

Overview

NSW received nearly 25.3 million international ⁽¹⁾ and domestic ⁽²⁾ nature based visitors - up by 10.5% on YE Dec 14. Visitors spent nearly 115.9 million nights in the State - up by 8.6% on YE Dec 14.

Nature based visitors spent an estimated \$16.8 billion ⁽³⁾ (incl package expenditure by overseas visitors) in NSW - up by 13.1% on YE Dec 14.

⁽¹⁾ Source: International Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia.

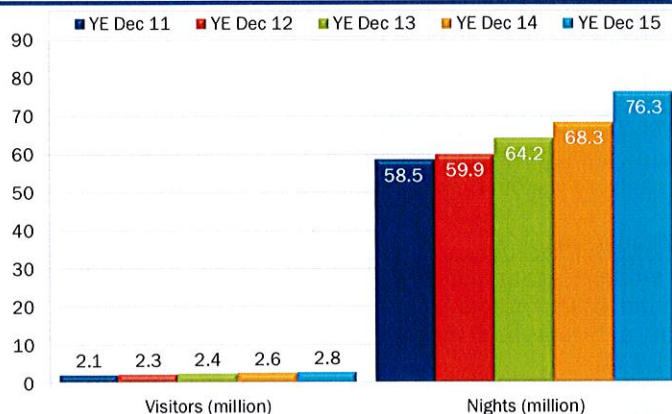
⁽²⁾ Source: National Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia.

⁽³⁾ Total expenditure on the trip.

International Market ⁽¹⁾

The information in this section relates to international overnight visitors who engaged in a nature based activity during their trip to Australia, but not necessarily in a particular State or region.

Visitors and nights



NSW received over 2.8 million international nature based visitors - up by 9.0%* on YE Dec 14. They spent almost 76.3 million nights in the State - up by 11.7%* on YE Dec 14.

Market share

Nature based travellers represented 82.9% of visitors and 89.0% of nights by all international travellers to NSW. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share of visitors was up by 1.8% pts and the share of nights was down by 0.9% pts.

The State received 52.4% of visitors and 34.1% of nights by nature based travellers in Australia. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share of visitors was down by 0.8% pts and the share of nights was down by 0.1% pt.

Type of nature based activity

Rank	Nature based activity	Visitors	
		('000)	%
1	Go to the beach	2,411	85.0%
2	Visit national parks or state parks	1,822	64.3%
3	Visit botanical or other public gardens	1,554	54.8%
4	Visit wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums	1,459	51.4%
5	Bushwalking or rainforest walks	1,006	35.5%
6	Visit farms	426	15.0%
7	Go whale or dolphin watching	385	13.6%
8	Visit the outback	301	10.6%

'Go to the beach' (85.0%) was the most popular nature based activity undertaken by international visitors who had been to NSW. 'Visit national parks or State parks (64.3%) was the 2nd most popular.

Origin

Rank	Market	Visitors		Nights		Average stay (nights)
		('000)	%	('000)	%	
1	Mainland China	518	18.3%	14,050	18.4%	27.1
2	United Kingdom	320	11.3%	8,200	10.7%	25.6
3	USA	313	11.0%	4,548	6.0%	14.6
4	New Zealand	213	7.5%	3,114	4.1%	14.7
5	South Korea	153	5.4%	5,217	6.8%	34.1
	Other Asian markets ⁽⁴⁾	638	22.5%	20,376	26.7%	31.9
	Other European markets ⁽⁵⁾	438	15.4%	13,037	17.1%	29.8
	All other countries	244	8.6%	7,757	10.2%	31.8
	Total	2,836		76,299		26.9

Mainland China (18.3%) was the largest individual source market of international nature based visitors to NSW, followed by the United Kingdom (11.3%) and the USA (11.0%).

Mainland China (18.4%) was the biggest individual contributor of nights in the State, followed by the United Kingdom (10.7%) and South Korea (6.8%).

⁽⁴⁾ All Asian markets, excluding Mainland China and South Korea.

⁽⁵⁾ All European markets, excluding United Kingdom.

Average length of stay

International nature based visitors stayed an average of 26.9 nights in NSW. This was longer than the average for all visitors to the State (25.1 nights).

Visitors from Thailand (49.9 nights) had the longest average stay in NSW, followed by visitors from the Philippines (48.2 nights) and Italians (45.5 nights).

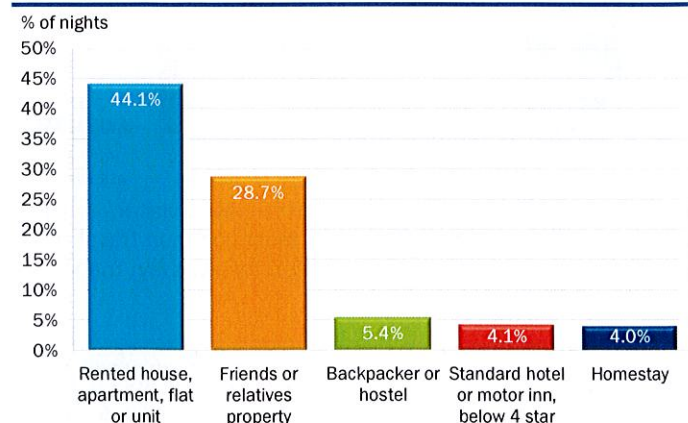
Seasonality

Over 3/10 (30.2%) of international nature based visitors who had been to NSW departed Australia in the December quarter. Over 3/10 (31.3%) of international nature based nights in NSW were spent by those who departed Australia in the March quarter.

Expenditure (incl 30% prepaid package expenditure)

International nature based visitors spent an estimated \$7.8 billion (incl package expenditure) in NSW - up by 18.9%* on YE Dec 14. On average, visitors who had been to NSW spent \$2,763 per visitor and \$103 per night.

Accommodation in NSW



'Rented house, apartment, flat or unit' (44.1%) was the most popular accommodation type used for international nature based visitor nights in NSW. 'Friends or relatives property' (28.7%) was the 2nd most popular.

Please note: The information in this report is sourced from sample surveys, hence the results are subject to sampling variability.

* The percentage change is statistically significant.

⁽¹⁾ Source: International Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

⁽²⁾ Source: National Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, TRA.

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International Market continued

Destinations in NSW

Region	Visitors		Nights		Average stay (nights)
	('000)	%	('000)	%	
Sydney	2,653	83.0%	64,014	89.1%	24.1
Blue Mountains	100	97.7%	528	98.1%	5.3
Capital Country	20	80.4%	455	78.1%	22.8
Central Coast	37	82.7%	763	82.4%	20.6
Central NSW	32	81.6%	820	91.4%	26.0
The Hunter	141	87.4%	2,288	88.1%	16.2
New England North West	26	86.6%	653	75.9%	24.6
North Coast region	286	96.9%	3,012	95.9%	10.5
Outback NSW	10	90.8%	-	-	-
Riverina	21	84.8%	586	94.0%	28.5
Snowy Mountains	19	85.6%	296	83.0%	15.5
South Coast region	120	93.1%	2,498	91.1%	20.8
The Murray	15	76.8%	-	-	-
Total	2,836	82.9%	76,299	89.0%	26.9

- = estimate considered statistically unreliable

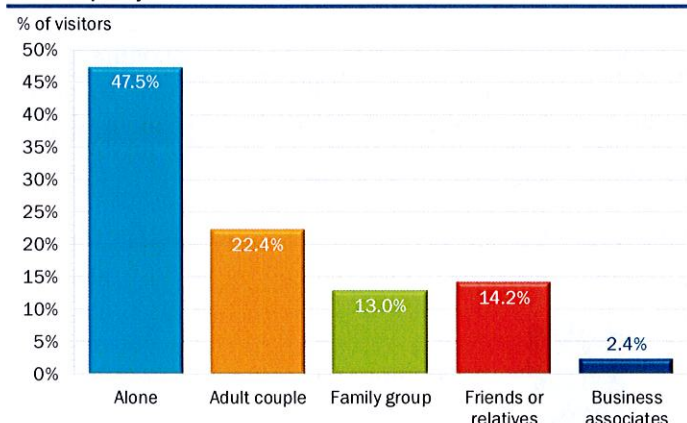
'Blue Mountains' (97.7%) had the highest proportion of international visitors who engaged in a nature based activity. 'North Coast region' (96.9%) had the 2nd highest proportion, followed by 'South Coast region' (93.1%).

'Blue Mountains' (98.1%) had the highest proportion of nights spent by nature based visitors, followed by 'North Coast region' (95.9%) and 'Riverina' (94.0%).

Transport in NSW

'Aircraft' (33.5%) was the most common transport used to destinations in NSW by international nature based visitors. 'Private vehicle or company car' (27.1%) was the 2nd most common, followed by 'local public transport' (16.1%).

Travel party

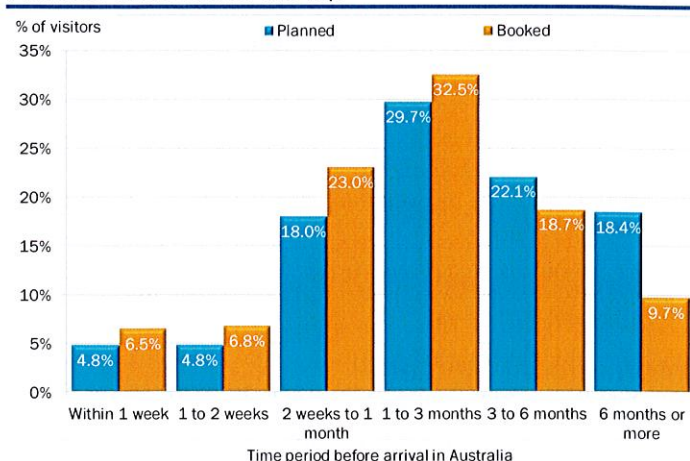


Nearly 1/2 (47.5%) of international nature based visitors to NSW arrived in Australia 'alone'. Their 2nd most common travel party description was 'adult couple' (22.4%), followed by 'friends or relatives' (14.2%).

Travel package

Over 1/5 (20.2%) of international nature based visitors to NSW, arrived in Australia on a travel package. This was a higher percentage than for all visitors to the State (17.5%). 'All accommodation' (87.0%) was the most popular travel arrangement included in the package (other than 'international airfares').

Planned and booked the trip



Nearly 3/10 (29.7%) of international nature based visitors to NSW planned the trip to Australia between '1 and 3 months' before they arrived. '1 to 3 months' (32.5%) was also the most popular time period to book before arrival.

Return visitors

Over 2/5 (44.7%) of international nature based visitors to NSW were on a return visit to Australia. This was a lower percentage than for all visitors to the State (51.5%).

Group tours

The rate of group tour travel to Australia amongst international nature based visitors who had been to NSW was 13.4%. This was a higher percentage than for all visitors to the State (11.5%).

Gender

More international nature based visitors who had been to NSW were females (54.2%) than males (45.8%).

Age groups

Nature based activity	15-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-69 years	70 years+
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Go to the beach	38.0%	17.6%	12.7%	15.2%	13.0%	3.4%
Visit national parks or state parks	36.6%	17.2%	12.7%	15.5%	14.1%	4.0%
Visit botanical or other public gardens	36.3%	16.4%	12.2%	16.2%	14.9%	3.9%
Go whale or dolphin watching	42.7%	16.7%	12.9%	13.3%	11.1%	3.3%
Visit the outback	45.6%	15.1%	9.7%	11.7%	13.1%	4.8%
Visit farms	39.3%	16.2%	11.9%	15.9%	13.8%	2.8%
Bushwalking or rainforest walks	39.6%	16.7%	11.4%	14.8%	14.2%	3.3%
Visit wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums	39.5%	17.4%	12.8%	15.2%	12.1%	3.0%
All nature based visitors	36.1%	17.9%	13.4%	15.6%	13.2%	3.8%

'15 to 29 years' (36.1%) was the biggest age group of international nature based visitors to NSW. '30 to 39 years' (17.9%) was the 2nd biggest age group. '15 to 29 years' was the largest age group for each type of nature based activity.

Please note: The information in this report is sourced from sample surveys, hence the results are subject to sampling variability.

* The percentage change is statistically significant.

(1) Source: International Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

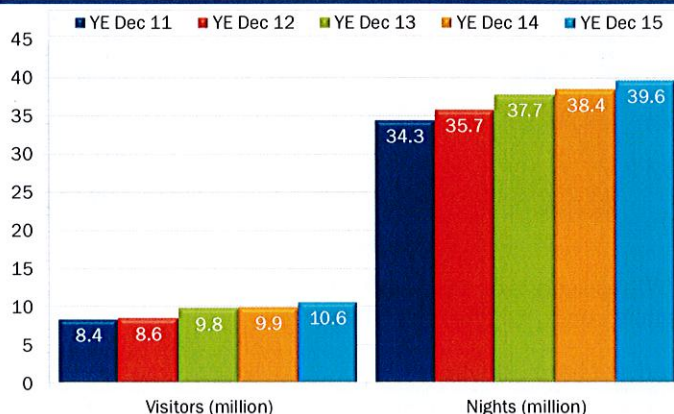
(2) Source: National Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, TRA.

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Domestic Market ⁽²⁾

The information in this section relates to domestic visitors who engaged in a nature based activity in NSW. Domestic overnight visitors and domestic daytrips are shown separately.

Visitors and nights



NSW received over 10.6 million domestic overnight nature based visitors - up by 7.1%* on YE Dec 14. They spent nearly 39.6 million nights in the State - up by 3.0% on YE Dec 14.

Market share

Nature based travellers represented 37.8% of visitors and 43.4% of nights by domestic overnight travellers to NSW. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share of visitors was up by 1.0% pt and the share of nights was down by 0.5% pts.

The State received 32.1% of visitors and 29.3% of nights by nature based travellers in Australia. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share of visitors was down by 0.9% pts and the share of nights was down by 0.3% pts.

Expenditure (incl airfares and transport costs)

Domestic overnight nature based visitors to NSW spent an estimated \$7.9 billion during their trip - up by 10.2%* on YE Dec 14. On average, visitors spent \$743 per visitor and \$199 per night in NSW.

Origin

Market	Visitors		Nights		Average stay (nights)
	('000)	%	('000)	%	
Regional NSW	3,377	31.8%	11,688	29.5%	3.5
Sydney	3,740	35.3%	12,345	31.2%	3.3
Total intrastate	7,118	67.1%	24,033	60.7%	3.4
Queensland	1,354	12.8%	5,367	13.6%	4.0
Victoria	1,023	9.6%	5,513	13.9%	5.4
ACT	625	5.9%	2,104	5.3%	3.4
Other interstate	488	4.6%	2,544	6.4%	5.2
Total interstate	3,491	32.9%	15,528	39.3%	4.4
Total NSW	10,608		39,560		3.7

NSW received 67.1% of domestic overnight nature based visitors from intrastate and 32.9% from interstate. Sydney (35.3%) was the biggest source market, while Queensland (12.8%) was the biggest interstate market.

Intrastate contributed 60.7% of nature based visitor nights in the State, while interstate contributed 39.3%. Sydney (31.2%) was the biggest source market, while Victoria (13.9%) was the biggest interstate market.

Destinations in NSW

Region	Visitors		Nights		Average stay (nights)
	('000)	%	('000)	%	
Sydney	2,158	23.2%	7,700	31.1%	3.6
Blue Mountains	447	53.1%	1,090	54.1%	2.4
Capital Country	351	27.3%	1,038	35.4%	3.0
Central Coast	736	53.7%	2,486	59.5%	3.4
Central NSW	428	22.1%	1,303	25.7%	3.0
Hunter	1,158	37.6%	3,545	41.2%	3.1
New England North West	275	21.0%	1,038	24.0%	3.8
North Coast NSW	2,702	57.8%	11,368	64.6%	4.2
Outback NSW	84	22.8%	-	-	-
Riverina	93	10.4%	-	-	-
Snowy Mountains	310	41.7%	1,066	43.2%	3.4
South Coast	2,010	58.6%	7,610	62.2%	3.8
The Murray	208	18.9%	682	23.2%	3.3
Total	10,608	37.8%	39,560	43.4%	3.7

- = estimate considered statistically unreliable

'South Coast region' (58.6%) had the highest proportion of domestic overnight visitors who engaged in a nature based activity. 'North Coast region' (57.8%) had the 2nd highest proportion, followed by 'Central Coast' (53.7%).

'North Coast region' (64.6%) had the highest proportion of nights spent by nature based visitors, followed by 'South Coast region' (62.2%) and 'Central Coast' (59.5%).

Average length of stay

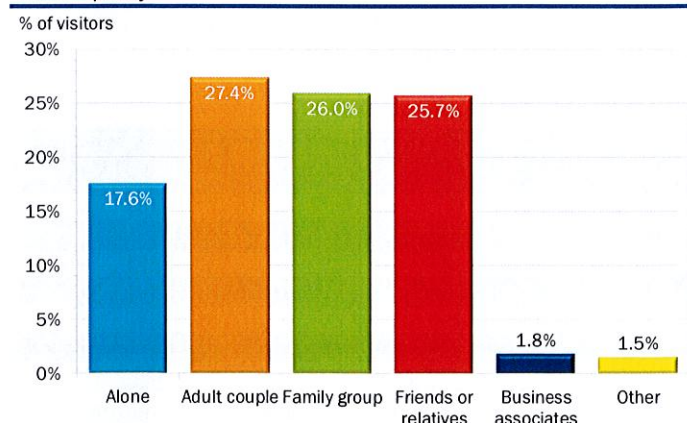
Domestic nature based visitors stayed, on average, 3.7 nights in NSW. This was longer than the average for all visitors to the State (3.2 nights).

Interstate visitors to NSW stayed 1 night longer than intrastate visitors (4.4 vs 3.4 nights).

Accommodation in NSW

'Friends or relatives property' (35.2%) was the most popular accommodation type used for domestic nature based visitor nights in NSW. 'Caravan park or commercial camping ground' (16.3%) was the 2nd most popular, followed by 'rented house, apartment, flat or unit' (14.3%).

Travel party



'Adult couple' (27.4%) was the most common travel party of domestic overnight nature based visitors to NSW. 'Family group' (26.0%) was the 2nd most common, followed by 'friends or relatives' (25.7%).

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* The percentage change is statistically significant.

⁽¹⁾ Source: International Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

⁽²⁾ Source: National Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, TRA.

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Domestic Market continued

Age groups

Nature based activity	15-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-69 years	70 years+
Go to the beach	28.6%	18.1%	18.0%	16.5%	13.3%	5.4%
Visit national parks or state parks	21.5%	18.8%	20.1%	18.1%	15.4%	6.2%
Visit botanical or other public gardens	17.6%	16.4%	20.7%	16.8%	17.1%	11.3%
Go whale or dolphin watching	19.7%	10.8%	23.8%	21.9%	11.6%	12.3%
Visit farms	22.1%	15.9%	16.1%	18.5%	17.1%	10.3%
Bushwalking or rainforest walks	21.3%	18.6%	22.5%	16.9%	14.2%	6.5%
Visit wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums	18.1%	26.4%	24.2%	13.8%	12.6%	5.0%
All nature based visitors	25.7%	17.9%	18.5%	17.0%	14.5%	6.4%

'15 to 29 years' (25.7%) was the biggest age group of domestic overnight nature based visitors to NSW. '40 to 49 years' (18.5%) was the 2nd biggest age group, followed by '30 to 39 years' (17.9%).

Transport in NSW

'Private vehicle or company car' (80.1%) was the most common transport used to destinations in NSW by domestic overnight nature based visitors. 'Aircraft' (12.8%) was the 2nd most common, followed by 'railway' (3.7%).

Seasonality

Over 1/8 (15.6%) of domestic overnight nature based visitors to NSW returned from their trip in January. August (5.9%) had the lowest percentage of those who returned from their trip.

Over 1/5 (22.4%) of nights by domestic nature based visitors to NSW were spent by those who returned from their trip in January. August (4.5%) had the lowest percentage of nights by those who returned from a trip to the State.

Gender

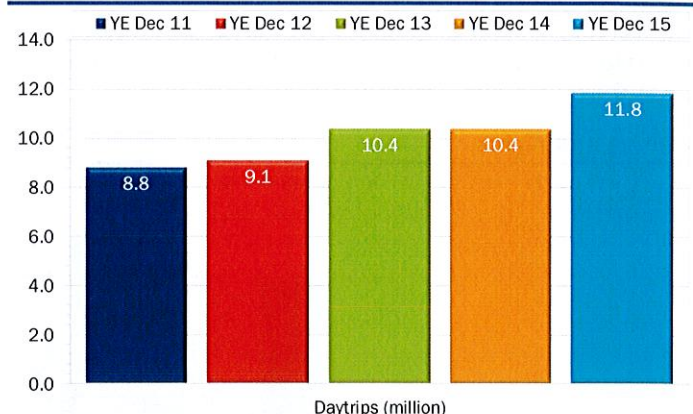
More domestic overnight nature based visitors to NSW were females (52.3%) than males (47.7%).

Type of nature based activity

Rank	Nature based activity	Visitors ('000)	%
1	Go to the beach	6,768	63.8%
2	Bushwalking or rainforest walks	3,005	28.3%
3	Visit national parks or state parks	2,695	25.4%
4	Visit botanical or other public gardens	1,217	11.5%
5	Visit wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums	573	5.4%
6	Visit farms	483	4.6%
7	Go whale or dolphin watching	156	1.5%

'Go to the beach' (63.8%) was the most popular nature based activity undertaken by domestic overnight visitors to NSW. 'Bushwalking or rainforest walks' (28.3%) was the 2nd most popular, followed by 'visit national parks or State parks' (25.4%).

Daytrips



NSW received over 11.8 million domestic daytrip nature based visitors - up by 14.1%* on YE Dec 14.

Market share - daytrips

Nature based day-trippers represented 21.4% of domestic daytrip visitors to NSW. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share was up by 1.0% pt.

The State received 29.9% of nature based daytrip travellers in Australia. Compared with YE Dec 14, the share was down by 0.7% pts.

Expenditure on daytrips

Domestic daytrip nature based visitors to NSW spent an estimated \$1.1 billion during their trip - down by 2.3% on YE Dec 14. On average, visitors spent \$94 per trip in NSW.

Type of nature based activity on daytrips

'Go to the beach' (54.1%) was the most popular nature based activity undertaken by domestic daytrip visitors to NSW. 'Visit national parks or State parks' (24.5%) was the 2nd most popular, followed by 'bushwalking or rainforest walks' (21.6%).

Gender

More domestic daytrip nature based visitors to NSW were males (53.2%) than females (46.8%).

Age groups

'15 to 29 years' (31.3%) was the biggest age group of domestic daytrip nature based visitors to NSW. '30 to 39 years' (20.1%) was the 2nd biggest age group, followed by '40 to 49 years' (16.5%).

Definition⁽⁶⁾ and further information

A nature based visitor participates in at least one of the following activities: bushwalking or rainforest walks; visit national parks or State parks; whale or dolphin watching; visit botanical or other public gardens; visit farms; go to the beach; visit wildlife parks, zoos or aquariums; and visit the outback (international visitors only). Note: a visitor may also participate in other activities.

⁽⁶⁾ This activity list has some variations from the definition used by Tourism Research Australia.

Please see www.destinationnsw.com.au for detailed profiles on travel to each of NSW's regions and information on domestic and international travel to the State

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⁽¹⁾ Source: International Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

⁽²⁾ Source: National Visitor Survey, YE Dec 15, TRA.

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Crown lands inquiry supporting documents from the Jervis Bay Regional Alliance
15th August 2016

1. Email response from Crown Lands to a GIS enquiry from Oisín Sweeney 6th July 2016 6
clid.helpdesk@crowmland.nsw.gov.au Jul

to me

Hi Oisín,

Thanks for sending back. This form has been sent on to Management, who have advised they're unable to approve this request as we are unable to provide the data you require.

Land and Property Information may have the data you require available for a fee either via their website –www.lpi.nsw.gov.au or contact their customer service number for assistance on 1300 052 637.

Regards,

CLID Helpdesk | Land Information & Systems Branch
NSW Department of Primary Industries – Lands
Level 2 | 437 Hunter Street | Newcastle | NSW 2300
T: 02 4920 5029 (Extn: 6029) | F: 02 4925 3461 | E: clid.helpdesk@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
W: www.crowmland.nsw.gov.au | www.dpi.nsw.gov.au | www.industry.nsw.gov.au

2. Submission from Save Collingwood Beach to Shoalhaven City Council's Coastal Zone Management Plan

Save Collingwood Beach

PO BOX 21
VINCENTIA 2540

Submission to Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan

7th August 2016

Dear Mr Pigg,

'Save Collingwood Beach' (SCB) is a group of organisations concerned about the well-being and resilience of Collingwood Beach on the shore of Vincentia, Jervis Bay. These include Jervis Bay Regional Alliance (JBRA), an environmental advocacy group covering the coast from Culburra Beach to Sussex Inlet and the catchments and ecosystems of Lake Wollumboola, Jervis Bay and St Georges Basin. The JBRA's charter includes advocacy for environmental, social and cultural heritage, as well as visual quality of the coast. Sound planning decisions at all levels of government are key areas of concern for our group. Also, Vincentia Matters, an organisation dedicated to research and advocacy for Vincentia residents and their local environs and BirdLife Shoalhaven, a local branch of the BirdLife Australia organisation.

