

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

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

The progress report on the Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Plan was presented to the Strategy and Assets Committee on 8th September. The webinar can be watched to hear the Councillors who are on the Reference Group.

<https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/Meetings/Stream-a-Council-Meeting>

Click on item 20.168.

The discussions were pointed and the original motion was updated to reflect the input from these Councillors. Several questions were put on notice for response by Directors. In addition, a number of questions were put on notice for response by responsible Council Officers not on hand to provide answers.

Four of the five Councillors from the Reference Group who visited the site made a variety of contributions which can be summarised as follows:

- The trial sites have not been value for money;
- Inappropriate vegetation planted in inappropriate places is creating safety risks for the public accessing the beach and using the pathway/cycleway;
- Viewing corridors are virtually non existent;
- The dumping of pruning and seedlings by Council must be removed as they are an eyesore and disgrace;
- The number of Banksia uprooted around Moona Creek ~~and over at the Basin~~ demonstrates that vegetation is being planted in the wrong place and does not prevent erosion; and
- There are safety issues of injury to children from vegetation allowed to grow too close to the access ways blocking the line of sight when approaching the exit from access ways to the coastal walkway.

The issues raised have been highlighted by the Councillors have been raised on several occasions in previous CBPG Monthly reports.

The original motion was amended to include Item 2 points a to f listed in Attachment A to this report.

[A meeting of the Reference Group will be held at the end of October.](#)

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

- (a) Another large tree has been uprooted nearby to the pathway at the southern end of the pathway between Church Street and the pedestrian bridge in September.



(b) Council has been requested to provide a Strategic Plan to address the lessons learnt from previously reported incidents and issues affecting public safety which were highlighted and supported by a gallery of pictures in the January and subsequent CBPG reports.

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”**.

The CBPG will be requesting Council to collaborate on outstanding actions and opportunities related to public safety including but not limited to hazards along the coastal walkway and protecting beach access ways from threats of all natural events.

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

A timeline of 2021 has been set by Council for completion of a Jervis Bay CMP.

The Coastal Reforms Manual provides for linking the actions for Coastal and Waterway solutions to Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting.

The next stages in the CMP planning are

- Stage 2: Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities;
- Stage 3: Identify and evaluate options;
- Stage 4: Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP; and
- Stage 5: Implement, monitor, evaluate and report.

The appointment of Tony Thompson and Bob Pullinger to the Central CMP Committee was confirmed at the Council’s Development Committee Meeting in September 2020. Future CBPG reports will include details of the CMP development as it relates to Collingwood Beach.

The motion passed at the August meeting of the [VRR/CCB](#) (**what is the CCB – VRR ? - need to expand acronym**) to follow the lead of the State Government by transferring Coastal Management and CMP activities out of the Council’s Environmental Department to the Council Assets and Works Department remains to be actioned.

4. Storm Water.

The holes in the dunes created by loss of sand caused by the discharge of **piped** storm water collected and harvested from the landward side of the dunes **through the dunes** about 1.5 metres below the cycleway continue to cause problems (see photos below).



Bayswater St - look forward to the new design concept

Illfracombe

It is in fact causing safety risks because the sand at the edge of the hole in the dune is being diminished by those sliding down the edge on boogie boards or holding picnics against the edge of the dune. Council should give consideration to fast tracking this aspect of its stormwater management plan.

An engineering proposal is sought to address the loss of sand and damage to access ways from the **storm water pit systems** which discharge water **over the top of the dune** and cause erosion when the water course meanders to a discharge point in the access ways as evidenced at Susan Street, Berry Street and near Holden Street.

It is suggested that Council consider bringing forward to 20/21 the timing of “Detailed Design for Stormwater Upgrade & Boardwalk Concept” which is currently being carried out this financial year with a view to submitting the project for construction next financial year.

The State government has \$83.7M of funds available for grants for managing the coast and waterways.

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.**

Attachment A

RESOLVED (Clr Proudfoot / Clr Aldrick)

MIN20.622

That Council:

1. Receive the report on the progress of the Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Two-Year Trial Action Plan for information.
2. Commit to:
 - a. All access ways to be maintained and kept clear.
 - b. Removing sufficient dead vegetation and dead branches from the site to mitigate risks, and the retained dead vegetation be managed discretely to support appropriate new growth in the dune, and if practical, trial mulching of small material for retention on site.
 - c. Any signage regarding trees to be worded in a general sense such as “appropriate vegetation selected to restrict dune erosion”.
 - d. The initial Huskisson video by Gary Druitt being linked to the Get Involved webpage tab for Collingwood Beach.
 - e. Allowing the Collingwood Dunecare Group to trim vegetation, under Council’s supervision, to a height that will allow views along the cycleway and remove the banksias which have seeded.
 - f. Inspecting the large trees along the whole pathway for safety.
3. Allocate funds of \$15,000 at the September Quarterly Budget Review to complete the remaining actions in the Collingwood Beach Action Plan as outlined in the report.

FOR: Clr Wells, Clr Gash, Clr Findley, Clr White, Clr Digiglio, Clr Alldrick, Clr Levett, Clr Pakes, Clr Watson, Clr Proudfoot and Stephen Dunshea

AGAINST: Clr Kitchener

CARRIED