



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

14th February 2006

DSS3 HORSESHOE BAY RESERVE DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FILE: 505 KLB

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the progress of the Draft Plan of Management for Horseshoe Bay Reserve.



DESCRIPTION:

On 12 October 2005 Council resolved to place the Draft Plan of Management on public exhibition, calling for submissions.

On 8 November 2005 the amended plan went on exhibition at the Kempsey Shire Council Civic Centre, SWR Library, KSC Library and the Internet for a period of 28 days. Submissions were to be received up until Monday 5 December 2005 and a public meeting was to be held on Wednesday 18 January 2006.

Due to the lack of response by 5 December 2005, on 6 December 2005 it was decided to extend the exhibition period to 20 January 2006.

Ten advertisements were placed between 7 November 2005 and 16 January 2006, in the Macleay Argus, Macleay Valley Happynings, and the Mayoral column. Eight advertisements (from 22 November 2005) included details of the public meeting. A media release was made on 14 December 2005 advising of the extension of time for submissions and the public meeting.

On 18 January 2006 the public meeting was held at the CWA Hall at SWR. With three hundred and twenty six people signing the attendance sheets.

As at 30 January 2006 one thousand, one hundred and seventy three (1,173) submissions have been received regarding the future of the Caravan Park. Nine hundred and thirty seven (937)

submissions were received at the public meeting. One of these supported the draft Plan of Management.

It should be noted that most of the submissions received at the public meeting were photocopies of one or both of two different survey forms and some were copies of letters already sent in to Council and registered. The correct number of individual submissions will be known when all the documents are registered and acknowledged. To date one hundred and thirty seven (137) submissions have been acknowledged to one hundred and twenty five (125) addresses.

Some time needs to be allowed for analysing the content of these submissions and including them in a further report to Council. The majority of submissions clearly support the retention of caravan and camping sites, are unsupportive of installing cabins and do not comment on other aspects of that part of the Plan. A small number of submissions comment in detail on various aspects of that section of the Plan dealing with the future of the Caravan Park.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The Draft Plan of Management addresses landscaping issues and generally aims to improve the broader environment on the Reserve.

- ***Social***

The proposed changes to the Caravan Park have a social impact on tourists and local users of the Caravan Park. The public response to the Draft Plan of Management is a clear indication of the significance of this impact and the importance of allowing adequate time to study the submissions.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

It is felt that the Plan of Management needs to make provision for sufficient income producing activities to cover the maintenance cost of the Reserve.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Council has a statutory obligation, under both the Local Government Act and the Crown Lands Act, to prepare a Plan of Management of the Horseshoe Bay Reserve.

- ***Director's Review***

A thorough review of all submissions will take some time to complete but is an essential phase of this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES