



MINUTES OF THE SEVEN MILE BEACH ROAD MEETING

Date of Meeting Monday, 26 March 2018

Time Commenced 10.10am

PRESENT

Convenor/ Facilitator Cr. Simon Richardson

Community Representatives Tamara Smith (Member for Ballina), Sean Court (NPWS), Allison Drover, Stan Ruch, Jacki Corlass (DPI), Johnny Begg, Trace Grono, David Fligelman, Luke McConell, Ian Cohen, Tom Milledge, Ryan Hemming

Staff Shannon Burt, Phil Holloway, Tony Nash, Sarah Nagel, Annie Lewis

1. **APOLOGIES** Michael Dempsey (NSW Police), Neil Cameron

2. **MINUTES**

No.	Item	Discussion
1	Meeting opened by Cr. Richardson	CrSR - Thanked everyone for attending, loved the space allowing for census on issues, outlined aboriginal history of the area, committed to the group continuing until an outcome is obtained, if further meetings are required we will do it as we are committed to a solution not a win for the whole community. Open to look at all ideas.
	Introduction and outlining of main issues	<p>Round table introduction and main issues identified by each attendee:</p> <p>TS – Wanted to protect the area for ongoing access and enjoyment but wanted to see a reduced footprint.</p> <p>IC – As a founding member of the protection group in the area he outlined how living in the middle of the area he is able to observe the issues, he is interested in a sustainable outcome. Main issues were camping, parking and night time problems, suggested installing a boom gate to restrict access with the management of this falling to National Parks & Wildlife and Council.</p> <p>AD – Identified as a local resident and partner of IC, attendee of 8 previous meetings on this matter. Believes the solution rests with National Parks & Wildlife to deliver a strategic plan for future use of the area. Believes it is key to determine how to manage the space and allow it to be enjoyed with care. Recommended to look to Noosa National Park as an example, also wants to see an alignment between Council and National Parks & Wildlife on the issue and consideration of the space being designated as a nature reserve not a National Park.</p> <p>SR – Stan manages lost property on Seven Mile Beach Road and spoke about the increase in campers and consequent human waste in the area.</p> <p>LMc – Identified as a local resident and along with DF is a representative of the Village of Broken Head. Spoke about being affected by dust, traffic, potholes and speeding along the road and the impact of silt into environmental areas.</p>

		<p>DF – Resident of Broken Head Reserve Road, spoke about the increase in traffic and it's impact on the current road design. Discussed the issues with free camping around the tea tree lakes causing litter and human waste issues amongst other things. Also raised concerns about safety, access and general environmental impacts upon the area.</p> <p>TG – A Suffolk Park resident asked for the beaches to be left open for the community to access ensuring a minimal footprint.</p> <p>JB – As a user of the area for the last 70 years he advocates for the area to continue to allowed to be used by the community but nurtured. Also raised concerns around the free camping issues.</p> <p>TM – Has grown up in the area with his parents living near Broken Head Byron Community Hall, also a member of the Byron Young Residents Alliance. Advocated to involve more people and educate people on the issues including positive media coverage to date media coverage is often negative e.g. Council putting rocks in place, not explaining why.</p> <p>SN – Acting Team Leader in Community Enforcement Team and a local resident of Suffolk Park.</p> <p>SB – Has been on the radar since this issue was identified and action plan initiated.</p> <p>JC – Is a Senior Officer with the Marine Office at Cape Byron a division of the DPI – Fisheries. Has seen an increase in people accessing the area and is generally not supportive of a road closure being implemented on Seven Mile Beach Road.</p> <p>SC – Identified as National Parks and Wildlife Ranger in the local area. Has experienced ranger issues since the 90's which have continued, however an increase in visitation has been seen over the last 20 years in particular increasing the issues around dogs and campers. Other areas across the shire have similar issues - possibly apply solutions from today to other areas also</p> <p>RH – Identified safety concerns has been threatened and assaulted in the past and also discussed the continued camping and fires in the areas. He believes there has been a reduction in camping due to his actions. Is particularly concerned about the fires.</p> <p>CrSR – Would like to work through the action plan and keep him updated. Wants to keep moving on the issues ensuring all are heard. Issus raised 1. Car parks – who owns what? SB to determine who has authority over what land, how do we manage the land in line with National Parks & Wildlife? Can we formalise whether we seal the car park or introduce paid parking, and identifying daytime vs night time management of this area. PH to explore design and costing options for sealing and/ or expansion of the space, then return to the group and Council with a report. Understand that it is generally \$250k to seal a carpark not including the road side. Also outlined intentions to provide concepts and cost estimates to Council for all options for Broken Head Road and Seven Mile Beach Road including paid parking and permits. Confirmed that this can't be managed by only addressing one small aspect or there will be flow on effects. LTC hasn't approved some of the options put forward as they will not comply with RMS conditions so these have not been progressed.</p> <p>SR – Questioned whether Council was providing parking for National Parks & Wildlife, if not why couldn't they fund something as there is only parking for visitors.</p> <p>PH – Spoke about ensuring the safety and wellness of the community to provide parking for the community</p>
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		<p>AD – Detailed a summary of her previous position and felt things were going around in circles. Wants to know how much funding is available to maintain and improve the road each year, part of this determination should be a study of the number of users on this road. Believes National Parks & Wildlife should determine the appropriate number of visitors to the area. Has questioned what a Nature Reserve is and why Council is funding the area? Has questioned how much the community and the local environment can bear with these ongoing impacts, specifically identified that fact that tree roots are being damaged by road users.</p> <p>Cr SR – Clarified that there is a process that needs to be followed with a request that attendees do not bring up frustrations voiced at previous meetings or try to railroad meetings, issues around public roads and capacity don't run conversations about the road and car park, we need to work through the action plan first.</p> <p>RH – Questioned, are we going to increase the car park and still patch the roadway?</p> <p>CrSR – Advised ,all the roads are an issue</p> <p>SR – Added the roads used to be resurfaced. Used to be once a year now it is done twice a year</p> <p>TN – A global budget is planned due to the condition of the road, not a nominal time.</p> <p>DF – Questioned, why spend money on parking?</p> <p>CrSR – Responded that stopping parking would reduce traffic, instead using a bus service, local permits and limited parking in a bid to reduce traffic. Parking has generated legitimate safety issues.</p> <p>TS – Suggested that if money was no constraint then as in Noosa limited parking and increased walking options would be introduced so residents and services would be the only transport in the area. Suggested a limit to car parking and an increase in infrastructure to allow for more walking tracks etc.</p> <p>TG – Added that we don't want all cars stopped</p> <p>RH – There was no mention of Council placing rocks at the site in the last meeting, we want to people to access the area but ensure it is still protected and safe.</p> <p>AD – Referred to the Noosa option and stated that it was a much smaller walk and a larger areas to use at that site.</p> <p>TS – Suggested we switch focus from the roads to access via beaches driving pedestrian access instead.</p> <p>JB – Could there be a 'Paystay' online option introduced with Council and National Parks & Wildlife incorporating together?</p> <p>SB – Indiated that Council would be keen to pilot an online tool allowing people to pay and check availability of spots prior to arrival in the next month or so. Also suggested that we put under road monitors in place to gauge traffic. Suggested we also need National Parks & Wildlife to advise if they have any interest in these initiatives.</p> <p>SC – Advised that the Kings Beach Car Park option (to close the carpark and introduce more walking tracks) was not supported by the Minister and feedback from local residents also did not support this option. There are also no plans to seal the car park.</p> <p>CrSR – Asked what attendee's thoughts were on the online option?</p>
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	<p>RH – Responded that people will park wherever they want, or they will destroy signs. Believes the boom gate would work.</p> <p>TG – Is concerned that this will cause issues for Broken Head Road.</p> <p>AD – Raised concerns that because it is a dead end police will not come and people will do as they want.</p> <p>TS – Confirmed that highway patrol are not allowed to drive down into this area due to loss of mobile coverage.</p> <p>AD – Suggested consideration be given to ways of closing the road at night by a boom gate, this is a workable option.</p> <p>CrSR – Asked if we can concentrate on parking, the community wants the road open during the day, we need to determine how we minimise traffic.</p> <p>RH – Asked what capacity is reasonable? Why couldn't a gate be used that counts the numbers entering and residents can have a fob to enter/exit. Then numbers can be counted to understand the usage.</p> <p>TM – Suggested this counting should occur during the Xmas period – 30/11- 02/02</p> <p>PH – 343 visitors average per day reduced over 50 parks, this is not a maximum only an average. Figures also show 18% of visitors exceed speed and there is an average speed of 30km/h</p> <p>CrSR – Recommended we get rid of car parks and formalise parks.</p> <p>TM – 'Paystay' puts residents and tourists on a level playing field</p> <p>PH – Advised that no, it would be the same as the current parking permit system with residents having an option to purchase a yearly permit and visitors paying by the hour.</p> <p>RH – Suggested the boom gate doesn't preference anyone it is a fair option and benefits the environment.</p> <p>JB – Asked how the boomgate would affect National Parks & Wildlife, also questioned how the 'paystay' option would be affected by wifi drop outs?</p> <p>PH – Advised Council can't put a boom gate on the road but National Parks and Wildlife can, Council does not have authority.</p> <p>AD – Suggested we need to increase the authority to resolve the issue, also asked if there were any other paper roads to use instead? Seven Mile Beach Road could become the walking track only (using the carpark at the end to access walking track).</p> <p>CrSR – responded that this is not practical Council can't afford paper roads and there is not enough land to create one.</p> <p>SC – Advised he couldn't answer if National Parks & Wildlife would take on the area, it was a higher level question, it would need to be referred to the Minister.</p> <p>CrSR – asked that a resolution be made to formally ask National Parks & Wildlife if it would take the land. Council could do a late amendment to POM (NP&WS), Council's submission could be sent to National Parks & Wildlife and TS. However he doubts that National Parks would take the residential road.</p> <p>TS – Suggested LTC is a perfect example of how essential it is to include traffic management.</p> <p>DF – Suggested that cars that drive down this long road will just park illegally somewhere along the road. The car park should be</p>
