

Late Agenda

**Extraordinary Meeting of
Council**

Thursday 2 June 2016

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TO: Extraordinary Meeting of Council - 2 June 2016
REPORT: Administrator's Minute Report No. 2
SUBJECT: Northern Beaches Transport
FILE NO: MC/16/72153

Report:

Transport has for many years been the number one issue of concern for residents of the northern beaches. With only three congested roads to and from the region the slow and unreliable commute to the city and other employment centres like Chatswood, Macquarie Park, as well as travelling around the region, represents a growing frustration for residents.

I'm pleased to see that since my previous time here the NSW Government is now investing significant funds for public transport and road upgrades under the Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan. The former Councils advocated successfully together as SHOROC and established a good working partnership with local MPs and government departments to implement the plan.

This plan, particularly the B-line, has the potential to transform the way residents move around the region, where they work, and better connect this area with the rest of Sydney.

We now have a single Council for the Northern Beaches. This is a real opportunity to ensure that what is implemented by the NSW Government meets its potential and provides for the needs of all residents of the LGA particularly those in the northern areas facing longer travel times.

I am determined to make sure this a key outcome of forming the new Northern Beaches Council.

In talking to residents, community groups and staff the B-line has great support. It's seen as a solution to the slow and unreliable bus services that have been operating in this area for decades.

However crucial to its success is that it delivers reliable and significant time savings from Day 1. Shifting behaviours to make the B-line the preferred travel mode relies on making it much faster than the current buses and even faster than private car travel.

My initial assessment also is that it would appear that to terminate the B-line at Mona Vale is a lost opportunity and it should in fact be extended to Newport. Barrenjoey Road continues as three lanes to Newport, which also has a large and underutilised car park for potential commuters.

I am also concerned that in the 2 years since the plan was released we have not yet seen the promised rapid or express commuter services from Mona Vale to Macquarie Park or from Dee Why to Chatswood. Macquarie Park is a major employment centre, the fastest growing in Sydney. One hour and 20 minutes to get there on the 197 bus to travel 20kms is not acceptable. The Dee Why to Chatswood route is a major transport corridor and home to the Northern Beaches Hospital. An hour on the 136 to travel 14kms is not something anyone would be keen to endure daily.

There are a range of other opportunities also as part of the bus network redesign. A great example could be a limited stop service connecting Manly with Palm Beach. This would provide great economic development benefits for the region and also greatly improve access between these two iconic beaches for residents and visitors alike.

A major priority of this Council now should be to advocate strongly for the residents of the northern beaches and ensure we see delivered the fast, reliable and extensive public transport system that this area needs.

Financial impact

I'm advised that this work can be undertaken with existing resources.

Administrator's Minute Report No. 2 (Cont'd)**I MOVE:**

1. That a meeting be arranged as a matter of priority between the Administrator and the NSW Minister for Transport to advocate that the NSW Government:
 - a) Ensures that the B-line provides for significant time savings for commuters to the city from Day 1 of implementation to encourage a modal shift from car to public transport
 - b) Extends the B-Line to Newport
 - c) Implements as a priority a fast commuter service between Mona Vale and Macquarie Park
 - d) Implements as a priority a BRT or express commuter service between Dee Why and Chatswood
 - e) Provides as part of its bus network redesign improved limited stop services across the LGA including direct services from Palm Beach to Manly

2. Request the General Manager to provide a report to Council on the Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan, its implementation, and how the Northern Beaches Council can work in partnership with the NSW Government to ensure positive social, environmental and economic benefits from its public transport and road upgrades.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

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***** End of Administrator's Minute Report No. 2 *****

TO: Extraordinary Meeting of Council - 2 June 2016
REPORT: Administrator's Minute Report No. 3
SUBJECT: Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage Expansion
FILE NO: MC/16/73801

Background

In April 2014, the Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner announced the establishment of a State Park at Narrabeen Lagoon in recognition of the area's important public recreation, tourism and environmental qualities. However, in this initial stage, the land parcels included in the State Park were mainly confined to the waterway itself and were only within the former Warringah Council Local Government Area (LGA). I am advised that a large proportion of the publicly held land in the Lagoon and its surrounding catchment is Crown Land under Council's care, control and management, with the remainder being made up of various other State Government land.

Since the creation of the State Park, the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Advisory Committee (SPAC) appointed by the State Government and the former Warringah Council has been focused on investigating whether additional land parcels could be included in the State Park, what sort of funding mechanisms could assist in funding the Park, and developing a model for how the Park could be sustainably used. I understand the SPAC has completed all of these initial tasks and I'd like to commend them on the work they have achieved to date.

As the State Park boundaries were limited to the former Warringah LGA, there were limits as to the parcels that could be included in an expanded Park prior to the recent amalgamation. With the creation of the Northern Beaches Council, there is a new opportunity to expand the Park in a way that recognises the importance of both the lagoon and its catchment without being limited by former local government boundaries.

Proposal

Maintaining and protecting Narrabeen Lagoon, its catchment and its foreshores is a high priority for this Council, and the SPAC has provided support for the expansion of the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. I propose that this expansion be progressed in two stages:

1. Stage 1 expansion (Attachment 1):

- a. Crown Land parcels within the former Pittwater Council area

The current State Park only includes land parcels within the former Warringah LGA. In line with SPAC discussions, I recommend the inclusion of additional Crown Land parcels within the former Pittwater Council area with a focus on those close to, or connected with the lagoon, subject to consideration of current or future commercial arrangements or opportunities. If there is any impediment relating to specific parcels this will be reported to Council prior to inclusion.

- b. Priority Crown Land parcels identified by the Advisory Committee

Currently the State Park only includes the Lagoon bed and a portion of Jamieson Reserve. The SPAC supported inclusion of all foreshore Crown Land parcels within the former Warringah LGA and this recommendation should be supported.

2. Stage 2 expansion (Attachment 2):

- a. Parcels owned by various NSW Government departments

A number of State Government departments own land in the catchment, and the SPAC recommended working with these departments to transfer the unused lands to the State Park. While I support their inclusion, a level of due diligence is required first to ensure liabilities are not transferred to Council.

Administrator's Minute Report No. 3 (Cont'd)

b. Parcels owned by Council

A number of parcels around the lagoon and within the catchment are owned by the Council. Before deciding which parcels could be included, it is important to consider the economic value they provide to the community relative to their environmental or recreational value.

c. Parcels that require investigation and consultation with key stakeholders

There is an opportunity for expansion of the State Park into the upper catchment of the lagoon and indeed this has been explored with the SPAC in the past. However, tenure of these land parcels is complex and requires significant consultation with Crown Lands and interested stakeholders before determining how they can best support or be involved in the State Park. I will request a report into these parcels before making a final recommendation.

Consultation

The SPAC has provided important strategic guidance in the establishment of the State Park. For the next stage of Park development I would like to encourage strong community involvement in setting the long-term management direction for the Park, and in assisting in prioritising Park projects. Accordingly, I will write to the Minister administering the *Crown Lands Act 1989* requesting that the Terms of Reference for the Committee be amended to give effect to this new direction.

Timing

The Stage 1 expansion should be progressed as a matter of urgency (subject to any additional due diligence that is recommended by staff). The Stage 2 expansion will require further investigation, and prior to finalising a list of parcels for inclusion I would like staff to report on the costs, opportunities and constraints of including these additional parcels. I understand this report can be prepared within 3 months. I will request that a revised Terms of Reference be included within this report so that it can be enacted quickly once the final boundaries are known. I recognise that the gazettal of the park expansion will be determined by the workload of Department of Primary Industries (Lands), however I will write to the Member for Pittwater, the Hon. Rob Stokes to seek his assistance in prioritising the expansion.

Cost

I appreciate the advice of the SPAC that expanding the role and functions of the Park is likely to incur additional costs. I am advised that the initial costs are in the areas of both due diligence investigations and the preparation of a cohesive long-term plan, whereas the ongoing costs mainly relate to environmental protection, maintenance and hazard reduction activities. I am advised that costs involved in the Stage 1 expansion can be met within current operational funding, but that additional funds may be required to progress the Stage 2 expansion. I will ask the General Manager to determine what the costs are likely to be and recommend sustainable funding options to offset these costs in the staff report mentioned above.

Conclusion

It is clear that the protection and management of Narrabeen Lagoon and its catchment is a very important issue for this community. The creation of the Northern Beaches Council provides a unique opportunity to expand the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park in ways that reflect catchment/environmental boundaries rather than administrative boundaries, and provide for the long-term strategic management of this important asset. I would like to encourage State Government and Council staff to work together collaboratively to explore whether better synergies can be achieved in the management and ownership of State and Council lands in the catchment.

