



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

13th November 2007

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| DSDS9 | RED WEED AND SEA HARE STRANDING | |
| | FILE: 208 RFK (NRN) | {Folio No. * } |

SUMMARY:

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

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DESCRIPTION:

The seasonal stranding in recent years of sea hares and red weed at Council beaches, particularly Crescent Head, is a natural phenomenon that has resulted in a negative community impacts. At Council's meeting on 14th August 2007, it was requested that a report be prepared in relation to the establishment of agreed protocols for dealing with such occurrences. A draft contingency plan was presented to the Council meeting on 11th September 2007. The plan was advertised for community input and placed on exhibition for 28 days.

No submissions were received from the public during the exhibition period.

The Plan includes the identification of a set of circumstances that will trigger remedial action and outlines proposed management strategies and notification procedures. [\(Appendix D – Page G22\)](#)

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 approve the Draft Red Weed Stranding and Sea Hare Beaching Contingency Action Plan 2007.

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R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES