

## **COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP "CBPG" Progress Report to the CCB July 2015**

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### 1. Sea Level Rise Policy:

Since the meeting of the NCA and Minister Stokes in December 2014 the sea level rise policy previously adopted by Shoalhaven Council in October 2014 was challenged by staff. A subsequent meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee (P&RC) in Feb 2015 endorsed the original rises adopted in October 2014 for 2030 and 2050, but this time included a forecast for 2100 which had not been included in the original policy in October 2014. The resolution of the P&RC is:

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Committee's delegated authority from Council, that Council reaffirm its decision in respect of sea level projections as follows:

- a) Establish a sea level rise benchmarks for planning purposes based on a 2030 horizon 100 mm, a 2050 horizon of 230 mm and 360 mm horizon for 2100 as indicated in the Whitehead & associates Report.
- b) Review the projection based on real data every 7 years with tidal gauges at HMAS Creswell and Ulladulla being included in the calculations along with other NSW gauges, modelled or corrected altimeter data be excluded unless new Satellites overcome the present measurement error.
- c) Apply the adopted sea level rise projections for the preparation and review of flood studies, flood risk management studies and plans, coastal hazard studies and asset management plans;
- d) As part of a future amendment to Shoalhaven Development Control Plan 2014, review Chapter G6: Areas of Coastal Management and other relevant chapters to ensure provisions are consistent with the adopted Sea Level Rise Policy and
- e) Continue to monitor State and Federal Government advice including Stage 2 Coastal Reform and future Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and review its sea level rise projections in accordance with part b.
- f) Adopt the explanatory Notes and Guidelines as follows:-
  - i) This resolution takes into account the following papers and Presentation, and Complementary Review of the Whitehead Report and is adopted on the basis of 7 year reviews primarily using real long term data from the Fort

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Denison Tidal Gauge as well as the consideration of trends from local tidal stations.

The seven year reviews means Council's plans can quickly respond to any significant change in the rate of sea level increase or decrease and on this basis Council believes it is reasonable to use the above methodology to determine the planning levels.

It is also noted that the CZMP's are plans which are assented to by the Minister.

Whitehead and Associates Report Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven Councils.  
Whitehead & Lord

The presentation by George Kruk Chartered Civil Engineer 10th Feb 2015

Commentary and Analysis on the  
Whitehead & Associates 2014 NSW Sea-Level Report  
Carter R.M., de Lange W., Hansen, J.M., Humlum O., Idso C.,  
Kear, D., Legates, D., Mörner, N.A., Ollier C., Singer F. & Soon W.

NSW Ocean Water Levels  
B Modra1, S Hesse  
Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, Sydney, NSW

## 2. Collaboration with Shoalhaven Council.

The CBPG reached out to the Council's Coastal Planning team to collaborate on the methodologies to be used for incorporating the consequences to the new sea level rise predictions into the CZMP. Very minor progress has been achieved in approaches to the Council for collaboration with the CBPG.

## 3. Community Engagement.

The CBPG sought and has been successful in forming a subcommittee within the local Community Consultative Body "CCB"/ Vincentia Residents and Ratepayers Association as a means to establish recognised communication channel on Coastal Zone Management Plan "CZMP" between the community and Council.

A motion was passed at the June meeting of the CCB to request Council to write to the State Member, Shirley Hancock, to seek the State Government to support community representation on the Coastal Reforms committee.

## 4. Dune Care Vegetation.

A significant amount of the time of the CBPG is being taken up with the critical issue of the vegetation on the dunes at Collingwood Beach. A monoculture of banksias and acacias has developed with plantings and consequential spreading of seedlings since the late nineties. These plantings were contrary to bush care plans which contained long term commitments by the local Rate Payers Association and Department of Water Conservation over the 1980's and 1990's. These commitments were to planting of species which would not grow to greater than 2.5m and not interrupt the property owners' views. As would be expected, significant conflict has arisen between the residents wanting to retain views and Council staff with their own preferences. The Councillors opted to form a "Dune vegetation Reference Group" to come up with a management plan to achieve a balanced decision. This process is proceeding but not without the challenges of the environmentalists determined to achieve outcomes that would prejudice to the residents' legal rights to have a view, a point determined in various courts.

The CBPG submitted a position paper for the management of Dune vegetation through the local CCB. The position paper was adopted by the CCB.

## 5. Participation in case study for Association of Local Government.

The CBPG has been approached to participate in a case study for the Association of Local Government on a toolkit for Coastal adaptation. The CBPG is currently appraising the process for participation.

## 6. Grant for Community Engagement.

Council has received a grant for community engagement for the CZMP. Council has appointed Straight Talk "ST" as the successful tenderers. ST will be supported by BMT/WBM as technical experts.

## 7. Sand Reserves: - Collingwood Beach's greatest asset.

The CBPG is to promote the benchmark and passion shown by the Woolli group in encouraging a representation of the owners to measure the sand reserves in the dunes. Professor Emeritus Roger McLean, who along with Bruce Thom, measured Bengello Beach each year since 1976 met with the CBPG in June '15 to share his understandings and experiences on the benefits and process of how to

measure and monitor the beach. Professor McLean referred to papers published on his research and field work on both Bengello Beach and the Funafiti Atoll (undertaken by University of Auckland and University of New South Wales). The studies for both of these beaches reflect there is no evidence of sea level rise causing any loss of sand reserves over the last century.

