

## Collingwood Beach Preservation Group– Sub Committee – August 2022

1.1 Vegetation Management Plan - ongoing failure to comply with the Coastal Dune Management Manual.

1.2 Progress on Shared User Path.

1.3 Security cameras – “Covert and/or remote surveillance devices to be installed

2. Storm Activity

3. CBPG DPOP 22/23 Budget and 10 year Capex Plan 23/32 - submission.

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

5. Monitoring of the Dunes.

6. Safety

(a) Fall and trip hazards

(b) SAFETY ISSUES IDENTIFIED WITH NELSONS BEACH.

(c) It’s time to Respond to lead indicators.

7. Hold My Hand – Safety Program.

8. Motions

1.1 **2022 Vegetation Management Plan “CBDVMP”.**

The CBPG continues collaborate with Council searching for answers not merely responses on the ongoing failure to comply with the Coastal Dune Management Manual “Manual” in respect of appropriate vegetation in the appropriate place as specified in the Manual.

1.2 **Works on protection to the Natural Areas adjacent to SUP.**

The works by the contractors for the fencing and seating alongside the shared user path “SUP” are expected to conclude on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.



Picture of Collingwood and elsewhere



The safety hub at an angle providing room to stop and look

It is heartening for the refurbishment of the accessways has taken safety into consideration with angles at the accessways. This provides a safe place “safety hub” to stand and wait until bikes, motorised carts and skateboards have gone past before stepping out onto the shared user path “SUP”. The increase in the number of motorised means of getting along the SUP is increasing dramatically.

It is understood the gap between the SUP and the fence which varies from 0.5m up to 1 metre will allow for equipment to be used to prevent the risk of kids getting seared in the eyes from the inappropriate planting of Lomandra adjacent to the SUP.

### **1.3 SECURITY CAMERAS – “COVERT AND/OR REMOTE SURVEILLANCE DEVICES TO BE INSTALLED**

At Council meeting 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 ( where review and acceptance or changes are made, to the policies carried over from previous Council ), it was proposed a change be made to the Vegetation Vandalism Policy as follows :

Re-worded to include text from various sections of the current policy. Inclusion of the preparation of plans for areas at high risk of further damage. Investigation and Response Protocol and Compliance Procedure excluded, as this is more operational and procedural, and as such, is not policy-based.

**It was resolved at the Development and Environment Committee meeting of Council on 5 March 2019 (MIN19.110) that Council does not support the installation of surveillance cameras along Collingwood Beach and the current policy is silent on this matter.**

It is now recommended that covert and/or remote surveillance devices be utilised where appropriate as part of a plan to address high impact sites where further vandalism is likely. The inclusion of this is intended to act as both a deterrent, as well as allowing adequate evidence collection for compliance action where appropriate.”

**This motion was passed on 1 August 2021**

#### **CL22.337 Policy - Vegetation Vandalism Prevention**

**That Council:**

- 1. Exhibit the revised Vegetation Vandalism Prevention Policy for a period of two (2) weeks to allow public comment; and,**
- 2. If no significant comments are received through public exhibition, adopt the policy without further resolution.**

The link to the meeting with the agenda and notice of the meeting is :

[https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/08/CL\\_20220801\\_AGN\\_17647\\_AT\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/08/CL_20220801_AGN_17647_AT_EXTRA.PDF)

The link to the minutes is:

[https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/08/CL\\_20220801\\_MIN\\_17647\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/08/CL_20220801_MIN_17647_EXTRA.PDF)

**The CBPG does not approve of vandalism.**

The CBPG believes **the community should object to the above proposed change re “Covert and/or remote surveillance devices to be installed”**.

The focus should be on the fact the “Vandalism “policy was intentionally named Vandalism **Prevention** Policy with the intention **of proactive action to minimising vandalism occurrences including education and vegetation management plans (as adopted by Council on 1 December 2020 )** has not been implemented. Council now wants the emphasis on persecution and prosecution without implementing the earlier agreed motions on preventive measures.

The CBPG understands it involves **privacy issues** which the Council were previously the subject of legal action.

The vegetation management plan referred to above can be found as motion DE20.138 ( December 2020) passed by Council in the following link to Council’s Development and Environment Committee Meeting 1 December 2020 - it is on page 11.

[https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2020/12/DE\\_20201201\\_MIN\\_16241.PDF](https://shoalhaven.infocouncil.biz/Open/2020/12/DE_20201201_MIN_16241.PDF)

The CBPG brings to the community’s attention once again the challenges with the vegetation on Collingwood is caused by the planting of inappropriate vegetation in the foredune and incipient dune areas. This has previously been considered by Council and resolution passed on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 which included council immediately remove all banksia root suckers seedlings and saplings with the removal of the new growth banksia to be replaced with species from the list prepared for replanting as undertaken in trial site 1 and **in accordance with the NSW Coastal Management act 2016 and the NSW Coastal Dune Management Manual and Councils publicly displayed acknowledgement the houses are built on the hind Dune.**

The CBPG feels it is a waste of money to proceed with such change in policy. The money to be spent on surveillance cameras and ongoing maintenance at Collingwood Beach be used for far better purposes such as much needed repairs to the beach both at Collingwood and Nelsons together with the more urgent priorities for the money such as repairing the numerous potholes.

## **2. Storm Activity**

Collingwood Beach,

Like all other beaches experienced peak high tides (2.18m) and the increased swell over 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July. These peak high tides exposed a gabion netting and rocks at Montague St and a walk way at Blenheim which had not been seen for many decades.



Seaward of dune at Montague St



Blenheim

This has come on top of significant storms over March/April with the more significant being on 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022 and the experience, like all other beaches and embayments along the NSW coast, hazardous surf conditions over 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June.



15<sup>th</sup> August '22



11<sup>th</sup> August '22

There is considerable debris on most beaches as time goes on. It is not unusual to see a noticeable movement of larger debris at the peak monthly tides upon the full moon each month. An unusual example of this is in the peak 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. A large tree trunk over 20metres long and nearly 2 metres high at one end, has slowly moved down Collingwood Beach over the last two full moons. It has slowly moved from Montague St to just south of Bayswater during this period. It has been identified by boaties to masters of large commercial vessel as being a critical safety risk if it washed back out to sea. It has been reported to Council with response advising Council crews are busy fixing up over 100 kilometres of damaged roads. From a risk management perspective, these provide a much higher hazard for the community than the trunk on the beach. A check will be made back in with crews as their workload lessens over the coming months.

Whilst on the beach, in many ways it serves as a benchmark. Between the start and end of the full moon the knob at the high end remained above the sand but as one progressed to the low end of the trunk the sand had built up over nearly all the length of the trunk to the end, where it was 13cm below the sand.

The beach berm being in recovery mode can now be sighted with a continuing undulation build up of sand along Collingwood beach..

This will be substantiated by the next round of surveying.

### **3. CBPG DPOP 22/23 Budget and 10 year Capex Plan 23/32 - submission.**

The response from Council's Corporate Reporting to the CBPG DPOP submission was :



CBPG-Submission  
on Draft DPOP and C

### **4. The status of the Coastal Management Program “CMP”.**

In response to the question as to when the next meeting of the Central CMP will take place, Council has advised

“We currently don't have a Central CMP Advisory Committee scheduled.

The team is busy planning for workshops and drop in sessions with Water Technology so stay tuned for more information on these, hopefully August / September. Cheers, **Nigel Smith** Coastal Management Program Coordinator”

### **5. Monitoring of the Dunes.**

The latest survey of the Beach took place after the April 2022 storms and the outcomes have been submitted to Council. Tony T is keen to undertake a survey of one or two transects to compare June hazardous waves and subsequent peak tides with post the April storm.

The 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the long standing successful beach scraping undertaken along Collingwood Beach fell on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.. Despite the storms of April and June this year, and the even more damaging storm in 1997. the foredune which developed after the 1978 Beach scrape is still intact.



Poster of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary– Coastal

Conference Merimbula 2018

## 6. Safety

- (a) Fall and trip hazards created from sand lost from the seaward end of the accessways during the April 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> storm.



As and still Is

Fall hazards continue to exist at the end of accessways after the storms of April with what many expect the risk of fall could be mitigated if Council was to push up some sand. Hopefully this will be part of the Recovery Plan for Collingwood. Council acted with a sense of urgency in April to push up sand to the end of the accessways.



Meanwhile, see above ( before and after) pics, due to the heed of the SES and the deed of the community, temporary relief has been initiated at a couple of the areas where community access was severely disrupted. Further action will be needed before the busy Spring school holidays.

**(b) Safety Issues Identified with Nelsons Beach.**

**1. Lookout (opposite Deas Thomson)**

The area in front of the lookout has been eroded back and the front barrier is perhaps a little too close to the edge. On the right of the lookout (on the left if looking up from the beach) the edge is almost in line with the front barrier. Given that the foundation of the lookout is soil and clay and some major erosion has occurred, the stability of the lookout should be professionally assessed to ensure community safety and to prevent further landslide and a potential tragedy. It is expected Council is fully aware of the lookout problem. It is understood a barrier ribbon was placed at the lookout. However it keeps disappearing. There are two lookouts along Plantation Point Parade. Opposite Deas Thomson Street and at the corner of Jervis Street and Plantation Point Parade. These lookouts offer the only means to view the beauty of the bay, so it's no surprise that people do not want to be denied this attraction and hence perhaps why the barrier ribbon keeps disappearing. If a redesign of the lookout is undertaken then it is an opportunity to improve this attraction, that is it needs to be wider as it is currently too small (note when whales are in the Bay or there is some naval event the lookout is hopelessly overcrowded). The concern is that if it is closed (if it comes to that), Council could take years to get around to doing anything. Note: This lookout could well be suitable for a grant under the Coastal Zone Management Plan "CZMP" "Local Area Actions" project along with some improvement of the small park in front.

## 2. Disable access at Nelson Beach.

Again Council would be well aware of this and possibly in the short to medium term little can be done other than to ensure safety. The issue is erosion from wave action or storm water run of.

## 3. Tree Safety.

Along the cliff face of Nelsons Beach, there have been what could be called "cave outs", caused either by landslides or uprooted trees. There are large trees above one particular "cave out" and the concern is that there may not be sufficient soil and depth to hold the trees especially if the ground becomes soft and weak after a prolonged deluge of rain along with high winds. It is believed this should be brought to Council's attention and an assessment made as it could well be an issue of public safety, see picture.

It is well known that when large trees fall over they do so quickly, silently and without warning.



### **(c) Safety – it's time to Respond to lead indicators.**

Once again Council is encouraged to manage safety by lead indicators ( notice board and capturing of near misses ) rather than lag indicators of a resident or visitor being critically injured or heaven forbid, a fatality.

Boards could easily be erected at the Moona Creek end of the pathway and similarly at the southern end at Holden St, with forms, and/or electronic input made available. Include the Nelsons beach report from John Ross and provide the links in previous CBPG reports to leadership in safety in respect of every community member and visitor going home in the same or better way than what they arrived.

## **7. Hold My Hand – Safety Program.**

Signs have been taken down. To be displayed again at future school holidays.

B Pullinger, D Thompson, T Bowman, A Vukelic T Thompson

Sub Committee for Collingwood Beach Preservation Group



**8 MOTIONS:**

- 1. Collingwood Beach Preservation Group – Sub Committee Monthly Report  
The VRRRA/CCB accepts the sub committee's report.**
- 2. The VRRRA-CCB communicates with Council and requests special meeting with the appropriate Directors followed up with a written response with answers for making safe the safety risks highlighted in the above CBPG Monthly report along with other safety risks along Nelson and Collingwood beaches taking into account the questions and answers tabled at the last meeting of the Central CMP Advisory committee.**