

10.2 Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail - Stage 2B Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

To update Council on the progress of agreements for the construction of the Narrabeen Lagoon Trail adjacent to the Academy of Sport and the Cromer Golf Club, and to seek a three month extension of the authority to negotiate these agreements.

Summary

At its meeting of 22 November 2011, Council considered a report to select the preferred concept for Stage 2B of the Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail (NLMUT), being the final section required to complete the lagoon loop.

Council endorsed the Option 3B concept including a primarily on-ground trail through the Crown Land adjoining the Academy of Sport and Cromer Golf Course and through an existing track along the foreshore of South Creek Reserve.

Council endorsed the negotiation of agreements with both the Academy of Sport and the Cromer Golf Club by 17 February 2012, to allow the trail to be constructed along the lagoon foreshore.

Council endorsed that a further report be presented to Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition of the Options Report and the negotiations with the Academy and Cromer Golf Club, prior to executing any agreements between the parties.

This interim report seeks to update Council on the progress of the agreements for the construction of the Narrabeen Lagoon Trail, and to seek a three month extension of the authority to negotiate these agreements.

Financial Impact

The requested extension of three months to complete the negotiations of the agreements does not impact on the overall Narrabeen Lagoon Trail project budget.

Policy Impact

The NLMUT project has been developed in consideration of recommendations contained within a number of strategies and plans, including the Warringah Regional Multiple Use Trail Strategy 2007, and the Dee Why and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management 2008.

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER ENVIRONMENT

- A. That Council notes the progress of agreements for the construction of the Narrabeen Lagoon Trail adjacent to the Academy of Sport and the Cromer Golf Club.
 - B. That Council endorse the extension of the date for the completion of the agreements with the Academy of Sport and the Cromer Golf Club to allow the trail to be constructed along the lagoon foreshore, from 17 February to 17 May 2012.
 - C. That staff prepare a further report to Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition of the Options Report and negotiations with the Academy and Cromer Golf Club, prior to executing any agreements between the parties.
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REPORT

Background

At its meeting of 22 November 2011, Council considered a report to select the preferred concept for Stage 2B of the Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-Use Trail (NLMUT) adjacent to the Sydney Academy of Sport, Cromer Golf Club and through South Creek Reserve, being the final section required to complete the lagoon loop.

Council then resolved:

- A. *That Council endorse the Option 3B concept including a primarily on-ground trail through the Crown Land adjoining the Academy of Sport and Cromer Golf Course and through an existing track along the foreshore of South Creek Reserve and that the Options Report (Attachment Booklet 1) containing technical assessments and consultation outcomes be publicly exhibited;*
- B. *That Council endorse the negotiation of an agreement with the Academy of Sport by 17 February 2012 for it to relocate its watercraft activities away from the current boatshed location on Crown land to allow the trail to be constructed along the foreshore (Option 3B) with the public access area fenced one side and open to the lagoon, noting that up to \$220,000 has been included for boatshed relocation and/or rebuilding in the Option 3B budget estimate;*
- C. *That Council endorse the negotiation of an agreement by 17 February 2012 with the Cromer Golf Club to reconfigure the golf course to remove the existing 15th hole and to allow access for the trail to be constructed along the lagoon foreshore. The total of Council's contribution for the golf course reconfiguration, including construction access, approvals and other costs is to be limited to \$400,000;*
- D. *That public access be directed along the Option 3B foreshore route through South Creek Reserve and that development of a contiguous 4 hectare habitat area be further explored by fencing off informal tracks, removing the current unsafe access across the weir and revegetating and limiting general public access to the public reserve along the western foreshore of South Creek;*
- E. *That staff prepare a further report to Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition of the Options Report and negotiations with the Academy and Cromer Golf Club, prior to executing any agreements between the parties.*

The purpose of this interim report is to update Council on the progress made on the negotiations to-date, to report on the key outcomes of the public exhibition of the Options Report, and to seek a three month extension of the authority to negotiate these agreements.

Negotiations with the Sydney Academy of Sport

Broad agreement has been reached with the Sydney Academy of Sport for a preferred solution to relocate its watercraft activities away from the current boatshed location on Crown land to allow the trail to be constructed along the foreshore. However this solution is dependant on the Academy receiving additional State Government funding to construct a new boatshed. The Mayor has made representations to the Members for Pittwater, Davidson and Wakehurst requesting that they approach the Minister for Sport for funding support for the new facilities. Council has received advice that the Minister for Sport is considering the request. In the event that State Government funding is not forthcoming, the preferred solution will need to be scaled back to meet the available budget.

The meetings with the Academy of Sport have been positive, and progress has been made. The Academy has presented Council with a proposal to convert and operate the southern boatshed as a multi use building for their clients and the local community.

However the negotiations have not been completed by the authorised date of 17 February 2012, and therefore an extension of the authority to negotiate is sought in this report.

Negotiations with the Cromer Golf Club

The Cromer Golf Club has prepared a design for the reconfiguration of the golf course, and has attended a Development Application pre-lodgement meeting with Council's planners.

Council has met with the Cromer Golf Club on a number of occasions to progress an agreement to reconfigure the golf course to remove the existing 15th hole and to allow access for the trail to be constructed along the lagoon foreshore.

These discussions have been positive, with good progress made towards an agreement. As a result Council's lawyers have drafted an agreement, which will shortly be presented to the Cromer Golf Club for their review/comments.

However the negotiations have not been completed by the authorised date of 17 February 2012, and therefore an extension of the authority to negotiate is sought in this report.

Public exhibition of the Options report

The Options Report was placed on public exhibition from 25 November to 22 December 2011. A total of 17 submissions were received during this period. Of these submissions:

- Twelve submissions supported the preferred Option 3B, and one opposed it.
- Four submissions supported the removal of the boatsheds as being a good solution.
- One submission supported the financial contribution to the Cromer Golf Club, and two opposed it.
- A number of comments were made concerning the impact on the environment, and with various suggestions for mitigation measures.
- Four submissions supported the efforts and consultative process undertaken to date, and one opposed it

A fully detailed report on the public exhibition of the Options report will be provided to Council with the next NTMUT trail update.

Timing

The requested extension of three months to complete the agreements is within the overall Narrabeen Lagoon Trail project timetable, provided the Cromer Golf Club continues with the preparation of its Development Application. The timeframe also assumes that Council continues to progress the design and environmental studies for Stage 2B in parallel to the negotiations of the access agreements.

Policy Impact

The NLMUT project has been developed in consideration of recommendations contained within a number of strategies and plans, including the Warringah Regional Multiple Use Trail Strategy 2007, and the Dee Why and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management 2008.

Financial Impact

The requested extension of three months to complete the negotiations of the agreements does not impact on the overall Narrabeen Lagoon Trail project budget.

Group Manager Natural Environment