



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th July 2005

DSS2	CRESCENT HEAD BOAT RAMP
FILE: 272 AVP	{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on investigations relating to the current location of the Crescent Head Boat Ramp.



Council at its meeting on 8 March 2005 resolved to accept a grant in the amount of \$11,000 for repairs to the existing boat ramp at Crescent Head.

At the meeting on 12 April 2005 Council rescinded the resolution of 8 March 2005 and resolved:

- 1. That Crescent Head Boat Ramp not be refurbished.*
- 2. That the provision of a boat ramp at Crescent Head be discussed with the Management of Crescent Head Caravan Park and the Crescent Head Country Club.*
- 3. That the Director Shire Services investigate an alternative site for a boat ramp to service the Crescent Head area.*

Following Council's resolution, letters were forwarded to relevant organisations in Crescent Head, inviting them to a stakeholders meeting on 1 June 2005 to discuss:

- Possible alternative sites for a boat ramp
- Need for a boat ramp
- Issues surrounding the current use of the existing boat ramp and options for improvement

The stakeholders meeting was attended by 28 people including representatives from the Crescent Head Country Club, Crescent Head Caravan Park, Crescent Head Ratepayers and Residents Association, Crescent Head Bluewater Fishing Club, Crescent Head

Chamber of Commerce, Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club and NSW Maritime.

Alternative sites:

Despite the limitations of the site of the current boat ramp, it was felt that there was no other site in the Crescent Head area that would be suitable let alone preferable especially if the cost of removing the existing ramp and constructing a new ramp is considered.

The general consensus was that the location of the current ramp is the best location. Alternative sites that provided access directly to the sea were not considered to be practical. The nearest alternative ramps are located at Point Plomer (NPWS) and Korogora Creek Hat Head, with an informal ramp at Big Hill.

Need for a ramp:

The need to retain a boat ramp at Crescent Head was very strongly voiced at the meeting. Council has also received a petition containing 24 signatures seeking the retention of the boat ramp (a copy of the petition is attached at [\[Appendix A\]](#). Also attached [\[Appendix B\]](#) are letters from community organisations outlining reasons for the retention of the existing boat ramp.

These include:

- Access to launch boats for rescue operations at sea
- Access to launch boats by Surf Life Saving Club to effect rescues in surf and to undertake club activities
- Access to beach / water for pedestrians particularly the elderly and / or disabled
- Access for boat owners both local and tourists to launch boats. The Crescent Head Blue Water Club advise of a membership of over 200 members with typically four to ten using the ramp on a regular basis.

The Crescent Head Country Club, the Crescent Head Chamber of Commerce and the Crescent Head Blue Water Fishing Club advised in their letters that should the boat ramp be removed, the number of holiday makers visiting Crescent Head would decline and the business of Crescent Head would suffer financially.

Existing use of ramp:

At the meeting it was acknowledged that, whilst there was a potential conflict between boats and swimmers, as there is at many similar locations elsewhere along the coast, both in the shire and outside the shire, no incidents have been reported at Crescent Head.

The representative from NSW Maritime offered to prepare a Code of Conduct for waterway users in conjunction with representatives of Council, Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club, Crescent Head Blue Water Fishing Club and Crescent Head Foreshore and Holiday Parks. The Code of Conduct would set down guidelines for boat owners and could look at possible restrictions on the usage of the ramp during peak swimming periods.

Considering the extent of community support for a boat ramp at Crescent Head and the lack of a more suitable alternative site, it is recommended that the existing boat ramp be retained in its current location and that a Code of Conduct be prepared minimising any potential liability issues associated with the use of the boat ramp.

If the boat ramp is retained, repairs to the surface of the ramp should be undertaken and NSW Maritime contacted at to whether the WADAMP grant offer of \$11,000 is still available.

Issues relating to whether the ramp would be able to be used because of the build up of sand at the entrance to the creek should be addressed in the Entrance Management Strategy that is currently being developed as part of the Killick Creek Estuary Management Plan.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental Implications***

Any work undertaken as a result of this report will be undertaken with the approval of the relevant authorities.

- ***Social Implications***

Retention of the boat ramp will provide greater recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

- ***Economic (Financial) Implications***

The financial implication for Council of this report is that an amount of \$10,000 would need to be provided from Working Funds to supplement any Grant Funds available to undertake repairs to the surface of the Crescent Head boat ramp.

- ***Policy or Statutory Implications***

There are no Policy or Statutory Implications.

- ***Director's Review***

The community at Crescent Head is certainly supportive of retention of the boat ramp and Council's liability would be

markedly reduced by adoption of a Code of Conduct. Council is asked to support the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the existing boat ramp at Crescent Head be retained at its current location.
2. That a Code of Conduct for users of Crescent Head boat ramp be developed.
3. That necessary repairs to the surface of the existing boat ramp at Crescent Head be undertaken.
4. That Council resubmit an application to NSW Maritime for a WADAMP Grant in the amount of \$11,000.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES