

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 18 September 2014

commencing at 9.00 am

Council Chambers, 1 Omrah Avenue, Caloundra

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

On establishing there is a quorum, the Chair will declare the meeting open.

2 OPENING PRAYER**3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 August 2014 and the Special Meeting (Sunshine Coast Airport EIS) held on 25 August 2014 be received and confirmed.

5 OBLIGATIONS OF COUNCILLORS**5.1 DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST ON ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS**

Pursuant to Section 172 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor who has a material personal interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must –

- (a) inform the meeting of the councillor's material personal interest in the matter; and
- (b) leave the meeting room (including any area set aside for the public), and stay out of the meeting room while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

5.2 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 173 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a councillor who has a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government, or any of its committees must inform the meeting about the councillor's personal interest the matter and if the councillor participates in the meeting in relation to the matter, how the councillor intends to deal with the real or perceived conflict of interest.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE**7 PRESENTATIONS**

8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL**8.1 REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PLANNING****8.1.1 UNITYWATER NETSERV PLAN**

File No:	Utilities
Author:	Manager Transport and Infrastructure Policy Regional Strategy & Planning Department
Attachments:	Att 1 - Draft Unitywater Netserv Plan Part A (<i>Provided under separate cover – electronic only</i>)

PURPOSE

This report is to inform Council on the suitability of Unitywater's Netserv Plan, sufficient to receive Council's consideration of formal endorsement of the Planning Assumptions supporting that Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final step in Unitywater transitioning to operating under the Utility Model is the implementation of its Netserv Plan. To do so, it must meet a legislative requirement to have its participating councils, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Noosa Shire Council, endorse the planning assumptions supporting the draft Netserv Plan Part A.

Unitywater provided the draft Netserv Plan Part A, and associated documentation, to Council on 28 July 2014, requesting that a decision on endorsement of the planning assumptions be provided no later than 18 September, 2014. In preparing this report, the matters relevant to the planning assumptions have been taken into account and it is recommended that the planning assumptions contained in the draft Netserv Plan Part A be endorsed by Council.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled "Unitywater Netserv Plan"**
- (b) endorse the planning assumptions supporting Unitywater's Draft Netserv Plan Part A (Attachment 1, pages 42, 43 and 105) as being consistent with the planning assumptions for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council area and**
- (c) note that Unitywater will revise the submitted planning assumptions supporting the Netserv Plan to align with Council's current Planning Scheme over the next 18 months.**

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

There are no financial or resourcing issues associated with this report.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	<i>A public sector leader</i>
Outcome:	We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity:	S28 - Elected council - providing community leadership, democratic representation, advocacy and decision-making

CONSULTATION

This report is a response to consultation being undertaken by Unitywater as part of a broader consultation with the communities of Moreton Bay Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Noosa Shire Council. No consultation is required by this Council.

Internal Consultation

No internal consultation is required.

External Consultation

No external consultation is required.

Community Engagement

No community engagement is required.

PROPOSAL

Under cover of a letter from Unitywater received on 28 July 2014, Council was provided with Unitywater's draft Netserv Plan Part A. A package of information was provided, including:

- An explanatory briefing note
- A draft copy of Part A of the Netserv Plan, which includes Unitywater's Connections Policy, Schedule of Works and Charges Schedule
- GIS data files to enable ready appraisal of Unitywater's planning assumptions and
- Mapping showing Unitywater's connections area, future connections area and future planned trunk infrastructure.

Essentially, the draft Netserv Plan outlines the plans for the provision of safe, reliable and secure water supply and sewerage services for the next 20 years. Part A provides an overview of how Unitywater will provide for future growth, renew existing assets to maintain reliability and continuity of services and conduct its business to deliver the required standard of service described in the Customer Charter.

Provision of the draft Netserv Plan to participating councils is a legislative requirement on Unitywater, in preparation for its adoption on 1 October 2014. Also stated in legislation is the requirement that a participating council must consider the planning assumptions for its local government area and must endorse these if consistency exists. This is the final step to Unitywater operating under the Utility Model.

Because Council's Planning Scheme was adopted only four months past, and allowing for the significant lead times required for infrastructure planning, Unitywater has had to apply the planning assumptions for growth and development as stated in Caloundra City Plan 2004 – Priority Infrastructure Plan, and Maroochy Plan 2000 – Priority Infrastructure Plan. (This is not dissimilar across the Unitywater service area, with Caboolture Shire Plan 2005, Pine Rivers Plan 2006, Redcliffe City Planning Scheme 2005 and Noosa Plan 2006 applying.)

The planning assumptions are generally expressed in quantitative terms and generally include estimates of the following:

- Dwelling and population growth
- Gross floor area and employment growth
- Type and scale of anticipated development and
- Timing of the anticipated development.

Unitywater has stated that over the course of the next year, it will review its planning assumptions and undertake review of network master plans to align with the assumptions of Council's new planning scheme. This approach is considered reasonable as the locations, type and scale of development likely to occur over the next two to three years are most likely to be accommodated by the current Unitywater Schedule of Works, the result of the current planning assumptions. A revised Schedule of Works informed by new Planning Assumptions, developed over the next 12 – 18 months is recommended as satisfactory. Development covered by Infrastructure Agreements will remain unaffected.

In support of the statement that development likely to be realised in the short term will be accommodated by existing networks combined with current planned future augmentations, the following table shows the alignment in population projection by the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme, the State Government Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) and the draft Netserv Plan demand loads.

Document & Comparisons	2016	2021
Netserv Water (Residential only)	294,183	333,110
Netserv Sewer (Residential only)	295,336	333,829
SCRC Planning Scheme	303,805	359,855
Comparison (Water/SCRC)	96.83%	92.57%
Comparison (Sewer/SCRC)	97.21%	92.77%
State (OESR)	297,454	333,375
Comparison (Water/OESR)	98.9%	98.74%
Comparison (Sewer/OESR)	99.29%	98.95%

Table showing population projections from various sources

The comparisons show that for growth anticipated to 2021, the figures are sufficiently close to remove any concern that the short term planning is not on target. Further analysis to 2031 shows a divergence in forecasts sufficient to raise concerns should those figures be final from Unitywater, however, the review of the planning assumptions over the coming 12 - 18 months will address these concerns.

Legal

Under the requirements of the controlling legislation; the *South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*, Unitywater is required to commence its Netserv Plan on 1 October 2014. Under that same legislation, a participating local government (this Council) must endorse the planning assumptions for its local government area if those planning assumptions are consistent with the council's planning assumptions. This report submits that the planning assumptions are consistent, thereby obliging council to endorse the planning assumptions included in Part A of the draft Netserv Plan.

Policy

Council's policies relevant to Part A of the draft Netserv Plan are captured in the superseded planning schemes of Caloundra City Plan 2004, Maroochy Plan 2000 and the associated Priority Infrastructure Plans. As outlined in the report, there is no conflict with the policy components relating to the planning assumptions.

Risk

There are no known risks associated with Council's endorsement of Unitywater's draft Netserv Plan Part A – planning assumptions.

There are risks associated with not endorsing the draft Plan, as this would delay the implementation of the Netserv Plan. Consequences of this are unknown.

Previous Council Resolution

There is no previous Council resolution relevant to this report.

Related Documentation

Unitywater provided Council with the draft Netserv Plan Part A and associated documentation, on a compact disc, including the following folders:

- Sewer Connection Geodatabase
- Water Connection Geodatabase
- Netserv Plan Part A Explanatory Notes
- Sewer Utility Model Index
- Sewer Utility Model Maps
- Unitywater Netserv Plan Part A – for consultation
- Water Utility Model Index
- Water Utility Model Index

This documentation is available to Councillors on request.

Critical Dates

Unitywater, in its cover letter, requests that Council endorses the planning assumptions in Part A of the draft Netserv Plan no later than 18 September 2014, to allow for due process to be completed by the implementation date of 1 October 2014.

Implementation

Unitywater will be advised immediately of Council's decision arising from this report.

8.2 CORPORATE SERVICES**8.2.1 BUDGET REVIEW 1 2014/15**

File No:	Reviews
Author:	Acting Coordinator Financial Services Corporate Services Department
Appendices:	App A - Budget Review 1 2014/15 Financial Statements 15
Attachments:	Att 1 - 2013/14 Interim Statement of Income & Expenses..... 23 Att 2 - Budget Review 1 2014/15 Operating Adjustments 25 Att 3 - Budget Review 1 2014/15 Capital Adjustments 33

PURPOSE

To amend the 2014/15 budget to reflect Council's anticipated revenue and expenditure forecasts to 30 June 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report identifies works from the 2013/14 budget that were not completed as at 30 June 2014 and require funds to be carried over to the 2014/15 financial year, for both operating and capital.

Section 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* allows council to amend its budget by resolution at any time before the end of the financial year. Major budget reviews are undertaken on a periodic basis to reflect management's best estimate of its financial position at the end of a financial year.

The 2013/14 interim financial position incorporates end of financial year adjustments, however, the final result will be subject to review by council's external auditors, during September and October 2014.

Council's interim financial results as at 30 June 2014 reflect a \$14.3 million operating result against a budgeted result of \$15.0 million (Attachment 1).