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	<p>available for walkers, we need to tell them up front that there are no parks. Also worried about the flow on effects to the quarry.</p> <p>IC – Advised that signs are being ripped out and thrown into the reserve.</p> <p>SB – How do we fix signs without ongoing costs.</p> <p>TG – Believes that all should be able to access the area but the money generated should go back into the road maintenance and further education to back packers.</p> <p>IC – Requested that we need to protect the legitimacy of signage by having persons display the permit/ proof of payment.</p> <p>CrSR – Is happy to commit to a monitored and measured parking/ permit option with the money going back to the road.</p> <p>LMc – Agreed but also said that we need to control the overflow or there would be enforcement issues.</p> <p>IC – Suggested ‘prime time’ ‘no parking’ sign with shuttle buses (parking alongside the reserve or in the quarry area?)</p> <p>AD – Still working to design a plan that encourages people to visit, advising that the reserve is not for recreation is it for protection.</p> <p>CrSR – Advised that just saying ‘don’t come’ doesn’t work, but putting too much in encourages people, so it is a difficult balance. Advised that the road isn’t going to be closed, we need to provide infrastructure to minimise the impact.</p> <p>AD – Suggested parking is created near quarry and encourage walking in</p> <p>CrSR – with a walk of over 6km it is unlikely that people will walk in.</p> <p>DF – Asked how do we cap visits? This has to be scaled with further steps in the future.</p> <p>CrSR – Suggested we look to the lighthouse plan, with no cars and shuttles only, the tourists would enjoy this but who pays and runs this?</p> <p>RH – Also referred to Mossman Gorge that has shuttles only.</p> <p>CrSR – If the cost is low per hour. Research shows that only when cost is \$12/hr that behaviour is changed. The shuttle could be \$2 vs parking at \$12/hr?</p> <p>AD – Requested that the road be sealed up to White’s Beach (National Parks & Wildlife received community feedback that they didn’t want this road closed), also suggest we revisit the ‘shared zone’,</p> <p>SR – Asked why we can’t have a parking area at the end of Seven Mile Beach road?</p> <p>PH – Advised that part of the review is being returned to Council.</p> <p>JC – Advised that they manage below the high water line and Council manage above this.</p> <p>CrSR – Asked for options</p> <p>PH – Option for a gate would need to investigate room for turning circle, looking at requesting crown funding. Option to either open or close parking area or close it entirely and park on the road reserve.</p> <p>RH – Offered that people could park in the quarry area.</p> <p>AD – Asked what about using a sign “vehicle rego recognition”</p>
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	<p>after certain hours? Or install a video camera. Believes a physical barrier will push back onto other areas off road.</p> <p>PH – added that we can't say we are surveilling if we are not, also advised that the rocks put in place did have some affect. Also added that some people wont read the signs so we need to find a balance between the options.</p> <p>IC – Believes that there is no business being conducted at night that is legitimate, why not use a boom gate only at night. Given the speeding an illegal behaviour and lack of police response this would be a better option.</p> <p>JB – If education is also used in the park area this might assist the signage, in addition to information about the reserve area.</p> <p>AD – Asked why has it taken National Parks & Wildlife 2 years to do signage, they need to improve or replace signage to include no dogs signage at the front of area.</p> <p>SC – Advised he is happy to meet onsite to explore options, also advised information signs are being looked at by Delta K. the regulatory signs have been replaced.</p> <p>AD – Said she was getting frustrated with things not getting done.</p> <p>TS – Advised that Delta K. needs to be consulted and that TS may be able to assist financially.</p> <p>SC – Advised that the request for signage advising no dogs at the entrance would not be correct dogs are allowed on Seven Mile Beach Road to and from houses. Also confirmed that budget issues do carry across organisations.</p> <p>AD – Asked for a map at the entrance.</p> <p>TS – Suggested a meeting with Delta K, representatives of group and local residents to implement signage about the area, requested an invite be sent out.</p> <p>SR – Suggested proper beach access be arranged in appropriate areas. Also suggested money be made available for private security companies to assist and an increase in ranger activity.</p> <p>AD – Asked for an advertising campaign on illegal camping including a short movie, send a message that it is 'uncool' to camp illegally. Why doesn't Council give \$5 voucher to park in Broken Head carpark once they have received a parking fine?</p> <p>DF – Suggested we need to give people an option for better behaviour, we need a place for freedom camping.</p> <p>AD – Added that it needs to be advertised.</p> <p>CrSR – Advised Council's budget is only \$20k in total for this issue not \$20K for each item. Can other experts not help, why this being left just to Council?.</p> <p>AD – Confirmed that there has already been assistance and asked how much as Council already spent on repairs and replacement signage?</p> <p>CrSR – Advised there is a working group on traffic signs, also confirmed that any local representation would need to be limited to 1 or 2, Council will be responsible for this signage. Did confirm that resolution for staff would be made to share their ideas back with the group.</p> <p>END MEETING</p>
Next Meeting	2 weeks time (possibly week commencing 9 April 2018)

ACTION PLAN

Seven Mile Beach Road

ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	STATUS	TARGET DATE
<p>Car Parks: Map out relevant jurisdictions of Seven Mile Beach Road car parks.</p> <p>Investigate options for future management of the car parks.</p>	Council	<p>Identify by way of a detailed survey the location of Brays Beach and Whites Beach car parks.</p> <p>Investigate various management options for both car parks including closure, limited access or pay parking.</p> <p><i>Shire resident permit option and delete consideration of car park closure</i></p> <p>Seek community and agency feedback on the car park management plan.</p>	<p>The majority of Brays Beach Car Park is located within the road reserve and Whites Beach car park is located wholly within the road reserve.</p> <p><i>Car park management plan to form part of the infrastructure planning investigation report requested by Council at is meeting on 14 December 2018. \$20,000 budget approved by Council.</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Update from Council at next meeting</p>
<p>Delegations and functions of Council officers</p>	Council Police NPWS	<p>Council to write to NPWS and request delegations for Council officers as honorary rangers under Section 17 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.</p> <p>Council to write to NSW Police and request delegations for Council staff to give move on directions under Section 680A of the Local Government Act.</p> <p><i>That Council note that responses from both the Police and NPWS requesting support in these matters, as outlined in Actions 4 and 5 have still not been forthcoming and that Council write again, requesting an urgent response.</i></p>	<p>Letter has been sent. Consultation with NPWS has been completed.</p> <p>Letter has been sent. Consultation with NSW Police is ongoing.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Unauthorised activities at the end of Seven Mile Beach Road including camping, vandalism and</p>	Council	<p>Explore option to install a gate and turning circle about 130 metres north of the existing turning circle at the southern end of Seven Mile Beach Road. This section of Seven Mile Beach Road is</p>	<p><i>To form part of the infrastructure planning investigation report requested by Council at is meeting on 14 December 2018. \$20,000 budget</i></p>	<p>Gate – no Others - ongoing</p>

ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	STATUS	TARGET DATE
lighting of fires.		<p>located on a Council Managed Crown Reserve. Need to consider - the ability to install and cost of the gate and creating a new turning circle.</p> <p>Further a review of signage is also to be undertaken to ensure that a clear and consistent message is provided to the visitors about permitted activities and acceptable standards of use of this area.</p> <p><i>Immediately remove the no stopping signs and boulders at the southern end of Seven Mile Beach Road. Create a proper turning circle and car parking area. Install no parking from 9.00pm-5.00am signs</i></p> <p>Investigate possible Crown funding.</p>	<i>approved by Council.</i>	<p>Working group formed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Seven Mile Beach Road traffic management to reduce immediate traffic risks and control traffic.	<p>Council</p> <p>Council</p>	<p>Investigate and prepare a plan for traffic calming along Seven Mile Beach Road, including the installation of pinch points to regulate traffic. Work carried out in accordance with Section 115(2)(d) of the Roads Act, including pinch points and new signage.</p> <p><i>Review the placement and number of No Stopping signs along the length of the road.</i></p> <p>Draft a road sharing plan of Seven Mile Beach Road in accordance with relevant engineering standards.</p>	<i>To form part of the infrastructure planning investigation report requested by Council at its meeting on 14 December 2018. \$20,000 budget approved by Council.</i>	14/12/18
Kings Beach Car Park	NPWS Council Residents	<p>Plan of management in draft since 2012.</p> <p>Residents and Council to write to the Minister requesting closure of Kings Beach car park.</p>	NPWS has installed the signs at Kings Beach and is following up on the Broken Head Nature Reserve draft plan of management.	TBA

ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	STATUS	TARGET DATE
		Also time restrictions in Kings Beach Car Park to be explored in interim.		TBA
Communication strategy	Residents Council Police NPWS	<p><i>Creation of a change 'neighbourhood watch program' to 'Broken Head Custodians Group'</i></p> <p>Creation of an online process for residents to report unauthorised activities on Seven Mile Beach Road.</p> <p><i>That a further report is presented to Council early 2018 on this consultation and any other management issues that arise over the summer holiday period.</i></p> <p>Shannon Burt, Annie Lewis, Sarah Nagel to arrange meeting with Delta K. and other representatives – Alison Drover has indicated she wishes to be involved.</p>	<p>TBA – Residents to implement this task with Council support for signage.</p> <p>To be discussed at meeting</p> <p>Commenced by Council. Request made to Council's IT division.</p>	<p>TBA</p> <p>TBA</p>
Vandalism and unauthorised activities on Seven Mile Beach Road	Council	Installation of covert surveillance cameras to address vandalism of signage and unauthorised activities.	Surveillance cameras have been installed. Completed	Completed

5. UPDATE ON ACTIONS

Action List #?????? (Document number of Action List)

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (List Agenda Items below)

i) ??????

Action: ?????

ii) ??????

Action: ?????

iii) ??????

Action: ?????

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING TBC