



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

10th May 2005

DSS5 HORSESHOE BAY RESERVE
FILE: R2-21 ELJ

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the Plan of Management for Horseshoe Bay Reserve.



Council, at its meeting of 22 June 2004, resolved:

1. *That Council adopt the amended Draft Management Plan for Horseshoe Bay Reserve excluding those sections related to the future of the caravan park.*
2. *That the future of the caravan park be the subject to further negotiation with the Department of Land with such a meeting being arranged as soon as possible.*

Council Officers have been in contact with the Department of Lands and discussed the proposed Plan of Management with the aim to reach a solution to the sections related to the caravan park in line with the Department of Lands policy direction.

The Department of Lands Policy Direction outlines that public access and use of coastal Crown Land should be optimised. They point out that Horseshoe Bay is a significant Mid North Coast location and unfettered general public access is highly desirable. The caravan park is considered restrictive for this public access to occur as the population increases.

Further, the Department recognises that the caravan park has historic significance and also is an economic driver for the town of South West Rocks at the present time, but that this can be changed over a longer period to offset any immediate detrimental effects.

Subsequent to these discussions with the Department of Lands, Council engaged the consultant to amend the plans, and the sections on the caravan park in the document, in line with the department's requirements.

Amended plans will be on display in the Council Chambers.

See attached sections of the Caravan Park as amended. [\(Appendix F, Part 1, Part 2, Part 3\)](#)

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The amended plan takes into account the delicate nature of the Horseshoe Bay reserve and enhances the public access while at the same time preserving its natural beauty.

- ***Social***

The changes to the caravan park section may have a social impact on tourists in the future. However alternatives are more than likely to be developed over time.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There will be an economic impact on the business operation of the caravan park if no substitute measures are put on place but with careful planning, permanent cabins will replace caravan sites in a more appropriate location.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

The Department of Lands policy states that general public access and use of coastal Crown Land should be optimised.

- ***Director's Review***

Council is urged to support the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

1 *That the amended plan and sections on the caravan park in the Horseshoe Bay Plan of Management document be placed on public exhibition for comment by the public for 28 days.*

2 *That the amended plan and sections on the caravan park in the Horseshoe Bay Plan of Management document be sent to the Department of Lands for their comments.*

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES