



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

11th September 2007

DSDS7	RED WEED AND SEA HARE STRANDING	{ Folio No. * }
	FILE: 208 RBP	

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the preparation of a draft Red Weed Stranding and Sea Hare Beaching Contingency Action Plan.

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Description

The seasonal stranding of sea hares and red weed at Council beaches, particularly Crescent Head in recent years is a natural phenomenon that has a negative community impact. At the Council Meeting on 14th August 2007 Council requested that a report be prepared in relation to the establishment of agreed protocols for dealing with such occurrences. A draft contingency plan was prepared by Council staff for Council consideration. [\(Appendix M – Page G83\)](#)

Subject to Council agreement, the draft report will be referred to relevant interest groups for their comment and commitment to the Plan. It is intended that comment will be sought from the Local Chambers of Commerce and relevant government agencies.

The Plan includes the identification of a set of circumstances that will trigger remedial action (See the section 'intervention criteria' in the report). The report also outlines proposed management strategies and notification procedures.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The proposed Action Plan will establish an agreed response to red weed and sea hare strandings that meet environmental objectives.

- ***Social***

Strandings impact on the enjoyment of the beach environment, particularly when occurrences coincide with holiday periods. This

impact is of particular importance to local tourism operations and image.

- *Economic (Financial)*

While strandings are not predictable, the protocol will encourage expedient use of Council resources in the management of an occurrence.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Legislative reporting requirements are outlined in the Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the Draft Red Weed Stranding and Sea Hare Beaching Contingency Action Plan 2007 and authorise its release for exhibition and comment.

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R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES