

---

<b>C9.2</b>	<b>Minutes of the Pittwater Traffic Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2014</b>
-------------	--

**Meeting:** Connecting Communities Committee

**Date:** 3 March 2014

---

**STRATEGY:** Traffic and Transport

**ACTION:** Provide planning, design, investigation and management of traffic and transport facilities.

---

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to Council for consideration the Traffic Committee Minutes of 11 February 2014.

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Traffic Committee recommendations for the Traffic Committee of 11 February 2014 (refer **Attachment 1**) are referred to Council for consideration. In accordance with the delegation of the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) of NSW to Council, Council must consider the advice of the Traffic Committee before making a decision with respect to the management of traffic in Pittwater.

**2.0 ISSUES**

**2.1 Item 4.1: Elimatta Road/Hill Street, Mona Vale - Proposed Traffic Island**

Provision of a concrete median island at the Elimatta Road/Hill Street intersection to slow approaching vehicle speeds and prevent vehicles from cutting the corner when travelling through the intersection. - **Supported**

**2.2 Item 4.2: Vineyard Street, Mona Vale - Proposed 'No Stopping' Restrictions**

Proposed restrictions to ensure two clear traffic lanes and sight distances on the approach to the crest in Vineyard Street. **The Traffic Committee decision supported the proposal including a recommendation to install double separation lines to delineate the centreline of the road near the crest.**

**2.3 Item 4.3: Hansford Parade/Lower Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed 'Give Way' Controls and 'No Stopping' Restrictions**

Proposed measures to reinforce existing traffic priorities and improve traffic sight distances at the intersection. - **Supported**

**2.4 Item 4.4: Kalinya Street, Newport - 2 Hour Parking Restrictions**

Provision of timed parking restrictions outside Dearin Reserve to improve the availability of on street parking. **The Traffic Committee decision supported a proposal to amend the unrestricted parking on the western side of Kalinya Street between Queens Parade and Gladstone Street to 2 hour parking restrictions (8.30am-6pm) and to provide 'No Stopping' signs for the statutory 10m restrictions.**

**2.5 Item 4.5: Eungai Place/Tatiara Crescent, North Narrabeen - Proposed 'Give Way' Controls and Double Separation Lines**

Proposed measures to ensure clear traffic sight distance along the bend and clarify traffic priorities at the intersection. - **Supported**

**2.6 Item 4.6: Gladstone Street, Newport - Proposed Bus Zones**

Provision of Bus Zones to facilitate accessibility and improve safety at bus stop locations identified by the State Transit Authority – **Supported**

- 2.7 **Item 4.7: Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed Traffic Islands**  
Provision of mountable concrete median islands at the intersections of Plateau Road and The Outlook (eastern end), Plateau Road and Laguna Road, and Plateau Road, and The Outlook (western end), to prevent vehicles from cutting corners and to slow traffic by narrowing the approach width to the intersections. - **Supported**
- 2.8 **Item 4.8: Avalon Tattoo - Saturday 14 June 2014**  
Street closures to allow the Avalon Tattoo to proceed. - **Supported**
- 2.9 **Item 4.9: Road Safety Report July 2013 to December 2013 - Noted**
- 2.10 **Item 4.10: Pittwater Road, Bayview - Proposed Changes to Bayview Baths Carpark**  
Proposed measures including installation of signage and linemarking to improve safety and traffic circulation for users of the Carpark. - **Supported**
- 

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

A sustainability assessment is not required for Minutes of Meetings.

---

### **4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 4.1 To present to Council the recommendations of the Traffic Committee contained in the minutes of the meeting of 11 February 2014 for Council's consideration.
- 

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Meeting of 11 February 2014 be adopted.

Report prepared by  
Ricky Kwok - Civil Design & Traffic Engineer - Strategy, Investigation and Design

Mark Shaw  
**MANAGER, URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

# **Minutes**

## **Pittwater Traffic Committee Meeting**

Held in the Level 3 Large conference room, Vuko Place,  
Warriewood on

### **11 February 2014**

Commencing at 1.09pm for the purpose of considering the items  
included in the Agenda

Councillors are invited to attend the Traffic Committee Meeting.

Please advise if you are attending by contacting Mr Paul Davies on 9970 1177.

**Voting Members of the Committee are invited to attend, namely:**

Chairperson, Cr Susan Young

Representative on behalf of Member for Pittwater, Ms Jill Dubois

Roads and Maritime Services, Ms Nazli Doraji Sabi

Roads and Maritime Services, Mr John Begley

Traffic Sergeant, NSW Police (Northern Beaches) – Mr Nino Jelovic

**And Non Voting Representatives from Bus Providers including State Transit Authority**

State Transit Authority – Mr Wade Mitford

**Council Staff:**

Manager, Urban Infrastructure, Mark Shaw

Principal Engineer, Strategy Investigation and Design, Paul Davies

Civil Design & Traffic Engineer, Ricky Kwok

Road Safety Officer, Michelle Carter

Administration Officer / Minute Secretary, Sherryn McPherson

All Pittwater Council's Agenda and Minutes are available on Pittwater's website at  
[www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au)



# PITTWATER TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item No	Item	Page No
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Committee Business</b>	<b>6</b>
TC4.1	Elimatta Road/Hill Street, Mona Vale - Proposed Traffic Islands	7
TC4.2	Vineyard Street, Mona Vale - Proposed 'No Stopping' Restrictions	7
TC4.3	Hansford Parade/Lower Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed 'Give Way' Controls and 'No Stopping Restrictions	7
TC4.4	Kalinya Street, Newport - 2 Hour Parking Restrictions	8
TC4.5	Eungai Place/Tatiara Crescent, North Narrabeen - Proposed Give Way Controls and Double Separation Lines	8
TC4.6	Gladstone Street, Newport - Proposed Bus Zones	8
TC4.7	Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed Traffic Islands	9
TC4.8	Avalon Tattoo - Saturday 14 June 2014	9
TC4.9	Road Safety Report July 2013 to December 2013	9
TC4.10	Bayview Baths Carpark, Bayview - Proposed Changes to Carpark	9
<b>5.0</b>	<b>General Business</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>10</b>

---

## **1.0 Apologies**

That apologies be received and accepted from Mr David Maitland, Forest Coach Lines and a leave of absence be granted from the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2014.

---

## **2.0 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

Mr Wade Mitford, State declared a Less than Significant Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest in Item TC4.1 - Elimatta Road/Hill Street, Mona Vale - Proposed Traffic Islands. The reason provided by Mr Mitford was:

*"I live in Elimatta Road"*

Mr Mitford remained in the meeting during discussion. The reason provided by Mr Mitford was:

*"I am not a voting member of the Traffic Committee"*

---

## **3.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **COMMITTEE DECISION**

That the Minutes of the Traffic Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2013, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Ms Nazli Doraji Sabi / Cr Young)

---

## **4.0 Committee Business**

---

---

<b>TC4.1</b>	<b>Elimatta Road/Hill Street, Mona Vale - Proposed Traffic Islands</b>
--------------	--

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the provision of a concrete median island at the Elimatta Road/Hill Street intersection to improve traffic safety at this location (shown on Council Plan No.1-TC-2014).

(Sgt Nino Jelovic / Ms Jill Dubois)

**Note:**

The Chairperson tabled an email on behalf of Mona Vale Residents Association whom commended the Traffic Committee for considering and improving the traffic conditions in this area.

---

<b>TC4.2</b>	<b>Vineyard Street, Mona Vale - Proposed 'No Stopping' Restrictions</b>
--------------	---

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the proposed measures to improve safety on the crest in Vineyard Street (shown on Council Plan No.2-TC-2014).

1. Install 'No Stopping' restrictions between the driveways of No.59 and 65.
2. Extend the statutory 10m 'No Stopping' restrictions on the eastern side of the Brinawa Street intersection to 20m.
3. Sign post the statutory 10m 'No Stopping' restrictions on the western side of the Brinawa Street intersection.
4. That the adjacent residents be notified of the proposed changes prior to the Traffic Committee recommendation being considered by Council.
5. That appropriate double separation lines be installed to indicate the road centreline at the crest with no further loss of parking.

(Mr John Begley / Ms Jill Dubois)

---

<b>TC4.3</b>	<b>Hansford Parade/Lower Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed 'Give Way' Controls and 'No Stopping' Restrictions</b>
--------------	--

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the request from local residents to improve traffic safety at the Hansford Parade/Lower Plateau Road intersection by the following measures (shown on Council Plan No.3-TC-2014).

1. Extend the statutory 10m 'No Stopping' restrictions in Lower Plateau Road to 20m, north of Hansford Parade.
2. Sign post the statutory 10m 'No Stopping' restrictions on the northern side of Hansford Parade.
3. Provide a 'Give Way' sign and holding line in Hansford Parade.
4. That the adjacent residents be notified of the proposed changes prior to the Traffic Committee recommendation being considered by Council.

(Ms Nazli Doraji Sabi / Sgt Nino Jelovic)

---

#### **TC4.4 Kalinya Street, Newport - 2 Hour Parking Restrictions**

##### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the following proposals in Kalinya Street (western side), between Queens Parade and Gladstone Street, to improve the availability of on street parking for users of Dearin Reserve as well as bus stop accessibility (shown on Council Plan No.4-TC-2014).

1. Provide 2 hour parking restrictions (8.30am-6pm).
2. Provide a 32m Bus Zone and relocate the existing bus stop 8m south of its current location.
3. Provide 'No Stopping' signs for the statutory 10m restrictions from the intersections at Queens Parade and Gladstone Street.
4. That the adjacent residents be notified of the proposed changes prior to the Traffic Committee recommendation being considered by Council.

(Mr John Begley / Cr Young)

---

#### **TC4.5 Eungai Place/Tatiara Crescent, North Narrabeen – Proposed Give Way Controls and Double Separation Lines**

##### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the request from local residents to improve traffic safety at the Eungai Place/Tatiara Crescent intersection by the following measures (shown on Council Plan No.6-TC-2014).

1. Install 20m of double separation lines on each approach to the Eungai Place/Tatiara Crescent intersection.
2. Provide a 'Give Way' sign and holding line in Eungai Place.
3. That the adjacent residents be notified of the proposed changes prior to the Traffic Committee recommendation being considered by Council.

(Ms Jill Dubois / Ms Nazli Doraji Sabi)

---

#### **TC4.6 Gladstone Street, Newport - Proposed Bus Zones**

##### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the following changes to parking restrictions at the requested bus stop locations to facilitate bus stop accessibility and improve safety (shown on Council Plan No.5-TC-2014):

1. Install Bus Zone signs between the driveways of No.21 and 27 Gladstone Street (Bus Stop No. 210634)
2. Install statutory 20m 'No Stopping' restrictions in Gladstone Street east of the marked pedestrian crossing near King Street followed by a 28m Bus Zone (Bus Stop No. 210635).
3. Install a 45m Bus Zone east of the existing 'No Stopping' sign located near the intersection with Woolcott Street, Newport (Bus Stop No. 210631).
4. Extend the existing Bus Zone in Gladstone Street near Barrenjoey Road by 16m (Bus Stop No. 210632).
5. That the adjacent residents be notified of the proposed changes prior to the Traffic Committee recommendation being considered by Council.

(Mr John Begley / Ms Jill Dubois)

---

**TC4.7 Plateau Road, Bilgola Plateau - Proposed Traffic Islands****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the proposed measures to improve traffic safety at the following intersections (shown on Council Plan No.7-TC-2014, 8-TC-2014, and 9-TC-2014)

1. Provide a concrete median island at the Plateau Road/The Outlook intersection (eastern end).
2. Provide a concrete median island at the Plateau Road/Laguna Road intersection.
3. Provide a concrete median island at the Plateau Road/The Outlook intersection (western end).
4. Provide a 'Give Way' sign and holding line at the Plateau Road/The Outlook intersection (western end).

(Sgt Nino Jelovic / Cr Young)

---

**TC4.8 Avalon Tattoo - Saturday 14 June 2014****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee, to enable the proposed Avalon Tattoo March to be held on Saturday 14 June 2014, supports the temporary closure of Old Barrenjoey Road (Dress Circle Road to Barrenjoey Road), Avalon Parade (Bellevue Avenue to Barrenjoey Road) and Bowling Green Lane (at Dunbar Park) on that day. Small changes to the timing of the march proposed prior to the day of the event may be granted by Council administratively following appropriate consideration.

(Cr Young / Sgt Nino Jelovic)

---

**TC4.9 Road Safety Report July 2013 to December 2013****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee note the update on this item.

(Cr Young / John Begley)

---

**TC4.10 Bayview Baths Carpark, Bayview - Proposed Changes to Carpark****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the Traffic Committee supports the proposed measures to the Bayview Baths Carpark to improve safety and traffic circulation for users:

1. Sign post and install pavement directional arrows at the entrance and exit of the Carpark (western end).
2. Close eastern access to Carpark and install bollards.
3. Change existing traffic flow to circulate clockwise and install new pavement directional arrows.
4. Remove any redundant pavement directional arrows.

(Ms Nazli Doraji Sabi / Mr John Begley)

---

## **5.0 General Business**

### **Note:**

With the leave of the Chair, the following residents addressed the Traffic Committee:

- Mr Shane Withington - McCarrs Creek Road
- Mr Phillip Walker - Mona Vale Road Hill, and
- Mr Ross Smith - 1731 Pittwater Road, Mona Vale

No further discussion or recommendations were formulated on these items as they were not matters for the Traffic Committee's consideration.

---

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

That the next meeting of the Traffic Committee Meeting will be held on 13 May 2014 in the Level 3 Conference Room, 5 Vuko Place, Warriewood commencing at 1.00pm.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2.57PM ON TUESDAY  
11 FEBRUARY 2014**

---

## **Natural Environment Committee**

---

### **10.0      Natural Environment Committee Business**

---

---

<b>C10.1</b>	<b>Submission on Draft Planning Circular - Coastal Hazard Notations on Section 149 Planning Certificates</b>
--------------	--

---

**Meeting:** Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 3 March 2014

---

**STRATEGY:** Beach & Coastal Management  
Risk Management Co-ordination  
Sustainability & Climate Change Co-ordination  
Land Use and Development

**ACTION:** Provide planning, design, investigation and management of beaches, coastline and estuaries.  
Ongoing compliance with Council's statutory obligations and to properly discharge Council's common law duty of care to the community when managing risks.  
Co-ordinate review of LEP/DCP to include sustainability and climate change initiatives and provisions.  
Respond to reforms in Planning process and advocate on behalf of Council.

---

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present for the consideration and endorsement of Council a submission in response to the draft planning circular dealing with coastal hazard notations on Section 149 planning certificates.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Amongst other matters announced in September 2012 as a part of the Stage 1 Coastal Management Reforms, the NSW Government sought to improve the way councils disclose coastal hazard information on planning certificates, particularly in regard to hazards that may be exacerbated by climate change over time.
- 1.2 The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) has recently released a draft planning circular (**Attachment 1**) on the disclosure of coastal hazard information on planning certificates issued under Section 149 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- 1.3 For the purposes of the draft planning circular, coastal hazards include coastal erosion, tidal inundation, coastal inundation and coastal flooding. A media release (**Attachment 2**) and Frequently Asked Questions document (**Attachment 3**) has also been provided to assist councils with their submissions. The closing date for submissions is 3 March 2014.
- 1.4 Where councils wish to formally consider and endorse their submissions but meeting cycles conflict with the submission date, DoPI has agreed to accept submissions after the closing date. DoPI staff have been advised that Pittwater Council will lodge its submission after the closing date.
- 1.5 Under s149 of the *EP&A Act*, councils issue planning certificates in respect of a given parcel of land. Certain information prescribed by regulations to the Act must be included on planning certificates under s149(2) but councils may include additional advice on other relevant matters regarding the land under s149(5). Restrictions on development cannot be listed on s149(5) certificates.



- 1.6 If a council has a policy that restricts the development of land based on identified risks or if a council applies flood related development controls to the land these matters must be disclosed by way of a s149(2) notation.
- 1.7 The draft Planning Circular is emphatic in the need for councils to ensure, that in providing information on planning certificates, a clear distinction is made between coastal hazards that currently affect the land and those that are projected to affect the land in the future as a result of climate change and sea level rise.
- 1.8 A current exposure to a coastal hazard is defined as where the land is presently threatened by a hazard such as coastal erosion or where there is a likelihood that a hazard will occur during a probable event such as a 1 in 100 year flood.
- 1.9 A future exposure to a coastal hazard is defined as where a hazard may arise in the future but the land is not currently at risk from the hazard, for example shoreline recession or coastal flooding and inundation due to projected sea level rise.
- 1.10 An equally important requirement of the draft Planning Circular is the need to base the information disclosed about current and future hazards on locally relevant evidence based data and information.
- 1.11 Councils should not provide information under s149(5) on planning certificates if the information is not sufficiently accurate, complete and reliable, as supported by a competent process of assessment.
- 1.12 If a council has sufficiently accurate, complete and reliable information, then the information may be provided by way of s149(5), but the Council should proceed to adopt a policy or development controls that manage development on the land and disclose these matters by way of an s149(2) planning certificate.

## **2.0 ISSUES**

- 2.1 Whilst Pittwater Council's existing disclosures under s149 do not distinguish between current and future exposure to coastal hazards, in most cases these notations could be readily amended to comply with the draft Planning Circular if adequate clarification and direction is provided by the state government.
- 2.2 The need to base s149 disclosures on locally relevant evidence based information will be far more problematic for Council in the short-term.
- 2.3 Like the majority of NSW coastal councils and on the basis of legal advice provided by its insurer, Pittwater Council continues to utilise the sea level rise planning benchmarks contained in the now repealed NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (2009).
- 2.4 Due to what it considers to be significant uncertainty inherent in the longer term projections for sea level rise as well as the potential for regional variations in sea level, the NSW Government does not consider it appropriate to recommend a common set of state-wide, sea level rise planning benchmarks.
- 2.5 Following the withdrawal of the Benchmarks by the state government in September 2012, coastal councils were promised support by way of technical advice and current climate research in order to source locally relevant information on historical and projected sea level rise to better determine exposure to future hazards.
- 2.6 Despite claims that councils can obtain relevant research and technical advice from the recently created Climate Change Adaptation Research Hub, there is currently no practical means by which councils may engage with the Hub or obtain the relevant data.
- 2.7 As a consequence, Council will continue to rely on coastal and flood hazard assessments (already completed or in preparation) that utilise the now repealed Sea Level Rise Benchmarks in order to disclose information on exposure to future coastal hazards.