SCB congratulates Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) for its intention to submit its draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) to the NSW government. It is our view that a statutory document guiding coastal planning is crucial for an area with outstanding natural values, yet a high degree of development pressure. However we do have significant concerns with the document.

The short timeframe provided by Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) for comment on the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) precludes extensive analysis of the CZMP. Although we understand that this is the second time the document has been on exhibition, we still believe the timeframe is too short and that more constructive feedback could have been provided given more time. We urge SCC to avoid a repeat situation where a plan that has been in draft form for some years requires urgent comment.

Given the lack of time, we will limit our submission to highlighting the proposed Collingwood Beach vegetation management plan as a current key issue that our group believes is contradictory to sound planning of the coastal zone, and indeed contradictory to the 'Shoalhaven "authorised locations" Collingwood Beach' planning document prepared by RoyalHaskoningDHV in 2013.

The Collingwood Beach vegetation plan, as we have previously stated, is not an example of planning, it is an example of reactionary governance to appease a minority of law breakers. It contradicts both SCCs Tree Management Policy and the Foreshore Reserves Policy and is in our view potentially inconsistent with the recent *Coastal Management Act* (e.g. Objective f(i)) the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. We make these points in the context of the CZMP to stress how difficult it has become for the community to have confidence that SCC is managing the local environment in accordance with plans and policy. We hope that a statutory CZMP will signal an end to this pattern, yet the CZMP strategy for Collingwood Beach—"preparation of a Plan of Management for Collingwood Beach Reserve, including selection and maintenance of coastal vegetation, where dune stability and amenity are considered to be the key functions of the vegetation, with biodiversity a less important value"—highlights that following a

poor plan may also be counterproductive to long-term environmental outcomes, and gives cause for concern that the CZMP has been compromised in its development.

Given SCC stands to benefit from NSW government funding to implement the CZMP, we hope that SCC will not see fit to spend any grants awarded on implementing a vegetation management plan that is not in the public interest.

The RoyalHaskoningDHV (RH) report states the following:

"A suite of strategies and actions were identified for Callala, Collingwood and Mollymook Beaches. These beaches are noted as particularly high risk beaches in the Shoalhaven which are now recognised by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) as potentially meeting the criteria for inclusion as Authorised Locations as per the 'Code of Practice under the Coastal Protection Act 1979'.

There are public assets and private properties at Callala, Collingwood and Mollymook beaches which are either at immediate risk or potentially threatened within the next 50 years and beyond. In the Draft CZMP community facilities at Callala and Mollymook Beaches and sewerage infrastructure at Collingwood and Mollymook Beaches are identified as being at risk. Existing seawalls at Mollymook are also at immediate threat. At the three beaches, 27 dwellings are assessed to be at immediate risk, increasing to over 150 dwellings within the next 50 years."

In this context, the planned vegetation management for Collingwood Beach exacerbates rather than reduces risk by removing tall vegetation from almost the entire stretch of beach that is most vulnerable (north of Susan Street). We know that lopping under the proposed plan will remove tall vegetation by killing it and destabilising the dune, because NGH Environmental, who wrote the initial plan, have stated so¹.

Coupled with the fact that the CZMP commits to 'biodiversity protection' and 'protection of the natural environment and coastal biodiversity', SCB asserts that **the proposed Plan of Management for Collingwood Beach Reserve, identified in the CZMP, should prioritise dune stability and biodiversity values above amenity values**. We see no reason that this particular stretch of Jervis Bay shoreline should be managed in a manner inconsistent with that of the rest of the bay.

Climate change and its effects should be the single greatest consideration in the CZMP. Since 2013 it has become ever clearer that climate change effects are accelerating and that projections have likely been conservative. In this context, coastal management should be undertaken with the principle of maximising resilience to climate change.

The NSW Government identifies the stabilising effects of foredune vegetation as very important in avoiding wind erosion, which in turn can help avoid the burying of human assets by blown sand². The taller vegetation also intercepts more wind-blown sand than lower vegetation which not only protects the built environment but is important to beach dynamics as this sand is supplied back to the beach via drifting and slumping. In light of this, the statement in the RH report that "SMEC (2011b) considered that the most important immediate management action required to reduce inundation hazards would be to raise the dune height through beach nourishment", highlights the inherent contradiction in removing vegetation which protects dunes and captures sand, only to spend ratepayers money in mechanical beach nourishment with associated environmental costs to Currembene Creek.

¹<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/4029363/consultants-reject-one-metre-dune-prune/>

²<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/coasts/coastal-dune-mngt-manual.pdf>

In fact, the risk of erosion via removing the dune vegetation was captured eloquently by Mayor Gash in 2013³ when she stated: "This disgusting and thoughtless act of vandalism could put properties at risk of storm erosion as has occurred in the past. It will also have ongoing negative effects on the local ecosystem and dune stability while seriously harming the area's natural beauty."

As far back as 2005, then Mayor Greg Watson stated⁴: "Particularly out along Collingwood Beach at Vincentia there was a lot of vandalism that took place there in terms of the foreshore vegetation. I guess people don't realise why we put it there to start with. The reason that we establish the plantings on the dune system there was to establish a foredune to, in fact, protect the houses."

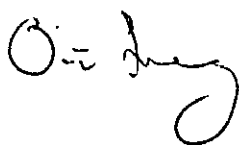
These statements are consistent with the RH report that identifies serious threats to the Zone of Reduced Foundational Capacity (ZRFC) that will potentially affect the stability of private property and public assets. In fact, 15 residential properties are currently located in the immediate coastal erosion risk area, 46 residences may be at risk in 2050, and 55 by 2100. This is in addition to public assets such as sewage works, water infrastructure, roads and the cycle path—estimated at a value of \$4.5 million by 2100.

Without having sufficient time to interrogate the studies in full, we support the sea level rise assumptions, and we urge that future planning should be science-based and use assumptions that are consistent across NSW.

Given SCC is aware, and has been for a long time, of the serious risks posed by erosion to public and private assets, **we urge SCC to implement a precautionary CZMP that priorities using natural dune vegetation structure to maximise dune stability to protect those public assets for which ratepayers are responsible.** Implementing the current proposal for dune vegetation on Collingwood Beach would both present an increased risk of erosion, while also impeding SCCs ability to effectively implement the CZMP more broadly by setting a precedent for increased vandalism of coastal vegetation throughout the Shoalhaven.

We also intend to forward this submission to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes, to draw his attention to the issue of Collingwood Beach in the context of SCC's CZMP. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CZMP, please get in touch if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Oisín Sweeney, Chair, Jervis Bay Regional Alliance

T: 0431 251 194

E: oisinatjb@gmail.com

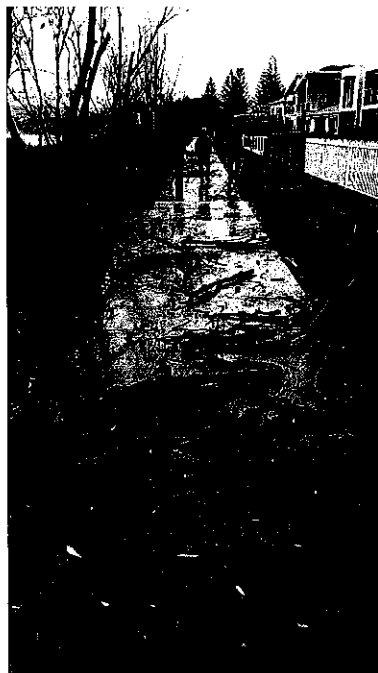
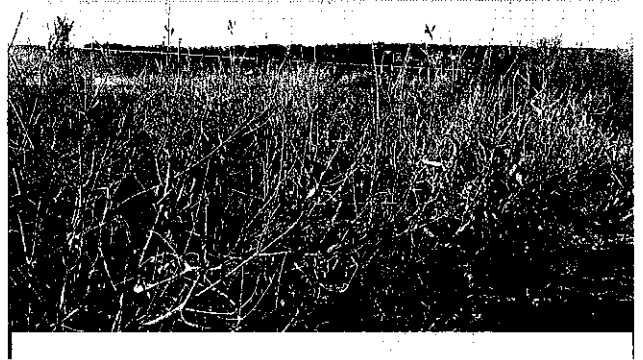
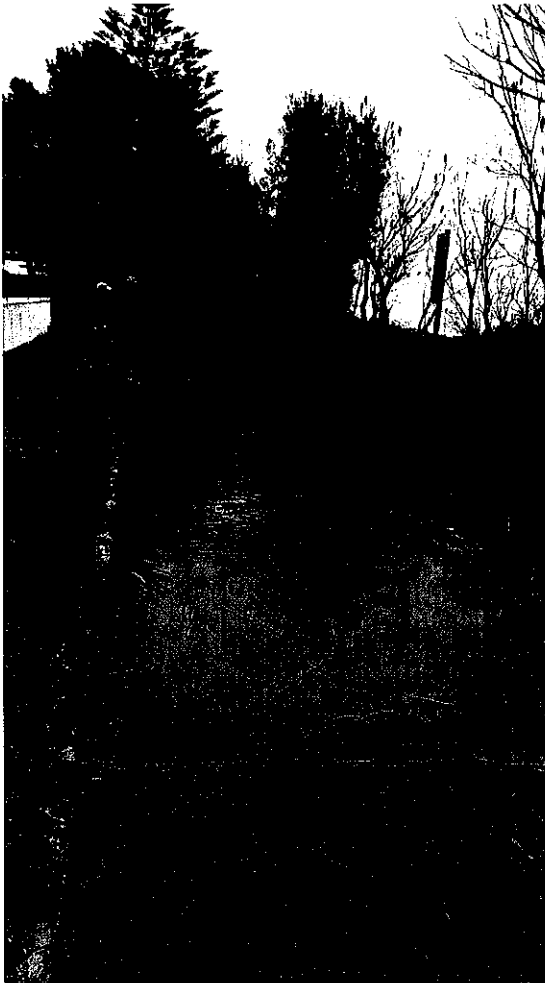
Mr Mark Corrigan, Vice President, Vincentia Matters T: 0417 058 012 E: mark.corrigan@live.com

Mr Rob Dunn, President, BirdLife Shoalhaven T: 0438 250 600 E: robarb@bigpond.com

³<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/1540627/novel-approach-to-deterring-beach-vegetation-vandalism/>

⁴<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2005-06-30/new-policy-to-address-environmental-vandalism/2048292>

3. Photos of storm damaged and poisoned vegetation along Collingwood Beach. Storm damage Monday 6th June, other shots Thursday 14th July 2016



4. Relevant sections from Shoalhaven City Council foreshore reserves policy:
<http://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/displaydoc.aspx?record=POL16/38>

3.3. Protection (buffer) zones

Healthy, intact foreshores are necessary for the protection of private property from extreme weather/climatic events as was seen in a number of locations including Mollymook and Collingwood Beach in 1974 and as is currently evident through natural processes at Culburra and Currarong.

Under storm wave attack the sand stored in our dune systems is transported offshore where it forms bars across which waves break, dissipating their energy before reaching the shoreline. Lack of a healthy store of sand in a dune system exacerbates erosion at the shoreline and increases the distance inland that waves can penetrate.

Foreshore reserves therefore play a critical role in protecting property from the threat of erosion from ocean storms, flooding following heavy rains and stream bank erosion along rivers and creeks. Many dune systems and foreshores have been weakened through development and vegetation clearing.

This policy aims to highlight the importance of these systems in storm-proofing urban areas. Recognition of the buffering capacity of foreshore reserves will facilitate responsible collaborative management of the Shoalhaven's foreshore reserve network to ensure the integrity of these protection zones is maintained to a high level. Given the scale of impacts on foreshores across the City, it is appropriate to raise public awareness of the important function of these areas through public education as discussed above.

Policy Statement: Shoalhaven City Council - Foreshore Reserves Policy Page 8 → Council shall further its collaborative management approach through appropriate public awareness-raising of the buffering (protective) role of foreshore reserves to ensure improved levels of protection for private property. → Council's preference is for approved remediation of foreshore buffer zones that have been maliciously damaged by an identified person(s) prior to the use of available legal provisions.

3.4. Vegetation removal

Healthy foreshore vegetation communities are central to the sustainability of foreshore reserves for current and future generations of Shoalhaven residents. The need for intact coastal/foreshore vegetation communities has been noted above in terms of the important role they play in protecting private property and public infrastructure.

The extrinsic value of foreshore vegetation for wind-breaks, bank stabilisation or shade is strongly recognised by the community. This policy also recognises the intrinsic value of foreshore vegetation for the protection it affords to wildlife – particularly native birds – and for its representation of original vegetation communities. These values have shaped Council policy in Estuary Management Plans and Plans of Management for public reserves.

Council is committed to combating the wilful destruction of vegetation on public land. Where there is irrefutable evidence of tree destruction by poisoning, cutting or other means, Council will take steps to raise awareness of the specific act of vandalism through regulatory/advisory signage. In addition, Council's Ranger Services will letter-box-drop the adjoining properties informing them of the important role of foreshore vegetation and Council's commitment to its protection, requesting information and advising of the penalties under the legislation. Attempts will also be made to raise

community awareness through the media to publicise the scale of the problem in some localities. It is recommended that signage convey a simple but effective message to residents. In the past, signs contained a variety of wording. It is appropriate to simplify and standardise this approach by simply signposting 'Tree Vandalism Site'. This step is recommended in view of growing concern as shown by a significant increase in the number of such incidents reported by the public. An example of the recommended sign is shown as Appendix Four.

In locations/areas where Council has identified ongoing and/or significant unauthorised removal of vegetation, Council will act to implement measure to identify the offenders to remediate/rehabilitate the damaged area. Council will also consider installation of signage or pursue other measures deemed appropriate. In such instances it is proposed to report the circumstances and extent of damage to appropriate Committees of Council for guidance and direction on action to be taken.

Fallen or cut timber in low use non-maintained natural foreshore areas will be made safe to ensure no risk to reserve users. Fallen timbers in natural foreshore areas shall be left in the location in which they fall or are placed if they impinge upon public use. Whether they fall into the water or on land, their role in the provision of habitat, shelter or food is recognised.

Policy Statement Shoalhaven City Council - Foreshore Reserves Policy Page 9 — Council will raise the community's awareness of the negative impacts of vegetation removal within foreshore reserves through media releases, regulatory/advisory signage and letter-box-drops of adjoining residences. — Fallen timbers in low use non-maintained natural foreshore areas shall be made safe by Council and remain on site to provide for habitat, shelter or food for dependant organisms. — Fallen timbers in high use maintained foreshore areas shall be removed in accordance with Council's maintenance schedule to minimise evident public risk. — Council's preference is for approved remediation where illegal removal or damage to foreshore vegetation has occurred by identified person(s) prior to the use of available legal provisions. — In locations/areas where Council has identified ongoing and/or significant unauthorised removal of vegetation, Council will act to implement measures to identify the offenders to remediate/rehabilitate the damaged area. Council will also consider installation of signage or pursue other measures deemed appropriate.

3.6. Views

The tension between healthy coastal/foreshore vegetation communities and views in foreshore areas is recognised. In recognising this issue, this policy aims to provide direction on the matter. Shoalhaven City Council - Foreshore Reserves Policy Page 10 Given that the majority of foreshore land is Crown land, Council recognises the state-wide constituency of interest. Given also local community input into natural resource management plans and the stated environmental commitments in Council's Community Strategic Plan and which reflect the broad environmental values of Shoalhaven residents, it is recognised that community opinion is in favour of protecting trees and other vegetation on public land.

As stated above, foreshore vegetation is critical to the stability of foreshore reserves and in turn, the safety of private property. For this reason, maintenance of well vegetated foreshores is paramount.

Where Council is required to revegetate foreshore lands following unauthorised removal of vegetation, such revegetation will aim, at a minimum, to restore the former quality of the Reserve — the status quo. Where Council is required to revegetate foreshore lands in response to erosion or other identified environmental threat, and where such action might remove views previously enjoyed by residents, it shall attempt to revegetate with a mix of tall and low growing plants with a

view to preservation of visual amenity for residents potentially affected. This will encourage community participation in planning for and planting of the foreshore reserve.

The retention of intact foreshore vegetation communities not only protects public and private assets, it also preserves a backdrop of native vegetation for beach-goers. This will confirm resident's expectations for their enjoyment of the Shoalhaven coastline as an area of significant and accessible natural beauty and will prevent beaches being overlooked or dominated by large foreshore developments.

Policy Statement — Where Council is required to revegetate foreshore lands following unauthorised removal of vegetation, such revegetation will be done in consultation with surrounding property owners with the aim to restore the status quo. — Where Council is required to revegetate foreshore lands in response to erosion or other identified environmental threat, it shall revegetate with a mix of tall and low growing plants with a view to preservation of amenity for residents.

5. Relevant sections from Shoalhaven City Council tree management policy – public land:
<http://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/displaydoc.aspx?record=POL14/58>

1.3. Application Assessment

In determining the request for the removal of trees to which this policy applies, SCC will first make an assessment of the tree and its circumstances. In assessing whether or not to approve the pruning or removal of a tree, SCC shall take into consideration a broad range of issues including human safety, protection of property and infrastructure, and environmental and amenity considerations (Table 1 below). In all instances human safety will be the highest priority.

Shoalhaven City Council – Tree Management Policy – Public Land Page 4 SCC will only consider tree works where there are reasonable grounds to do so and on a risk management basis (Table 1 below). SCC acknowledges that it is the nature of trees to shed leaves, bark, sticks, flowers, fruit and exudates as part of their normal life cycle. They may add to debris in private property and compete with lawns and gardens for nutrients and water. These issues will not normally constitute justification for tree removal.

Table 1 Reasonable grounds for tree works

Issue	Reasonable grounds for tree works	Considerations and alternatives
Human safety and residential property protection	The tree presents a clear and significant danger to humans and residential property. Refer to Section 4.4 for further details.	Pruning of the tree will be the first response considered. If human safety risks cannot be removed by pruning or if the tree cannot be managed in accordance with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373), then it should be completely removed.
Root-related issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growing on the surface of lawns in high pedestrian traffic areas and creating an obvious trip hazard. 2. Lifting and cracking water pipes or newly laid sewer pipes (less than 30 years old). 3. Lifting by more than 20 mm of footpaths or driveways in high pedestrian traffic areas. 4. Cracking of retaining walls or fences to such a degree that failure of wall or fence is imminent and poses a hazard to persons. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Top dressing around root to bring soil level up, selective root pruning, redirecting pedestrian traffic. 2. Relocating pipe away from tree, selective root pruning, root barrier. 3. Using mortar or other fill to smooth over lifted slab, selective root pruning, root barrier, relaying pavement in more flexible material such as wet pour rubber, loose gravel etc. 4. Replacing wall or fence with more appropriated structure, using pier and beam footings.
Bushfire	Property is 'bushfire prone land' as mapped in GIS Enquiry system, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree canopy is overhanging within five metres of a dwelling. • Tree is in the way of designated emergency access e.g. fire trail. 	Pruning of limbs so it does not overhang the dwelling should be considered in the first instance. Request for additional vegetation clearing works (e.g. under the Rural Fire Service's 10/50 vegetation clearing rules) for bushfire protection will be directed to Council's Bushfire Mitigation Officer for risk assessment. Generally, SCC

Issue	Reasonable grounds for tree works	Considerations and alternatives
		will only under works where the risk warrants such activity.
Traffic hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree results in a reduction of sight distance that is not in accordance with Austroads and RMS Guidelines. Tree is obstructing traffic signs, traffic lights or other signs essential to road safety. The tree has been assessed by SCC traffic officers as a safety hazard. 	Pruning of the tree will be the first option. If the traffic hazard cannot be removed by pruning or if the tree cannot be managed in accordance with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373), then it should be completely removed.
Infrastructure	The tree presents a clear and obvious danger to infrastructure, damage to which will result in an unacceptable disruption to communications, power, and water supplies.	Pruning of the tree will be the first option. If the hazard cannot be removed by pruning or if the tree cannot be managed in accordance with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373), then it should be completely removed.
Health	Allergy causing species that is affecting the health of an individual (specifically documented by dermatologist or other allergy specialist).	The tree(s) should be replaced with a species that does not create allergic reaction.
Shading of solar arrays / panels	<p>Where trees have grown to shade pre-existing photo-voltaic cells (solar cells).</p> <p>If the subject tree/s were existing prior to the installation of the solar panels, no action with regard to future shade concerns will be taken by SCC as solar issues should be considered prior to the solar panel installation.</p> <p><i>Note: the onus shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that the solar panels/arrays were present before the subject tree.</i></p>	<p>If the solar panels were installed before the establishment of the tree/s, SCC may consider remedial options like pruning.</p> <p>If the shading cannot be removed by pruning or if the tree cannot be managed in accordance with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373), SCC may consider removal.</p>

6. NGH Environmental consultants letter to Shoalhaven City Council. 2nd June 2016.
 - Attached
7. Advice from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage on the proposed Collingwood Beach works. 4th August 2016.
 - Attached

2 June 2016

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Dear Kelie,

RE – Draft Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan

Thank you for providing the resolutions adopted at the SCC meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2016. While we support the proposed variations i) and iii), we cannot support the second variation:

- ii) Zone 5 prune trees and tall shrubs to a height 1m-1.5m

The existing protocol specifies a minimum height of 1.5m. For trees and tall shrubs, we consider this already a very low height. At a lower height than this:

- The risk of tree mortality increases. Additional tree mortality is not desirable.

Furthermore, this could further reduce tree root penetration, resulting in less dune stability. In this case, the zone becomes more susceptible to extreme weather conditions that could result in adverse impacts to private and public assets as well as the ecological values of the reserve.

For these reasons we would like to remove our branding (Logo) from the modified report prior to public exhibition so it is clear that the suggest protocol (iii) is not at the suggestion of NGH Environmental.

We would like to further clarify that we consider the current plan to be very much a compromise in terms of accepting some level of risk to dune stability and sustaining ecological function, to ensure that views are maintained and therefore that the plan has local support. We do not recommend further changes that add to the existing level of risk.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Graham-Higgs
Managing Director

Ph 0427 260 819

NGH Environmental

From: John Bucinkas <John.Bucinkas@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2016 5:41 PM
To: Kelie Lowe; Isabelle Ghetti
Cc: Aimee Beardsmore; Daniel Wiecek
Subject: Collingwood Beach comments

Hi Kelie / Isabelle

My apologies for delay in getting our advice back to you on Collingwood beach as we have had staff off on unexpected leave this week.

In regards to the proposed dune vegetation works at Collingwood Beach to promote private views, OEH makes the following broad comments to assist in immediate considerations consistent with matters previously discussed with OEH staff. It should be noted that OEH would like to reserve our right to make more detailed comments on a revised REF once final details are supplied.

- OEH is generally not supportive of the proposed dune vegetation clearing works and believes the works would be in contradiction of the objectives of the New Coastal Management Bill 2016 and coastal reforms including the draft Coastal Management Manual & toolkit including the Coastal Dune Management Manual (2001).
- OEH's position on clearing dune vegetation for views is clearly demonstrated in our Coastal and Estuary Grants Program - Application Guidelines 2016-17 (page 8), which state that 'vegetation reduction for amenity outcomes' will not be funded - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/coasts/coastal-estuary-grant-program-guidelines-160394.pdf>
- Clearing/pruning of dune vegetation works as proposed would likely increase the risk of both coastal erosion and coastal inundation from overtopping, thereby exposing private properties to greater risk from these hazards.
- Pruning of mature vegetation to low heights, as proposed, could lead to death of these plants, resulting in further issues for council such as dune instability, blowouts and the need to stabilise these areas through costly works.
- The proposed dune clearing works at Collingwood are likely to set a precedent for similar works to be undertaken at other localities in the LGA. This could create unsustainable expectations upon Council.
- Council may need to consider seeking legal advice to understand if dune clearing creates any future liability or exposure to council, particularly following any future storm event.

I trust this helps but as always feel free to call us if you require anything further

Regards

John Bucinkas
A / Senior Team Leader, Water Floodplains & Coast
Illawarra & SE Regions
Regional Operations Group (South Branch)

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