Sufficient evidence appears to exist to establish the sand reserves on Collingwood Beach have been increasing. This means Collingwood Beach is deemed to be an accreting beach. Some members took measurements to add support to this evidence. The survey reflected the dunes are now 8 metres further seaward of the MHWM than when the subdivision boundary lines were determined in 1952.

#### 8. Hazard lines.

Hand in hand with the accretion and the new sea level rise policy is the necessity for Council to collaborate and redraw the hazard lines.

#### 9. Sharing experiences and benchmarking.

The property owners re-energised in early 2014 and obtained recognition of the CBPG from Council in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy. The CBPG values the experiences the Coastal Alliance shares amongst its members. One of the CBPG objectives is to be on the front foot with the CZMP and mitigate some of the challenges the other members of the Coastal Alliance are experiencing with challenging CZMPs after they get to public display. Only time will tell whether the CBPG is accepted into the decision making process or deemed to be a group resorting to collaboration by deputations. The CBPG strive for the former.

Yours faithfully,



**John Stuchbery**  
**Chair Collingwood Beach Preservation Group**

### **Action required/background to matters in the Summary Report**

1. Community engagement-Extract of decisions made at the May CCB/VRRA Meeting.  
The materials circulated for the May 2015 meeting identified certain issues presented to the April meeting of the Natural Resources Committee. Because some of these issues might impact the Vincentia community and/or assets it was resolved to invite Kelie Lowe to the July CCB/VRRA meeting to engage with our community. In particular explaining the background of the issues and identifying what impacts could occur to the Vincentia community and/or assets.  
The matters and appropriate action plans were in relation to the Green Army Project, Huskisson Beach Management Plan, Storm Water Report prepared by Footprint, award winning Sea Level Rise Submission, Collingwood Beach Dune Care Reference Group objectives, Risk assessment on erosion of banks of Moona Moona creek and a letter by the Council to Shelley Hancock requesting community representation Stage 2 Coastal Reforms committee.
2. Collaboration in respect of the Coastal zone Management Plan.  
A meeting is sought in the form of a meeting between Council and the CBPG to address the agenda items previously submitted to Council to determine the consequences of the new sea level rise policy. These matters were identified in the CBPG letter 1505 with a suggested agenda previously sent to Council in March 2015.  
The letter addresses the significance of the consequences of the changes to the sea level rise policy and the need for collaboration on among other things, hazard lines and maps, inshore sea level rise, erosion remediation concept studies, cost benefit studies and stage 2 coastal reforms.

3. The condition of the bank of Moona Moona creek, in particular, the erosion on the south banks and south eastern spit was raised with the officer from Office of Environment and Heritage "OEH" at the roll out of the Currumbene Creek and Moona Moona creek floodplain management plans at Huskisson in June 2015. The particular concerns were the erosion and the appropriateness of banksias and shrubs on the south eastern section of the creek. This vegetation seems to be encouraging rather than mitigating erosion. It has been worsening for some time. This is especially so when compared with the success of spinifex and pig face grasses on nearby Collingwood Beach. These grasses have clung to the incipient dune and mitigated the extent of the erosion during the severe storm in May 2015. The apparent increment of sand or shifting within the creek was also highlighted. The preservation of the sand from the spit to the vegetation dune has been a real success story for accretion since the 1974 storm. The officer explained the existing floodplain management plan did not cover this aspect of the creek, but rather, a request should be made to Council to evaluate if an "Estuary Management Plan" should be invoked.

Photos are attached to show the creek banks as pictured on a CZMP brochure a decade ago, the eroded banks and inappropriate banksias and shrubs versus the effectiveness of the grasses on Collingwood post the severe storm in May 2015.

Why is this being raised? To determine if action can be taken to preserve the accretion which has taken place at the spit of Moona Moona creek and identify if sand reserves exist in Moona Moona creek for future adaptation strategies.

4. Discussion is encouraged by the members of the CCB as to whether Council should be approached for a "can do" clearance to invite the Blue Dinosaur non for profit organisation to consider promoting their "slow down-holiday time" theme along the shared pathway/cycleway over the 2015/2016 school holiday period.

The usage of the encouraging and positive signage at a recent "five lands walk" across Central Coast beaches reflected a benchmark and experience the Vincentia CCB/VRRA could promote at Collingwood Beach.

Furthermore it could provide a real win/win, for it would be a natural tourism promotion as well as a means of showing the charitable heart of the CCB in promoting a pristine location for the Blue Dinosaur group to conduct one of its fund raising days at a road head or park land adjacent to the pathway/cycleway.

The "slow down-holiday time" signage could be placed as a temporary cover over or adjacent to the tree vandalism signage over the school holiday period. It would reflect not only the caring and charitable nature of an outgoing Vincentia community, but the need for cyclists to slow down in this busy period when there are so many children visiting our area.

Why is this initiative being raised? It is being raised because it not only addresses the safety and caring community of Vincentia, but further support for the "preservation of Collingwood Beach".

Photo is attached of the signage and the link to the Blue Dinosaur site.

<https://www.facebook.com/littlebluedinosaur?ref=nf>





Evidence of Erosion at Moona Moona and consequences of Banksia and bushes.





Below: The success of the grasses ( Spinifex & Pig face ) binding the sands after May 15 storm.