- 2.8 The clear distinction between current and future hazards when listed on planning certificates should be supported by councils as it has the potential to ensure that property buyers in particular get accurate, complete and reliable information.
  - 2.9 Much will depend upon the ability of councils to accurately defined the exposures to coastal hazards based upon reliable and evidence-based locally relevant data.
  - 2.10 Unfortunately the technical support from state agencies and advice from the Coastal Expert Panel to assist councils to examine coastal hazards and develop ways to minimise present and future hazard risks is yet to be made available by the state government as deliberations continue over the Stage 2 Coastal Reforms.
  - 2.11 As an example of the unco-ordinated release of important information, a draft guide to mapping of open coast hazards was to be prepared and released as part of the Stage 1 Coastal Reforms.
  - 2.12 The Guide aimed to provide local councils and consultants with information on current approaches to mapping the extent of coastal hazards along the NSW open coast. Unfortunately the state government has decided to hold over the draft Guide until completion of the Stage 2 Coastal Reform review.
  - 2.13 The piecemeal release of important guidance can only add to uncertainty for local government, particularly when there appears to be little co-ordination in the development of relevant information and advice between the relevant state agencies.
  - 2.14 A submission in response to the draft Planning Circular including general comments and issues of specific concern to Pittwater Council is in the process of being prepared and will be circulated separately at the Natural Environment Committee meeting.
- 

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Supporting & Connecting our Community (Social)**

Communication of the risks associated with natural coastal hazards, particularly those hazards likely to be exacerbated by sea level rise, can raise community awareness thereby reducing the potential risk to life and property and increasing the overall resilience of our coastal communities. Planning certificates are a means of disclosing information about hazards that may affect a given parcel of land.

#### **3.2 Valuing & Caring for our Natural Environment (Environmental)**

Evaluating and accommodating projected climate change in coastal planning and management strategies can help to reduce potentially devastating impacts upon inter-tidal ecosystems, groundwater dependent ecosystems, wetlands, riparian corridors, water quality and foreshore erosion. Appropriate planning provisions for coastal hazards and the disclosure of accurate information about the potential exposure of lands to those impacts can result in better development outcomes for affected communities.

#### **3.3 Enhancing our Working & Learning (Economic)**

By ensuring that adequate planning provisions are in place to address the risks associated with natural hazards, especially those likely to be exacerbated by climate change, governments can reduce uncertainty surrounding the development potential of affected properties and thereby increase opportunities for development investment.

### 3.4 **Leading an Effective & Collaborative Council (Governance)**

In preparing policies and development controls to accommodate changing future risks associated with sea level rise impacts, Council will need to be mindful of its duty of care in appropriately managing risks to life and property in order to gain indemnity under the provisions of section 733 of the *Local Government Act 1979*.

### 3.5 **Integrating our Built Environment (Infrastructure)**

Council will need to determine appropriate strategies to manage current and future risks associated with natural coastal hazards to enable development to proceed on affected lands whilst it remains reasonable and feasible to do so.

---

## 4.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has released a draft Planning Circular dealing with disclosures on s149 planning certificates in respect of coastal hazards including coastal erosion and coastal flooding.
- 4.2 Where a relevant coastal hazard policy of Council or flood related development controls affect the land, a disclosure must be made under s149(2) of the *EP&A Act* that clearly identifies the type of hazard and whether the land has a current or future exposure to the hazard.
- 4.3 The draft Planning Circular also highlights the need to assess current and future hazard exposures disclosed on planning certificates against reliable and evidence based data and information at a local scale.
- 4.4 Council has utilised the now repealed NSW Sea Level Rise Planning Benchmarks in the identification and assessment of coastal hazards and will rely on these studies to inform hazard policies and development controls in the short to mid-term. As a consequence, Council will look to the state government to now provide the support and advice necessary to undertake locally relevant coastal hazard and risk management studies as the Stage 2 Coastal Reform agenda is completed.
- 4.5 A submission in response to the draft Planning Circular is being prepared for the consideration of Council and will be circulated separately at the Natural Environment Committee meeting.

---

## RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the draft Planning Circular, the Supporting Frequently Asked Questions document and the press release be noted.
- 2. That the submission in response to the Draft Planning Circular – Coastal Hazard Notations on Section 149 Planning Certificates be endorsed and lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.
- 3. That copies of Council's submission be provided to the Member for Pittwater and the Coastal Expert Panel.

Report prepared by  
Paul Hardie – Principal Officer Coast & Estuary

Jennifer Pang  
**MANAGER, CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE**



## PLANNING circular

### PLANNING SYSTEM

Coastal hazard notations

<b>Circular</b>	Draft for exhibition
<b>Issued</b>	Draft for exhibition
<b>Related</b>	.

# Coastal hazard notations on Section 149 planning certificates

The purpose of this draft circular is to provide councils with guidance on section 149 planning certificate notations relating to coastal hazards.

## Introduction

The NSW Government has identified a need to improve the way councils disclose coastal hazard information in planning certificates. References to coastal hazards in this circular include coastal erosion, tidal inundation, coastal inundation and coastal flooding.

## Section 149 planning certificates

Planning certificates are a means of disclosing information about a given parcel of land. There are two types of planning certificates: section 149(2) planning certificates and section 149(5) planning certificates. The 'sections' refer to sections of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

A section 149(2) planning certificate is used to disclose matters relating to the land, including whether the land is affected by a policy that restricts the development of land. Those policies can be based on identified risks (EP&A Regulation 2000, Schedule 4, clause 7), and whether development on the land is subject to flood related development controls (EP&A Regulation, Schedule 4, clause 7A).

A section 149(5) planning certificate does not contain information relating to restrictions on development, however, it does allow a council to advise on other relevant matters affecting land. This can include historical, current or future issues.

Inclusion of a section 149(2) planning certificate in a contract for the sale of land is a mandatory part of the property conveyancing process in NSW. Section 149(5) planning certificates do not form part of the contract for the sale of land.

Section 149(2) and section 149(5) planning certificates may, however, be purchased by anyone, from the relevant council, at any point in time and for any purpose.

## Identification of coastal hazards

The NSW coast is dynamic and complex. To understand and plan for coastal hazards, it is necessary to identify two key variables – long term mobility in the shoreline, such as shoreline recession, and the vulnerability of the shoreline to episodic events, such as beach erosion during a severe storm.

Information about the local land characteristics (such as its geomorphology) and the probability and consequence of storms, floods and similar events, can help identify the land and assets at risk. Such land is generally identified relative to the current position of the shoreline. If however the position of the shoreline changes, then the land and assets at risk will also change.

This means that coastal land may have a current exposure to a coastal hazard and/or a future exposure to a coastal hazard.

While these factors are taken into account when planning future land use, care needs to be taken when communicating that information.

In providing information on planning certificates it is important to clearly distinguish between:

- a current exposure to a coastal hazard; and
- a future exposure to a coastal hazard.

In the absence of such a distinction being made, the reader of a planning certificate may incorrectly interpret reference to future exposure as being an exposure that currently affects the land.

**‘Current exposure to a coastal hazard’** describes situations where the land is currently at threat from a hazard. The hazard (e.g. coastal erosion) may or may not be present on the land, but the land is nonetheless currently exposed to the likelihood of that hazard expressing itself during a possible event (e.g. a storm). For example, land within an immediate coastal erosion area (based on a design event or a particular historic event) or land within a 1% annual exceedance probability flood area (1 in 100 year flood) would be land with a ‘current exposure to a coastal hazard’.

**‘Future exposure to a coastal hazard’** refers to situations where the land’s exposure to the hazard will arise in the future, but the land is not at risk from the hazard today. Examples include land likely to be exposed to coastal erosion, flooding or inundation from projected sea level rise or as the result of long-term shoreline recession.

‘Future exposure to a coastal hazard’ is different to the probability of an event occurring. The probability of an event occurring, such as a 1 in 100 year flood, does not mean that the event will occur 100 years in the future. It means there is a 1% chance of it occurring this year. That is, the flooding event could occur today, next year, or in 50 years. If a property is exposed to the 1 in 100 year flood hazard today, then this is a ‘current exposure to a coastal hazard’. If a property is projected to be exposed to a 1 in 100 year flood hazard if sea levels rise to a certain point in the future, then this is a ‘future exposure to a coastal hazard’.

## Section 149(2) planning certificates

Where a relevant policy does affect the land and the policy relates to a coastal hazard, then notations should:

- clearly identify the type of hazard, and
- identify whether the land has a current or future exposure to the hazard.

### Current exposure to a coastal hazard

If a relevant policy applies to the land because of a current exposure to a coastal hazard, it is recommended that councils include a notation on the planning certificate in the following form:

‘This land has been identified in the [insert Council Policy] as having a current exposure to [insert type of hazard]. See Council for more information.’

### Future exposure to a coastal hazard

If a relevant policy applies to the land because of a future exposure to a coastal hazard, it is recommended that councils include a notation on the planning certificate in the following form:

‘This land has been identified in the [insert Council Policy] as having a projected future

exposure to [insert type of coastal hazard]. See Council for more information.’

## Section 149(5) planning certificates

Councils need to take reasonable care, in terms of content and timing, when disclosing information about current and future coastal hazards to the community.

Whilst the following principles are equally relevant to current and future hazards, the discussion focuses on future hazards to enhance clarity and understanding.

There are complexities in coastal processes and inherent limitations in the tools used for future coastal hazard analysis. The result is that the further into the future we seek to predict an outcome, the more uncertainty that is associated with the prediction.

Counter-balancing the need to disclose information as soon as possible is the need to avoid adverse property market and other impacts by the disclosure of information prematurely, or by disclosing information that lacks the necessary rigour and certainty.

This leads to three guiding principles when considering section 149(5) planning certificate contents dealing with land that may have an exposure to future coastal hazards:

- Firstly, if the information is not sufficiently accurate, complete and reliable, as supported by a competent process of assessment, then the information should not be included in a section 149(5) planning certificate.
- Secondly, if the information is considered to be sufficiently reliable then information should be included that alerts the reader to the known information.
- Thirdly, if the information is sufficiently reliable, then the council should adopt a policy or planning instrument that manages development on the land. This would then require disclosure of the policy on the section 149(2) planning certificate.

The section 149(5) planning certificate provides the opportunity for the council to advise of a known hazard during the time between the Council coming into sufficiently reliable knowledge regarding the existence and extent of that hazard and the council having the opportunity to develop and implement a policy or planning instrument to manage that hazard.

Care should be taken because disclosure of matters affecting land via a section 149(5) planning certificate relates to a particular parcel of land, and is intended for parties with a specific interest in that land. Councils should be aware of the indemnity from liability afforded them by the EP&A Act if they provide advice in ‘good faith’.

Councils intending to provide the community with ongoing and general advice about research and

analysis relating to coastal hazards should consider disseminating that information via the council website.

### Coastal Hazards Policy Development

In order to facilitate a consistent approach to section 149 certificates for coastal hazards, it is essential for councils when developing a policy or planning instrument to manage a coastal hazard, particularly future exposure to a coastal hazard, to satisfy the following:

1. Use evidence based data and information
2. Consider current research and any technical advice from the Climate Change Adaptation Research Hub
3. Compliance with the relevant section 117 Direction

**Note:** A section 117 Direction will be issued to ensure compliance with an evidence-based approach and consistency in application of coastal hazard certificates along the coast by councils.

### Further Information

Relevant legislation is available online at <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

For further information please contact the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's information centre on 1300 305 695.

Department of Planning & Infrastructure circulars are available from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/circulars>

### Authorised by:

**Sam Haddad**  
**Director-General**

**Important note:** This circular does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this circular.

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
[www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Disclaimer:** While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the State of New South Wales, its agencies and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

### The need for detailed information

Councils are encouraged to ensure there is clear and full information available to the public and landowners about the nature of coastal hazards referred to in planning certificates. This may include information about the extent of exposure to that hazard and the time period within which that hazard is projected or modelled to arise. This information may be contained in policies, plans or maps or the council website.

### Legal Advice

It is suggested that councils seek their own legal advice on the specific wording to be included on section 149(2) and section 149(5) planning certificates.



**Brad Hazzard**  
Minister for Planning &  
Infrastructure

**Robyn Parker**  
Minister for Environment  
Minister for Heritage

**Don Page**  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for the North Coast

---

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Thursday 30 January 2014

### **COUNCILS URGED TO THINK LOCAL AS WELL AS GLOBAL WHEN DEALING WITH COASTAL HAZARDS**

The NSW Government has moved to ensure that coastal property buyers are given clear and accurate advice by local councils on the impacts of coastal hazards such as erosion and flooding.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said a draft planning circular, which will go on public exhibition today, recommended councils distinguish between current and future hazards on Section 149 certificates.

Section 149 certificates alert purchasers to risks on the land which can restrict development, such as whether building is subject to flood related development controls.

"We want to ensure property owners and buyers are given clear, accurate and up to date information on coastal hazards," Mr Hazzard said.

"It is sensible to clearly separate current and future hazards.

"Councils need to make that decision based on sufficiently accurate and complete information that is as reliable as possible and is not broad brush, but which takes into account relevant information about local conditions.

"What this planning circular delivers is certainty - certainty and consistency for councils, property owners and property buyers."

The new planning circular follows advice to the NSW Government from the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer who examined this issue in April 2012. She in turn took advice from leading experts in sea level rise, CSIRO's Dr John Church and Dr John Hunter from the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre. The Coastal Expert Panel has also provided advice to the NSW Government to help refine its approach.

Mr Hazzard said the Government had adopted the Chief Scientist's recommendation that more regionally specific calculations be carried out, that took into account specific sea level, topography, flood risk and other conditions along the NSW coast.

"The Chief Scientist rightly pointed out that NSW has the expertise – Government, academia and research institutions and the private sector - which allows global models to be interpreted and adapted to build much more precise local models specific to various NSW coastal locations.

"Following the Chief Scientist's review, the NSW Government is also considering the best and most suitable way to provide technical support for local councils in interpreting and translating new scientific findings, and assist them in developing strategies, infrastructure planning, and appropriate risk management related to sea level rise and its impacts."

Minister for Local Government Don Page said councils wanted simpler and clearer information on current and future coastal hazards in the face of complex and inconsistent scientific data.

“For landowners there has been uncertainty along the coast, with different councils applying different approaches to the way they determined notations on Section 149 Certificates.

“The proposed circular delivers clarity to all coastal councils by making a clear distinction between current and future exposure to coastal hazards, which could be very different in nature and require different management controls.”

“The NSW Government is returning power to local communities who have been affected by Labor’s heavy handed coastal policy.”

Minister for the Central Coast Michael Gallacher said the planning circular built on measures the NSW Government had introduced to assist coastal dwellers.

“We ensured councils had the ability to consider coastal hazards in the context of their local circumstances – the State Government no longer recommends to councils statewide sea level rise benchmarks,” he said.

“We have also made it easier for landowners to place large sandbags on beaches as temporary coastal protection works, to reduce erosion impacts during minor storms.”

Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker said the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage would continue to support local councils by providing information and technical advice on coastal management. Arrangements would also be put in place to help councils interpret sea level rise considerations in their local areas.

“The Coastal Expert Panel is working with the NSW Government on practical advice to assist councils in their assessments, and better articulates the complex issues of probability and change which councils have to look at when examining the science involved in coastal hazards,” she said.

“The NSW Government has also invested in a Climate Change Adaptation Research Hub, which includes a Coastal Processes and Responses node

(<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/adaptreshub.htm>)

“The Coastal Processes and Responses node is charged with providing the best and most up-to-date scientific information on a range of coastal issues that will help local communities and councils in coastal zones to undertake risk management and adaptation responses in the coastal zone.

“Managing erosion and other coastal hazards is a complex and challenging task - we want NSW to have the best plans, legislation and other arrangements in place to manage our valuable coastal areas,” Minister Parker said.

The draft planning circular is on public exhibition and submissions can be made until 3 March 2014 ([www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals))

#### **MEDIA**

**Minister Hazzard: Leonie Lamont 0407 591 926/ Minister Parker: John McCormack 0467 731 806**  
**Minister Page: Jonathan Porter 0418 945 538**



## Update on coastal hazards and planning certificates



Planning & Infrastructure

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2014

### WHAT CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED TO HOW PROPERTY BUYERS ARE ADVISED OF COASTAL HAZARDS?

- The NSW Government is proposing to issue clear advice to councils on how they should report on coastal hazards such as erosion and flooding when issuing Section 149 certificates, which are needed when a property is sold.
- The community and councils are being consulted until Monday 3 March on a draft Planning Circular that advises councils of the need to make a clear distinction between current and future hazards on the certificates.

### WHAT ARE SECTION 149 CERTIFICATES?

- Section 149 certificates are issued by councils and detail a variety of issues including current and future hazards to the property and restrictions on development.
- There are two types of Section 149 certificates:
  - Section 149(2) certificates which are compulsory and list restrictions on development due to current or future hazards.
  - Section 149(5) certificates which are optional and include information on other issues affecting property. Restrictions on development cannot be listed on these certificates.

### WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR THIS CHANGE?

- There has been a lack of clarity between current and future hazards listed on Section 149 certificates issued by councils.
- Some councils have been including long-term hazards - based on sea level rise forecasts up to 100 years from now - on these certificates.
- Such future hazards can be very different in nature to current hazards and can require different management controls.
- The proposed clear distinction between current and future hazards will help ensure property buyers get accurate, complete and reliable information.
- It will also ensure property buyers don't mistakenly believe the property is already impacted by future projected hazards.

### HOW IS "CURRENT EXPOSURE TO A COASTAL HAZARD" DEFINED?

- This is where the land is currently threatened by a hazard or there is a likelihood that the hazard will occur during a probable event such as a storm.
- Examples include land in an immediate coastal erosion area or land where there is a 1 in 100 year flood probability.

January 2014 | Page 1

# Update on coastal hazards and planning certificates



Planning & Infrastructure

## Frequently Asked Questions

### HOW IS “FUTURE EXPOSURE TO A COASTAL HAZARD” DEFINED?

- This is where a hazard may arise in the future but the land is not at risk from the hazard now.
- Examples include land likely to be exposed to receding shorelines, flooding or inundation due to projected sea level rise or erosion.

### WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT NO LONGER RECOMMENDING SEA LEVEL RISE BENCHMARKS FOR COUNCILS?

- In 2012, the Government removed the need for councils to apply across-the-board benchmarks for future sea level rise after the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane, reviewed the adequacy of the science behind them.
- The report noted sea levels have risen over the past 100 years but projections vary widely for future sea level rise, particularly for the latter part of the 21st century.
- It found NSW has the expertise – in government, academic and research institutions and the private sector – to adapt and interpret global models and develop more precise local models specific to various NSW coastal locations.

### HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT HELPING COUNCILS DECIDE ON WHAT SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS TO ADOPT?

- The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is providing councils with detailed information and helping them interpret observed historical sea levels and future sea level projections.
- The Government’s Coastal Expert Panel is developing practical advice to help councils in their assessments including the complex issues of probability and change which councils need to examine when considering the science surrounding coastal hazards.
- The Government has also invested in a Climate Change Adaptation Research Hub, which includes a Coastal Processes and Responses node. This node’s role is to provide the best and most up-to-date scientific information on a range of coastal issues, helping councils and their communities manage and adapt to future hazards.

### WHAT SHOULD COUNCILS DO IF THEY HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY ADOPTED SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS?

- Councils may need to make interim or transitional arrangements until projections are formally adopted by the council.
- Options may include preparing interim projections or delaying coastal flood or coastal hazard studies until the council’s projections are adopted.
- Councils can access expert advice and technical guidance to help them provide sufficiently accurate,

January 2014 | Page 2

# Update on coastal hazards and planning certificates



Planning & Infrastructure

## Frequently Asked Questions

complete and reliable information on Section 149 certificates.

### HOW CAN PEOPLE MAKE A SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED CIRCULAR?

- The draft Planning Circular can be viewed at:
  - The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
  - The department's Information Centre at 23-33 Bridge St, Sydney.
- Submissions can be made until Monday 3 March.
  - Online at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
  - By mail to Ms Santina Camroux, Coastal and Natural Resources Policy branch, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001.
- Submissions will be made public in line with the department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission.
- Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)

### MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the website: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
- Call 1300 305 695
- Email: [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)

---

<b>C10.2</b>	<b>Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 12 February 2014</b>
--------------	--

---

**Meeting:** Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 3 March 2014

---

**STRATEGY:** Corporate Management

**ACTION:** Maintain and Service Council's Range of Committees

---

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to Council for consideration, the Natural Environment Reference Group Minutes of 12 February 2014 (**see Attachment 1**).

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Natural Environment Reference Group has a primary role of assisting the Pittwater 2025 Strategic Plan by critically analysing and reviewing the Strategic Goals aligned to the Pittwater Natural Environment and providing Reference Points for further consideration by Council.
- 1.2 The 12 February 2014 Meeting considered the following discussion topics:
- NE4.1 Update on Dune Management
  - NE4.2 Overview of Coastal Environment Centre
  - NE4.3 Narrabeen Lagoon Dredging – Discussion Paper
- 1.3 As recorded in the Minutes, these topics were well researched and well received and generated a high degree of interest and robust discussion.

### **2.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

- 2.1 Update – Indigenous Species Information on Council Website
- 2.2 Dwarf Plum Pine (*Podocarpus spinulosus*)
- 2.3 Indian Myna Bird Eradication Programs
- 2.4 Update on Proposed Local Government Reforms
- 2.5 Various Planning Issues
- 2.6 Wetland Signs

---

### **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The Natural Environment Reference Group has a specific focus on Key Direction 2 – Valuing and caring for our Natural Environment with the primary aims to:

- Reduce our ecological footprint
- Protect our bushland and biodiversity
- Improve the health of our beaches and waterways.

The proposed State Government reforms have the potential to significantly affect the Pittwater environment through reduced environmental protection and removal of the current advocacy role that a separate and independent Pittwater Council can provide.



The Pittwater LGA has a high retention of bushland in an urban context and Pittwater Council has a proud track record of enhancing the environment, in particular the acquisition of over 140 hectares of bushland / wetland / foreshore land for environmental protection and public recreational amenity. There is a close working relationship and support for our volunteers in Pittwater, in particular bush regeneration at the local level.

---

## **4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

4.1 The 12 February 2014 Meeting considered the following discussion topics:

- **NE4.1**     *Update on Dune Management*
- **NE4.2**     *Overview of Coastal Environment Centre*
- **NE4.3**     *Narrabeen Lagoon Dredging – Discussion Paper*

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 12 February 2014 that relate to the discussion on:

- NE4.1     Update on Dune Management
- NE4.2     Overview of Coastal Environment Centre
- NE4.3     Narrabeen Lagoon Dredging – Discussion Paper

be noted.

Report prepared by

Mark Beharrell

**A/DIRECTOR – URBAN & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS**

# **MINUTES**

## ***Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting***

**held at the Coastal Environment Centre,  
Lake Park Road, North Narrabeen on**

***12 February 2014***

**Commencing at 4.00pm**

**Attendance:**

Cr Alex McTaggart, Chairperson

**And the following Community Representatives:**

Ms Gloria Carroll, Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society  
Ms Roberta Conroy, Bayview–Church Point Residents Association  
Mr Andrew Davies, Pittwater Business Organisation  
Mr Alan Gaines, Scotland Island Residents Association  
Ms Frances Holdaway, Careel Bay, Pittwater Protection Association  
Mr Hans Hui, Newport Residents Association (Alternative Delegate)  
Ms Karen Lambert, West Pittwater Community Association  
Ms Margaret Makin, Pittwater Resident Representative  
Mr Fred Murray-Walker, Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association  
Mr Martin Porter, Surfrider Foundation  
Mr John Spicer-Bell, Pittwater Resident Representative  
Mr William Thomson, Newport Residents Association  
Mr Roger Treagus, Pittwater Resident Representative

**And the following Council Advisors:**

Mr Chris Hunt, Director, Urban & Environmental Assets  
Mr Mark Beharrell, Manager, Natural Environment & Education  
Mr Steve Lawler, Principal Officer Reserves & Recreation  
Ms Pamela Tasker, Minute Secretary / Administration Officer

---

---

## Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting

---

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item No	Item	Page No
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Discussion Topics</b>	<b>4</b>
NE4.1	Update on Dune Management	5
NE4.2	Overview of Coastal Environment Centre	6
NE4.3	Narrabeen Lagoon Dredging – Discussion Paper	6
<b>5.0</b>	<b>General Business</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Update – Indigenous Species Information on Council Website	7
5.2	Dwarf Plum Pine ( <i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i> )	7
5.3	Indian Myna Bird Eradication Programs	8
5.4	Update on Proposed Local Government Reforms	8
5.5	Various Planning Issues	9
5.6	Wetland Signs	9
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>9</b>



---

## **1.0 Apologies**

1. The following apologies were received for the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 12 February 2014:
  - Mr Stuart Taylor, Palm Beach & Whale Beach Association
  - Ms Lynne Czinner, Warriewood Residents Association
2. The members accepted the apologies.

---

## **2.0 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Conflict of Interest**

Nil.

---

## **3.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **REFERENCE GROUP RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 13 November 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

(Mr Treagus / Ms Carroll)

---

## **4.0 Discussion Topics**

---

---

## **4.1 Update on Dunes Management**

### **Proceedings in Brief**

Mr Steve Lawler, Principal Officer Reserves & Recreation, addressed the meeting and provided an update to members on the actions arising from the discussion at the meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group held on 13 November 2013.

#### **Newport Beach Dunes Inspection:**

Cr McTaggart, Mr Lawler, Mr Hui and Mr Thomson (Newport Residents Association) inspected the Dunes at Newport Beach. The bush regeneration teams are working their way through this area and it is showing steady improvement.

#### **Restoration – Projected Works Program for FY2014/2015:**

Further beach dune restoration works are planned for Avalon Beach, Newport Beach, Bungan Beach, Warriewood Beach, Mona Vale Beach, North Palm Beach and the dune at North Narrabeen rockpool carpark. Follow up planting with endemic plant species is planned for Newport Beach in April/May 2014. Fencing repairs will be carried out at Avalon and North Palm Beach. Council has applied for a grant from the Department of Environment which hopefully will fund three years restoration works at Mona Vale Beach. In the current financial year \$58k has been budgeted for Currawong Reserve Palm Beach for estuary works which has been matched by the Office of Environment and Heritage, \$50k for dune restoration at North Avalon Beach and \$50k for restoration at Mona Vale Beach which are also matched by OEH. We have also received a grant of \$25k from Crown Lands for dunes restoration at Mona Vale Beach.

Members congratulated Mr Lawler and Council on the improvements at Mona Vale Beach. The lowering of the dunes and planting of low level shrubs and ground cover had not only improved the dune environment but improved beach views as well.

Mr Lawler advised the height of plantings is mixed. We cannot restrict vegetation to ground cover, but most vegetation will stay under one metre and so will be unlikely to interfere greatly with beach views.

All plantings are indigenous native plants.

### **Notes:**

1. The Chair thanked Mr Lawler for his update.
2. Mr Lawler is to bring a further update after the budget following the confirmation of budget allocations for the 2014-2015 financial year. It is expected that this will be the meeting scheduled for 12 November 2014.

---

## **4.2 Overview of Coastal Environment Centre**

### **Proceedings in Brief**

Mr Mark Beharrell, Manager Natural Environment & Education, addressed the meeting and provided members with an overview of the Coastal Environment Centre operations. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is provided at Appendix 1 of these Minutes.

The CEC was constructed in 1990 and officially launched in December 1991. Pittwater is very fortunate to have this facility but it is now over 20 years old. It has a strong focus on school based education and is seeking to improve its education and engagement with the community in general. Given the shared natural environment focus, it was proposed that the Natural Environment Reference Group could make a valuable contribution on ideas on how we could promote this facility within the community. The following points were discussed:

- Cross overs between the CEC and Enliven Pittwater initiatives
- Utilising the exhibition space – liaison with the Australian Museum ongoing
- Garden Clubs – the CEC presents as both a venue and resource given the expertise available re flora
- Venue for local professional organisations – consider catering for breakfasts, etc.
- A program for disadvantaged country children, providing both a coastal education component and a holiday at the beach. Accommodation can be provided at the caravan park.

### **Notes:**

1. The presentation was noted by the members.
2. The Chair thanked Mr Beharrell for his presentation.

---

## **4.3 Narrabeen Lagoon Dredging – Discussion Paper**

### **Proceedings in Brief**

Mr Mark Beharrell, Manager Natural Environment & Education, addressed the meeting and provided members with a brief discussion on where the proposal was up to. To date, Warringah Council has not contacted Pittwater Council in relation to the proposed works. Warringah Council's Discussion Paper concerning the dredging of Narrabeen Lagoon was provided to the members. The issue will be reported back to the Committee following any submission by Pittwater Council and the outcome of any decision by Warringah Council.

For more information on Narrabeen Lagoon please follow the following Warringah Council website link: <http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/play/narrabeen-lagoon>

**Notes:**

1. The Chair thanked Mr Beharrell for his presentation.
2. It was noted that this is an important environmental issue over which Pittwater Council has very limited control.

---

## **5.0 General Business**

### **5.1 Update – Indigenous Species Information on Council Website**

This update was provided in the Agenda papers, and the website demonstration was noted by the members.

### **5.2 Dwarf Plum Pine (Podocarpus spinulosus)**

Ms Roberta Conroy (Bayview – Church Point Residents Association) addressed members concerning the identification of a Dwarf Plum Pine near the waterfall in the Ingleside Escarpment. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation provided by Ms Conroy is attached at Appendix 2 to the Minutes.

Ms Conroy advised she had also identified a Native Guava (Bolwarra) Tree (*Rhodomyrtus psidiodes*) in the same vicinity. Both trees provide examples of bush tucker.

A few months ago an article on finger limes (bush tucker) appeared in the Manly Daily causing a run on local native nurseries. This indicates a real interest in bush tucker within the community, and the following potential commercial opportunities were identified:

- Propagation of seeds or seedlings for Plum Pine
- The integration of the strong morning coffee culture in Pittwater with local produce/bush tucker – could be integrated into local businesses
- Encourage bush tucker plantings

Mr Beharrell advised that there were originally seven or eight local nurseries specialising in indigenous and native plants. Because of land process there was only one business remaining.

Mr Chris Hunt provided a brief history of the Warriewood / Ingleside Escarpment. Through various land swaps and purchases funded by an Environmental Levy, Council managed to combine Ingleside Park, the former Healesville and Heydon Estates, 2ha from the Uniting Church and 3.6ha from Mater Maria College. All of these properties are now combined into one reserve called Ingleside Chase which has its own Plan of Management.

Cr McTaggart advised that the escarpment is a wonderful asset for Pittwater, but also a financial liability as there is no income stream generated. A scout hall was destroyed in the 1994 fires and has since been rebuilt at Billarong Reserve.

### **Progressing this initiative:**

- Mr Hunt and Mr Beharrell to investigate the following opportunities canvassed and provide an update at the next Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting:-
  - propagation of Plum Pine and other indigenous bush tucker plants
- Members to consider the following and bring ideas to be workshopped at the next meeting:-
  - a guide on suitable plants / bush tucker plants which could be sold for fundraising purposes
  - a gardening app to enable people to easily access information on indigenous species
- To be provided at the next meeting:-
  - Update on Council's Walking Tracks in App

### **Notes:**

1. The members noted the presentation.
2. The Chair thanked Ms Conroy for her presentation.
3. Ms Conroy requested that Council consider the relative importance of both the Dwarf Plum Pine and Native Guava/Bolwarra when next reviewing the Plan of Management and Bushfire Management Plan for the Ingleside Chase Reserve.
4. Ms Conroy also suggested the placement of an interpretive sign at the reserve entrance alerting people to the presence of these plants in the reserve.

### **5.3 Indian Myna Bird Eradication Programs**

There was some discussion as to whether Indian Myna populations actually cause a decrease in native bird populations or whether this is due to other factors and the Indian Myna populations simply fill the niche created. Mr Thompson and Mr Spicer-Bell undertook to further investigate what scientific papers are available and the various eradication programs in other areas. This topic is to be brought to a future meeting.

Mr Beharrell advised that eradication programs undertaken by Council in the past have proven expensive and ineffective, but would be interested to see both the scientific findings on the effects of Indian Mynas on native birdlife and the efficacy of eradication programs undertaken in other LGAs.

### **5.4 Update on Proposed Local Government Reforms:**

Mr Hunt advised that the State Government had confirmed there would be no forced amalgamations but that they were still encouraging larger LGAs. This issue may re-emerge at a later date.

## **5.5 Various planning issues:**

### **2 & 18 Macpherson Street and 23, 25 and 27 Warriewood Road Warriewood**

Meriton lodged a proposal in June 2013 requesting an LEP amendment to allow a high density residential development with building of either four or five storeys. They suggested 98 dwellings per hectare; Council recommends 32 dwellings per hectare. Council rejected the proposal, and the JRPP backed Council, unanimously recommending that this application not proceed. The DoPI will make the final decision and the Minister may retain his discretion to proceed with the matter notwithstanding the advice of the JRPP. The community needs to remain vigilant. The item is listed at Item C12.1 on the Council Agenda for 17 February 2014 – link below:-

[http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/council\\_meetings/council\\_meetings/2014/17\\_feb\\_-\\_council\\_II\\_stv\\_meeting](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/council_meetings/council_meetings/2014/17_feb_-_council_II_stv_meeting)

### **6 Jacksons Road and 3, 6, 8, 10 and 12 Boondah Road Warriewood**

The parcel consists of approx. 6.2ha situated in the Southern Buffer. It is privately owned land and the developers are proposing retail / commercial / residential mix, including residential towers of up to 7 storeys built on a floodplain. The planning proposal is currently being assessed by Council and more information can be accessed via Application Tracking - link below:-

<http://portal.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx>

## **5.6 Wetland Signs**

Mr Beharrell advised that the new signs are in, including replacement of the large interpretive sign.

---

---

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Natural Environment Reference Group is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 14 May 2014 commencing at 4.00pm.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT REFERENCE GROUP MEETING  
CLOSED AT 5.55PM ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2014**

# Coastal Environment Centre

Natural Environment Reference Group –  
12/02/14





## Pittwater Environment

- Pittwater LGA is 10900ha, of which 43%(4690Ha) is NP, and 15% (1650ha) is the Pittwater waterway.
- Remaining 42% is the land of Pittwater (4550Ha), from which 83% of the original pre 1750 vegetation has been altered. Of the 17% (930Ha) considered in good condition, of which 46% (430Ha) is within Council Bushland Reserves
- In Pittwater there are 36 different vegetation communities,
- Current scheduled flora species 68.
- Current scheduled fauna species 22.
- 2 endangered population.
- 11 endangered ecological communities.
- Hectares of bushland “natural” reserves 430.
- Number of developments determined >600pa.
- Over 100 weed species 10 exotic animals.
- 21 key threatening processes.



## Coastal Environment Centre

The Coastal Environment Centre was constructed in 1990 and officially launched in December 1991.


The CEC is committed to:

- ☐ environmental education;
- ☐ engaging our community.

The Centre has a focus on:

- ☐ local biodiversity and ecosystems;
- ☐ coastal management;
- ☐ sustainability and climate change.

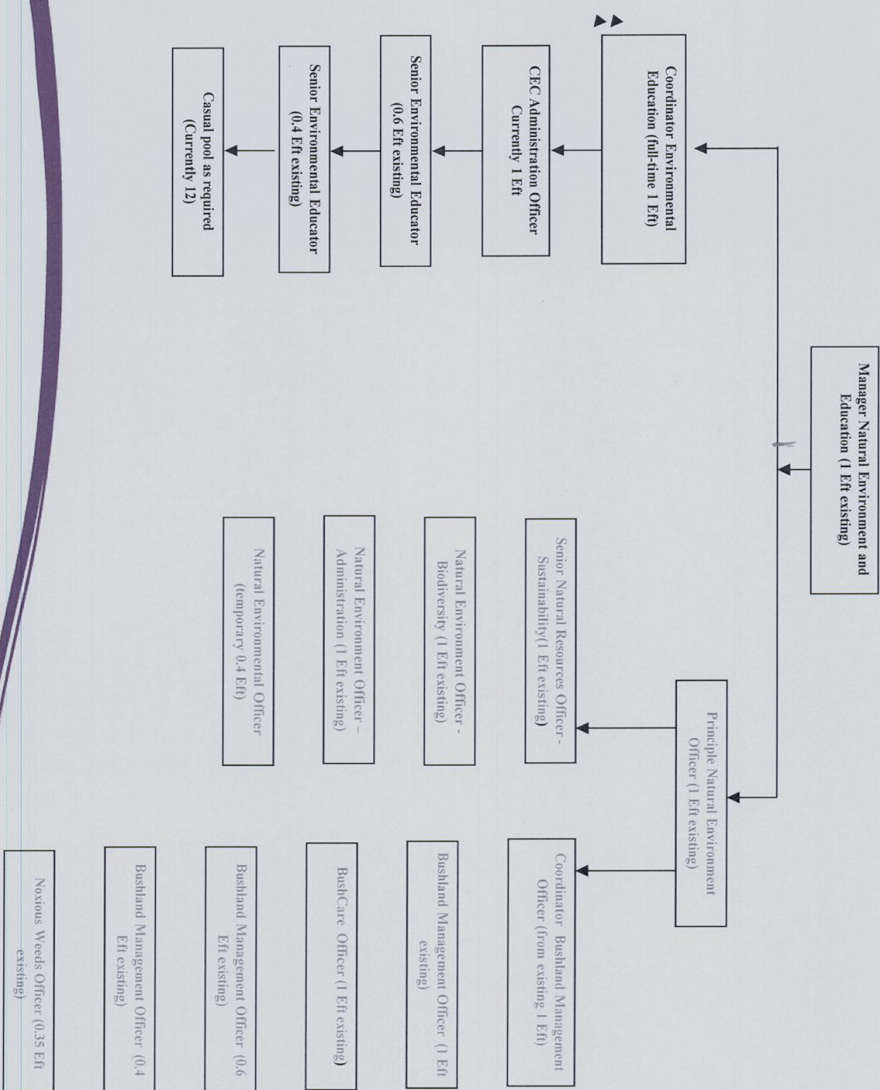
Our role is to enhance community skills, knowledge and engagement in caring for our urban coastal environment.





PITTWATER COUNCIL

## NEE Business Unit





## Environmental Education

Mostly based at the CEC and in the most part based on cost recovery currently around 17 000 participants per annum;

- the schools program;
- a range of field trips, seminars and walks on a range of issues from water quality to bush regeneration.
- school holiday program;
- sustainability events (ie. How to live a more sustainable life);
- regional programs i.e. coastal ambassadors;
- providing the CEC as a venue.

# Environment and heritage based walks and talks

about 5000 attendees 2012/13

Date	Event Name	Event Type	Date	Event Name	Event Type
21/07/2012	Weed Workshop	Workshop	16/01/2013	Science of the Surf	Workshop
19/08/2012	Leaping Lizards	Workshop	17/02/2013	Indigenous Walk	Walk/Talk
7/09/2012	Marsupial Nightstalk	Walk/Talk	3/03/2013	Indigenous Walk	Walk/Talk
9/09/2012 <sup>12</sup>	Going Solar - SHD	Workshop	24/01/2013	Sustainable Building Workshop	Workshop
14/10/12	Coastal Ambassadors	Workshop	8/02/2013	Twilight Walk	Walk/Talk
21/10/2012	Birding Essentials	Workshop	10/02/2013	Ingle side Chase Walk	Walk/Talk
28/10/2012	Ingle side Chase Walk	Walk/Talk	16/02/2013	Eco Bird Walk	Walk/Talk
3/11/2012	Science of the Surf	Workshop	15/03/2013	Wetland Nightlife	Walk/Talk
8/11/2012	Movie night - Economics of Happiness	Film	1/03/2013	Green Film - Waste Not	Movie
9/11/2012	Frogging Night	Walk/Talk	3/03/2013	Clean Up Aus Day	Outdoor Activity
17/11/2012	Weed Workshop	Workshop	10/03/2013	Ingle side Chase Walk	Walk/Talk
18/11/2012	Ingle side Chase Walk	Walk/Talk	15/03/2013	Wetland Nightlife	Walk/Talk
26/11/2012	Rockplatform Walk	Walk/Talk	24/03/2013	Rock Platform Walk	Walk/Talk
5/12/2012	Grant Writing Workshop	Workshop	16/01/2013	Science of the Surf	Workshop
7/12/2012	Wetland Nightlife	Walk/Talk	17/02/2013	Indigenous Walk	Walk/Talk
12/01/2013	Rock Platform Walk	Walk/Talk	3/03/2013	Indigenous Walk	Walk/Talk
16/01/2013	Science of the Surf	Workshop	24/01/2013	Sustainable Building Workshop	Workshop
17/02/2013	Indigenous Walk	Walk/Talk	8/02/2013	Twilight Walk	Walk/Talk



## Environmental Education

Mostly based at the CEC and in the most part based on cost recovery currently around 17 000 participants per annum;

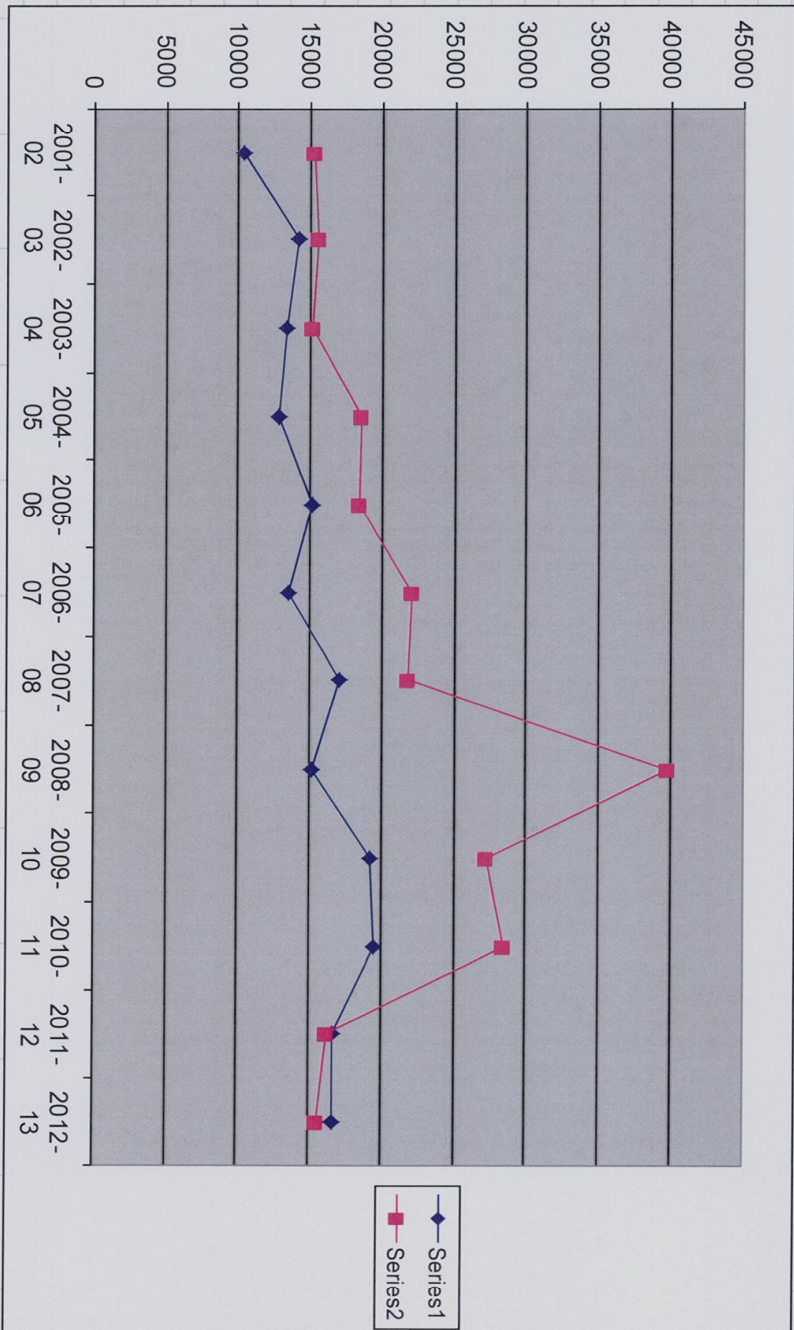
- the schools program;
- a range of field trips, seminars and walks on a range of issues from water quality to bush regeneration.
- school holiday program;
- sustainability events (ie. How to live a more sustainable life);
- regional programs i.e. coastal ambassadors;
- providing the CEC as a venue.

## Environmental Education

- stormwater education – Drain notifications, green days in schools, currently investigating creekcare, and program with business;
- school holiday program – education programs held at the CEC on a cost recovery basis every holidays;
- sustainability events – what measures you can use and costs, how to calculate ecological footprint;
- regional programs i.e. coastal ambassadors and youth leading the world;
- Sustainable schools program – have changed to a regional forum – this year looking at a school competition.



Bit dubious about 2009/10 and 2010/11, which included Fete's?  
 2011/12 introduced a significant changing in booking and information  
 provision which can now be done on-line.



## Where we'd like to go with you!

### Some suggestions

We would like to engage with the community more on specific issues, although there are specific problems?

Would like the community to utilise the centre as resource, although access can be problematic!

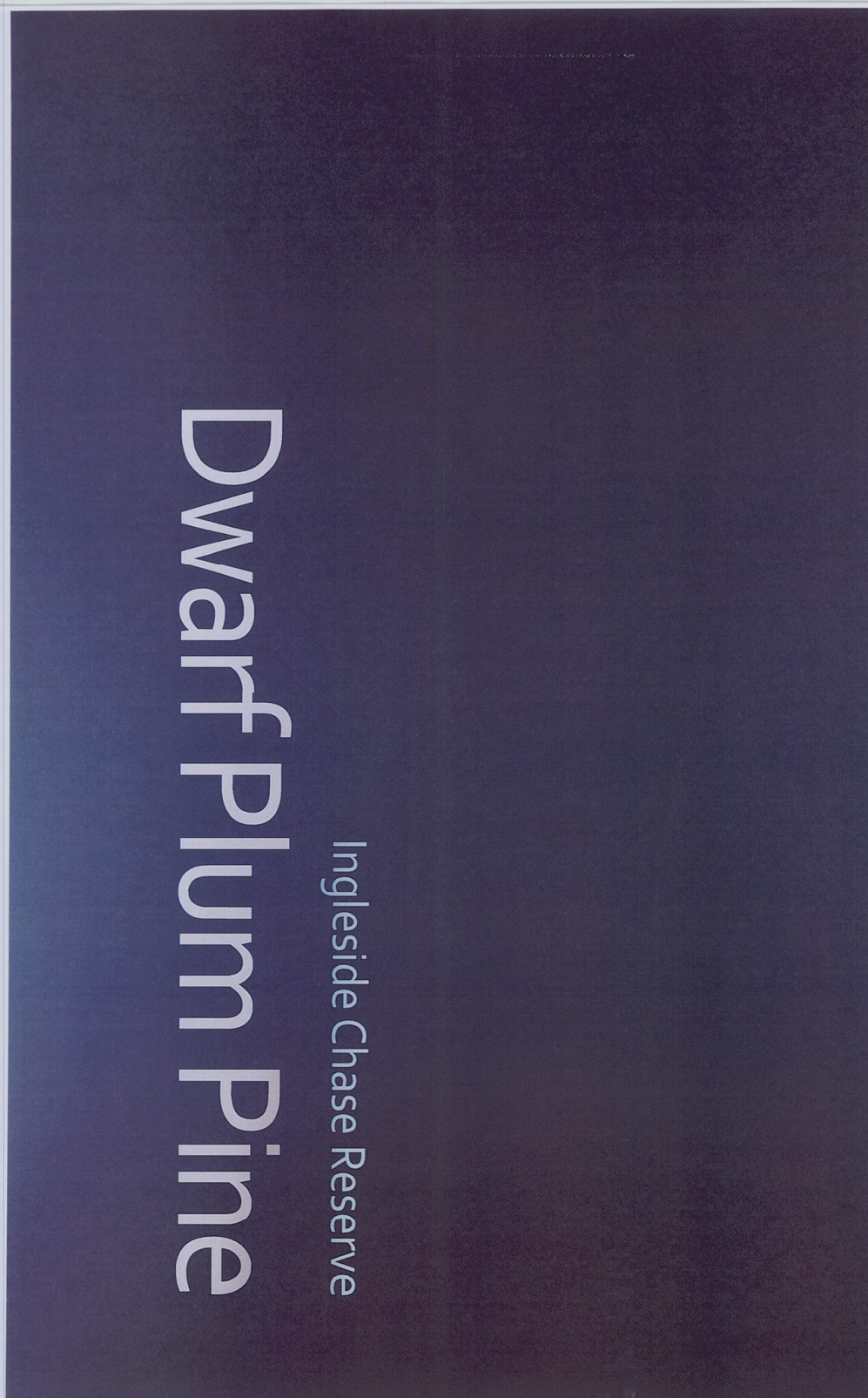
We would like to engage with the younger community more and are looking at encouraging them to patronize the centre.

Would like to have rotating exhibitions?

Anything else?







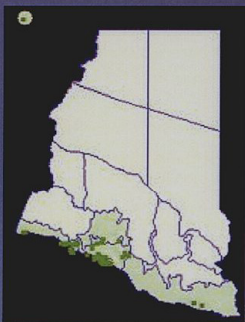
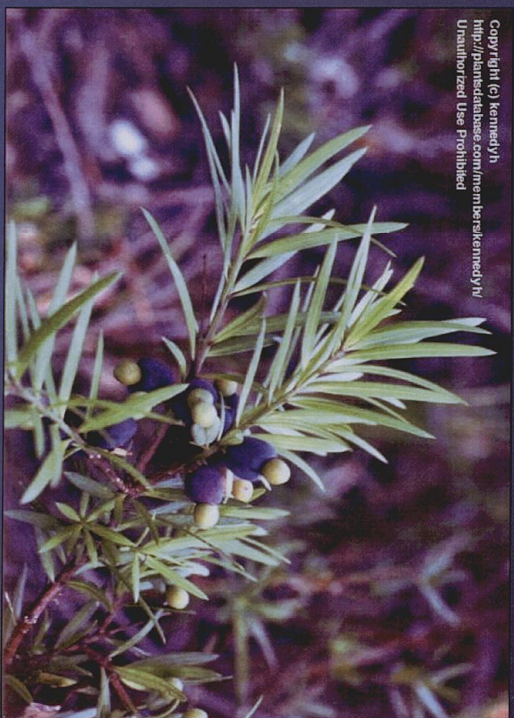


# Podocarpus spinulosus – Dwarf Plum Pine

- *Podocarpus spinulosus*, the Dwarf Plum Pine or Spiny-leaf Podocarp, is a species of podocarp native to the warm-temperate coastal regions of New South Wales and southern Queensland. It is generally an understorey shrub, rarely growing more than 2 m tall.
- It was first described by James Edward Smith in 1817 as *Taxus spinulosa*.<sup>[1]</sup> It was reclassified 'as *Podocarpus spinulosus* in 1825.<sup>[2]</sup>
- The leaves are needle-like, 2–8 cm (0.8–3.4 in) long, sharply pointed, green above and with glaucous stomatal bands beneath. The cones are berry-like, with a fleshy, edible purple-black aril 1–2 cm (0.4–0.8 in) long and one (rarely two) apical seed 1 cm (0.4 in) long.<sup>[3]</sup>



# Podocarpus spinulosus – Dwarf Plum Pine



**Distribution and occurrence:** in sheltered coastal sites and gullies on the adjacent ranges; chiefly on the coast south from Woy Woy and valleys of the Blue Mtns.  
 NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT  
 Other Australian states: Qld



# Podocarpus spinulosus – Dwarf Plum Pine

## Summary

- Not a threatened species, but an uncommon plant which is sensitive to frequent fire regimes;
- A plant from a primitive plant family with links to Gondwanaland and the Antarctic flora;
- Podocarpus is a very interesting species from an interpretive point of view particularly in relation to fire management, the rarity of the plant family (Podocarpaceae) and its ancient linkages;
- The interpretive material and the plan of management do not fully acknowledge its presence, despite it being located along the walking track (it is listed in the appendices).



# Podocarpus spinulosus – Dwarf Plum Pine

## Recommendation

- That Council consider the relative importance of Podocarpus spinulosus when next reviewing the plan of management and bushfire management plan for Ingleaside Chase Reserve.

---

**Council Meeting**

---

**11.0          Adoption of Connecting Communities Committee  
Recommendations**

---

**12.0          Adoption of Natural Environment Committee  
Recommendations**

---