

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

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

(a) No further actions or updates by or from Shoalhaven Council in respect of significant vegetation issues reported in the various CBPG reports since June '19.

- Further trimming of vegetation in trial site – Dec '19
- REF - Review the viewing window definition and scope. – June '19
- REF- Action plan to address formation of banksia thickets. – June '19
- Soft works to address safety risks of people falling/ tripping over the side or end of the access way – Apr 19
- 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. – Apr '19

and the resolutions passed by Council not yet actioned

(b) The 42nd Anniversary of the beach scraping and planting of appropriate low growth vegetation occurred on 4th August 2020.

A reflection of the understandings and lessons learnt from the beach scraping are reflected in the deputation made by George Kruk at the Council meeting in October 2017. It can be found on the below link on the CBPG website, under “Sharing Understandings - The Dunes of Collingwood Beach”.

Councillor Watson and David Davies who responded to community concerns would certainly be proud. 43 years later to see the performance of those early plantings of marram grass and spinifex in 1978 resulting in the accretion from the eighties through to the present day.

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

(a) New safety risks (see update on July & August storms)

- (i) Accessway at Susan St
Despite a DPOP being submitted to separate the movement of water and people via a common accessway nothing has happened.
- (ii) Accessway at Berry St



Safety – Trip hazards - Susan St & Berry St

(b) Strategic Plan to eliminate the lessons learnt and reported previously as risks. 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 and subsequent CBPG reports and request for feedback.

(c) No further feedback from Council in respect to the request for the height of the new safety sign at Montague St to be lowered to enable the sign to be easily read.



The CBPG will be collaborating with Council on the need to address outstanding actions and opportunity to make good, make safe more effective dune and access ways from the threats of all natural events, be they bush fire, rain events or events of the sea..

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

A timeline of 2021 was approved by Council for completion of a Jervis Bay CMP. Next step is the imminent appointment of community members to a committee comprising Councillors and Agencies.

4. Impact of storms in July and August 2020.

Three significant east coast lows occurred in July and August. Many areas within the Shoalhaven were severely impacted by flooding.

The impact on Collingwood Beach was minimal. The rain events caused :

the discharge and undertow of sand into the bay,

roughly a metre of sand to be lost off the front of the dune

safety risks to users through the storm water systems which collect and discharge storm water through outdated and ineffective “pit systems” at Berry and Susan Sts create safety hazards for beach users.



Covid Lock down
Pre storm



Scarp after storms
Resilience / grasses



Trees uprooted

The CBPG Exec committee is very fortunate to have a member, Tony Thompson with many years of working on the Coast, and working alongside a highly respected Maritime engineer. Tony was able to gain vast experience in the field of Coastal Management

In the past five years, Tony, ably assisted by a team, surveying and recording the amount of sand movement on Collingwood Beach, the results are forwarded to Shoalhaven Council after each survey.

On the 31st of July Tony measured the dunes after the two storms in July, and since his previous survey in February 2020 has informed the CBPG *“roughly a metre of sand has been lost from the dunes since February this year, with very little effect on the fore dune itself. The most affected areas were at the northern end and centre of the beach.”*. The rain gauge at Collingwood captured 78mm for the rain event 12th – 15th July, 301mm for 26th – 28th July and 218mm for 7th to 10th August.

Interestingly an inspection of a transect and nearby benchmark indicates, apart from the storm water discharge and its impact upon access ways, there has not been any significant sand lost from the dunes since the 31st July survey at one of the benchmarks.

The CBPG and Shoalhaven Council are very fortunate to have a team player and committed community member to be able to present “evidence based facts”.

Collingwood Beach has proved it’s resilience to only lose such a small amount of sand from the three significant storms over July and August 2020.

George Kruk, our internationally recognised engineer and expert responsible for the CBPG technical papers and deputations to Council recently praised the monitoring done by Tony with the words “Your work provides the only objective evidence of storm effects and subsequent accretion. I am sure that it will form the basis of a future scientific paper.”

The CBPG citizens scientist’s continue to record and build up a significant library of the history of Collingwood beach.

5. Storm Water.

The DPOP request which has been with Council for many years now has been addressed by the Council. A concept design drawing for a model stormwater design was attached to the June report.

Council has since advised

“Detailed design for Stormwater Upgrade & Boardwalk Concept is currently being carried out this financial year with a view to submitting the project for construction next financial year (refer to response from Council D20/324717).”



Bayswater St - look forward to the new design concept



Illfracombe

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.**

