



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th September 2006

DSS3 SURF LIFE SAVING
FILE: 590 CAS

SUMMARY:

Reporting on activities of Council's contracted Surf Life Saving Services for 2005/2006 season.



Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd were contracted by Council to oversee all Life Saving activities for the holiday periods for the term of 3 years which is due to expire in May 2007.

Council has provided \$102,000 in the Budget for Beach Patrols for the 2006/2007 season.

The beaches that the Surf Life Saving Services patrol are Grassy Heads, South West Rocks at Horseshoe Bay and Main Beach, Hat Head and Crescent Head. The service is provided during the spring, summer and autumn NSW school holiday periods.

A full report has been received from Surf Life Saving Services for the 2005/2006 season and a copy is available from Shire Services Department.

Below is a summary of statistics for each beach for the 2005/2006 season.

BEACH STATISTICS FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 05-APRIL 06 (INCLUSIVE)	Grassy Head	SWR Horseshoe Bay	SWR Main Beach	Hat Head	Crescent Head
Total No. of days beach closed	9	4	3	1	2
Total No. of first aid incidents	16	139	64	17	36

Total No. of preventative actions	416	1055	267	117	203
Total No. of rescues	10	41	2	0	28
Total No. of ordinance controls	7	643	14	27	37
Total No. of full day beach attendances	23509	48308	16303	12026	11404

The Lifeguard Supervisor and Lifeguard Manager have also made a number of recommendations in the report and they are as follows:

- A permanent Lifeguard tower or storage facility at Horseshoe Bay should be provided. A possible location for this would be above the existing toilet block therefore not blocking any view or new foot print. S94 funding could be used to fund this and could be incorporated into the Horseshoe Bay Plan of Management. At present there are no all-weather facilities for Lifeguard staff at this location raising OH&S concerns.
- Consideration be given to the extension of coverage for the summer holiday period. Crescent Head Beach coverage could be extended for a longer time period to cover all summer months (Dec-Feb). This would compliment the Surf Life Saving patrols performed on weekends and public holidays.
- Radio communication problems at Grassy Head to be addressed by Surf Life Saving NSW radio consultant.
- Concern at South West Rocks Main Beach where the second Lifeguard is only employed for the peak two weeks period. This concern is raised from a public safety and OH&S issue – where a Lifeguard is working by themselves on such a long stretch of beach with no access to equipment such as an all-terrain vehicle or 4WD. One option would be to utilize the South West Rocks Surf Club quad-bike. Preliminary discussions with the South West Rocks Surf Club on this issue have commenced.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

The provision of life saving services during the holiday periods enables residents and visitors to enjoy safe bathing at the more popular beaches in the shire.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Funds are provided in the 2006/07 budget for this service..

- *Policy or Statutory*

There are no Policy or Statutory obligations..

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 That an investigation be undertaken into the provision of a permanent lifeguard tower at Horseshoe Bay.
- 2 That further discussions be held with South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club regarding the utilisation of their quad-bike.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES