



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

14th June 2005

**DSS13 BOYTERS LANE PLAYING FIELDS AND
SUPP. WETLANDS
FILE: LA14295 KLB**

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the Boyters Lane Playing Fields and Wetlands Draft Plan of Management.



The Boyters Lane site on Pelican Island at South West Rocks is situated in the lower Macleay River, with Spencers Creek forming the northern and eastern boundary of the island. The site was acquired by Council for the purpose of constructing playing fields on one portion of the site, with the remainder to be managed for environmental objectives.

There is Crown Land adjoining the site along Spencers Creek and together there are 28.4 hectares of wetlands, estuarine inlets and grassland. There are three small estuarine embayments and a fresh to brackish lagoon (Teal Lagoon).

The site is mapped as an Acid Sulphate Soil (ASS) landscape. It is not within a Hotspot area, and is not regarded as a high-risk zone.

Meetings had been held on site with stakeholders, interest groups and community members in July, September and October 2004. To date there has been general community support for the intent of the project.

The site has good value from a wetland management and educational perspective. The site has a significant to high bird population.

The site is Zoned Rural 1 (a1) – under this Zoning playing fields are permissible.

Currently there are no cattle on site. However an agreement allows a local farmer to cut the grassed area for silage from time to time.

The draft Plan of Management was received in April 2005. Council is asked to agree to advertise the draft plan for community comment.

Copies of the Plan of Management are available for Councillors interested.

The site has been identified as a suitable one for tree planting on National Tree Day, Sunday 31st July 2005. Tree planting would occur on a portion of the proposed Buffer Zone between the playing fields and the wetland in accordance with the Plan of Management.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The environmental implications of this report would be the enhancement of the existing wetland by reverting the highly modified site to natural conditions, in stages and consistent with maintenance of present ecological values. This process would be integrated with the development and management of the playing fields.

The profile of the planned development would be raised in the public awareness through identifying this site for planting on National Tree Day, Sunday 31st July 2005.

- ***Social***

The social implications of this report would be to provide playing fields suitable to the growth of South West Rocks and to maximise community enjoyment and understanding of the ecological values of the site through communication and improved accessibility.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Section 94 Contributions are available for development of the playing fields.

Applications will be submitted to various State Government departments for funding to address the environmental awareness and management issues.

Interest from the corporate sector has been proposed.

Section 94 Contributions should be allocated for National Tree Day activities on the site.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

All policy and statutory requirements will be met.

- ***Director's Review***

The proposed developments on the site have community support and Council is urged to support the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the draft Plan of Management be advertised for comment.
2. That \$10,000 from Section 94 Contributions be allocated for Outdoor Recreation for Buffer Zone tree planting.

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DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES
K J Finnie