Administrator's Minute Report No. 3 (Cont'd)**I MOVE THAT:**

That:

- A. Staff liaise with relevant State Government departments as a matter of urgency to expand the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park to incorporate the parcels listed/shown in Attachment 1.
- B. Staff undertake the required investigations and consultation to identify any costs, opportunities and constraints associated with further expansion of the State Park to incorporate the parcels listed/shown in Attachment 2, or any other relevant parcels.
- C. Correspondence be sent to the Minister administering the Crown Lands Act 1989 seeking amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Advisory Committee to increase the level of community involvement in the State Park.
- D. Correspondence be sent to the Member for Pittwater, the Hon Rob Stokes to seek his support to expedite both the Park expansion, and amendments to the Terms of Reference.
- E. Staff prepare a report within 3 months outlining the progress of this and any other matters relevant to the operation and future management of the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park.

ATTACHMENTS

AT- 1 Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage 1 Expansion 1 Page

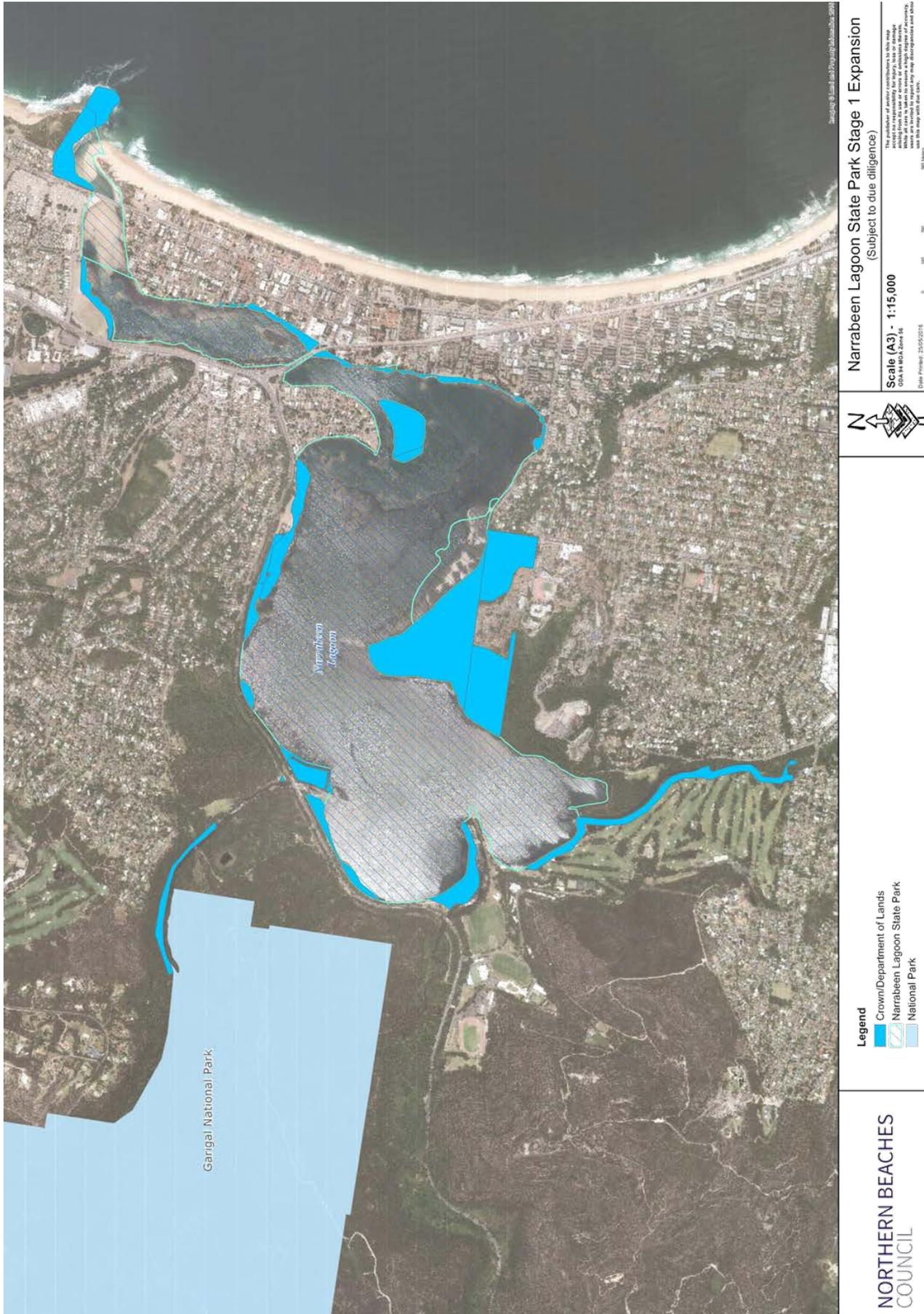
AT- 2 Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage 2 Expansion 1 Page

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***** End of Administrator's Minute Report No. 3 *****

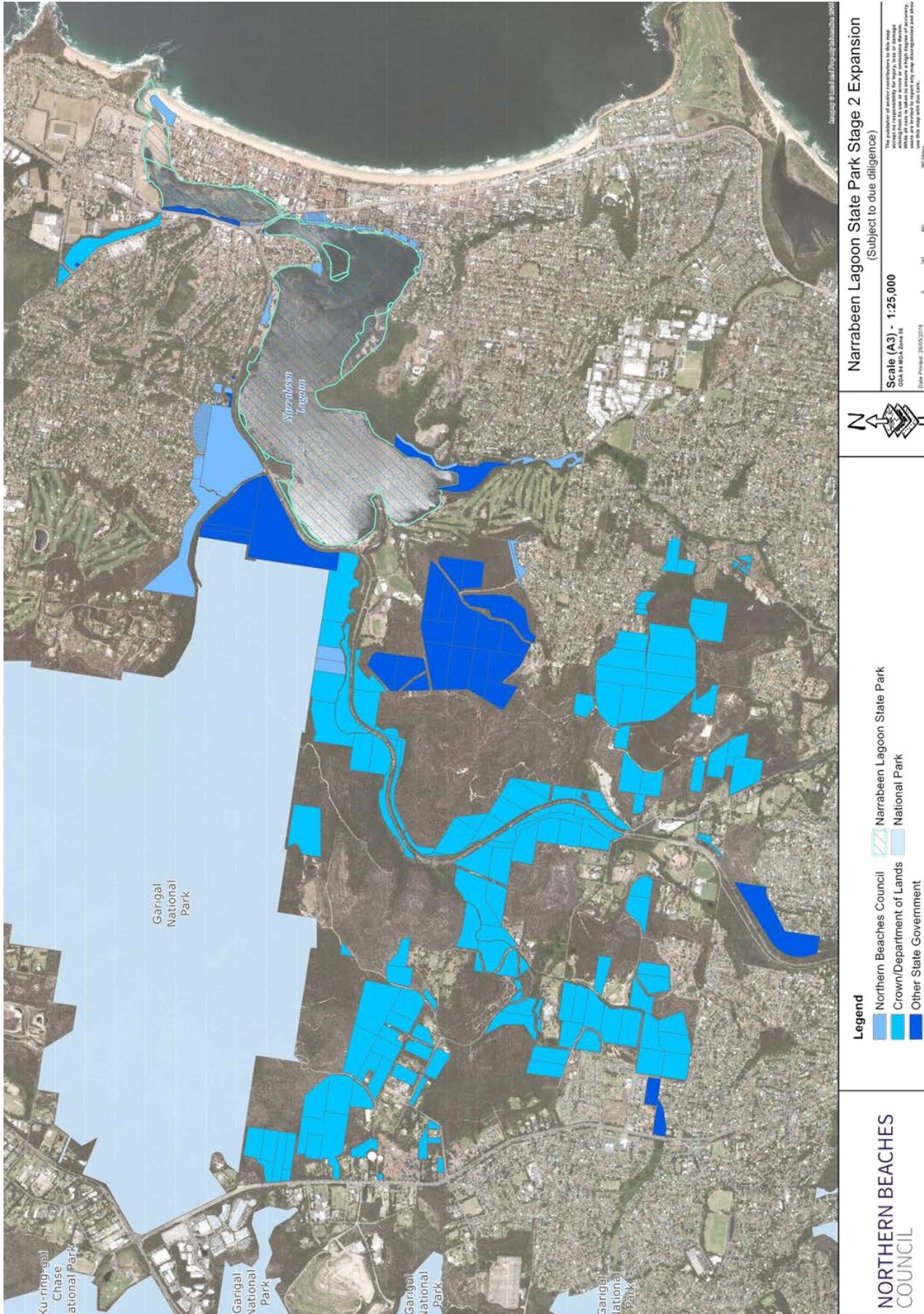
ATTACHMENT 1

Administrator's Minute Report No. 3.DOC - Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage Expansion
Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage 1 Expansion



ATTACHMENT 2

Administrator's Minute Report No. 3.DOC - Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage Expansion
 Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage 2 Expansion



ATTACHMENT 2

**Administrator's Minute Report No. 3.DOC - Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage Expansion
Narrabeen Lagoon State Park Stage 2 Expansion**

******* END OF AGENDA *******