arose from poisoning by Council to control the creeping of grass onto the cycleway. The risks have been brought to Council’s attention many times over the last few years. It is understood Council now has machinery to trim and control dispersal of the trimmings, thus the filling in of the hollows. A lesson learnt from this is **the need to implement a safety process to collect details of near misses (i.e. a “lead indicator”)** and **implement preventive actions**. The next accident { i.e. a lag indicator } waiting to happen is an injury to an innocent

walker or rider from a user of a motorised scooter or skate board or a high speed bike rider being the cause.

The CBPG continue to offer assistance to help lift the bar with the safety culture of Council and users.

- (c) Further to the risks mentioned above, is the risk to pedestrians walking along the Collingwood Beach pathway. The roots of Banksia and Pine trees that are growing too close to the pathway, are lifting the pathway causing trip hazards. Several areas along the pathway that have been previously relaid or repaired, now require further maintenance to prevent trip accidents. Council have just identified some of the areas for repair so watch out for the yellow dots when using the pathway.



3. The status of the Coastal Management Program “CMP”.

The GET INVOLVED process for the questionnaire/submissions closed on 28th February.

The owners of properties on the coast located in an identified existing coastal risk hazard area (beaches and coastal cliffs and slopes) were invited by Council to get involved and did so accordingly with the focus being on the issues addressed in previous CBPG reports, i.e.

- Flawed coastal hazard lines,
- Inconsistency comparing inundation lines from aerial photography compared with ground surveys,
- Inundation lines not take mitigating factors into account
- Failure to acknowledge risks are mitigated for many properties with high floor level will not be affected by inundation,
- Why does Council feel that a 1.5 Factor of Safety is warranted for stable foundation line why using the ZRFC when ZSA line recommended in peer review,
- Why didn't SCC include action plan for staff suggestion to nourish precinct A,
- Is planned retreat now known or to be known under a different term,
- What is the official position of Council, to defend its coast, or retreat,
- What consideration was and will be given to the evidence based sea level rises for the last 100 years *which reflects the mean sea level in 2019 is 6cm lower than 1914*
- *Pick up* actions missing from the CZMP re collection, harvest and discharge of storm water,
- It is inappropriate to treat the beaches and waterways around Jervis Bay in the same manner as open coast beaches,
- Risks with existing sewerage lines on seaward side of properties,
- Inappropriate vegetation

- Expectation Council offer actions which can be taken to reduce the “high risk” ratings of many locations.
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4. Slow Down LBD - Safety Signage.

The VRRRA has installed the signage to reflect the Shoalhaven Council’s ongoing commitment to the safety program now committed to by over 70 local government areas. The Little Blue Dinosaur “Hold My Hand” campaign started up on 1st December and continues through to the end of April school holidays.

The idea of using a VMS noticeboard which was identified as a benchmark from another coastal community has initially been received with enthusiasm by Council. Collaboration with Port Macquarie Council officers by the VRRRA has identified this could be part of a broader scoped project by Council for December 2020.

Any members or guests who are subject to near misses are encouraged to report such incidents to Ryleigh Bowman on 4429 3315 or to vrra.ccb@gmail.com in order to ensure the shared pathways/cycle ways provide a safe environment.

B Pullinger, G Kruk, D Thompson, T Bowman, T Thompson
Sub Committee for Collingwood Beach Preservation Group

MOTION:

**Collingwood Beach Preservation Group – Sub Committee Monthly Report
The CCB accepts the sub committee’s report.**

Extract of Gallery in January Report

The first two photos below from the Collingwood Beach pruning trial site show bush fire risks which Council need to respond to as requested in September and December 2019 to remove pruned and dead vegetation.



The next four photos were previously submitted to the RFS.



Nov 2019 – Fallen limb on pathway between Susan St and Church St

Nov 2013 – Fallen limb on pathway between Montague and Berry Sts