The result of this review will decrease the 2014/15 operating result by \$1.8 million, from \$13.1 million to \$11.3 million, increase the capital revenues by \$2.0 million from \$38.5 million to \$40.6 million and increase capital expenditure by \$35.3 million, from \$114.3 million to \$149.6 million.

The 2013/14 closing cash balance was \$51.8 million higher against anticipated as at 30 June 2014. The revised closing cash balance for 2013/14 and the amendments in this budget review will increase the cash position by \$16.8 million to \$175.3 million as at 30 June 2015.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Budget Review 1 2014/15” and
- (b) adopt the amended 2014/15 Budget Financial Statements to include the identified operating and capital budget adjustments (Appendix A).

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Adoption of the recommendation of this report will formally amend the 2014/15 Budget.

The 2013/14 closing cash balance was \$51.8 million higher against anticipated as at 30 June 2014. The revised closing cash balance for 2013/14 and the amendments in this budget review will increase the cash position by \$16.8 million to \$175.3 million as at 30 June 2015.

Maintaining cash and reducing debt balances were two key principles for development of the 2014/15 budget.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: *A public sector leader*

Outcome: 5.2 - A financially sustainable organisation

Operational Activity: 5.2.2 - Ensure council's finances are well managed and systems are in place to analyse performance, generate revenue and reduce costs and manage contracts and contract performance

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation

All departments of council were consulted in the course of the review.
A budget review workshop was held with Councillors on 18 August 2014.

External Consultation

No external consultation is required for this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement is required for this report.

PROPOSAL

Section 170 of *the Local Government Regulation 2012* allows council to amend its budget by resolution at any time before the end of the financial year.

Budget reviews are undertaken on a periodic basis to reflect management's best estimate of its financial position at the end of a financial year. Prudent financial management also requires council to amend its budget if there are material changes to expected revenue or expenses for the year.

A budget review has now been undertaken to make recommended amendments to the 2014/15 budget to reflect anticipated revenues, expenses and capital expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year.

This report identifies works from 2013/14 budget that were not completed as at 30 June 2014 and require budget to be carried over to the 2014/15 financial year.

The 2013/14 interim financial position incorporates end of financial year adjustments, however, the final result will be subject to review by council's external auditors, during September and October 2014.

Council's interim financial results as at 30 June 2014 reflect a \$14.3 million operating result against a budgeted result of \$15.0 million (Attachment 1).

The result of this review will decrease the 2014/15 operating result by \$1.8 million, from \$13.1 million to \$11.3 million, increase the capital revenues by \$2.0 million from \$38.5 million to \$40.6 million and increase capital expenditure by \$35.3 million, from \$114.3 million to \$149.6 million.

The 2013/14 closing cash balance was \$51.8 million higher against anticipated as at 30 June 2014. The revised closing cash balance for 2013/14 and the amendments in this budget review will increase the cash position by \$16.8 million to \$175.3 million as at 30 June 2015.

This 30 June 2015 closing cash balance increase of \$16.8 million is as a result of:

- above estimate increase in capital revenues of \$7 million for the period January 2014 to June 2014 for development applications in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council local government area.
- Reduction in operating costs of \$8 million for the period January 2014 to June 2014 as a consequence of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council organisation review.

Table 1: Summary of carryover requests (Details contained in Attachment 2)

Carryover Requests:	\$'000	\$'000
Operating	1,786	1,786
Capital		
Part A	1,115	
Part B	Nil	
Part C	568	
Part D	(201)	
Part E	31,764	33,246

Legal

The report complies with council's legislative obligations to amend its budget in accordance with Section 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Policy

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

Risk

There are no risks associated with this report.

Previous Council Resolution

On 22 May 2014, council made the following resolution (OM14/82).

“That Council, in relation to the Acquisition of the Omrah Avenue Caloundra property, refer the potential acquisition to the budget review process for consideration during the 2014/2015 financial year.”

On 26 June 2014 council adopted the 2014/15 budget.

On 24 July 2014, council made the following resolution (OM 14/100).

“That council amend the 2014/2015 Budget by increasing the Strategic Land Capital Program by the amount of \$450,000 to accommodate the requirements on the Council resolution OM14/82.”

Related Documentation

There is no related documentation for this report.

Critical Dates

Following adoption of this report, the proceeding month’s financial reports will reflect the amendments in the current budget.

Implementation

Council’s budget will be formally adjusted following the council resolution and included in future monthly reports.

8.2.2 JULY 2014 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

File No:	Financial Reports
Author:	Acting Coordinator Financial Services Corporate Services Department
Attachments:	Att 1 - July 2014 Financial Performance Report53

PURPOSE

To meet Council's legislative obligations, a monthly report is to be presented to Council on its financial performance and investments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The monthly financial performance report provides council with a summary of performance against budget at the end of each month in terms of the operating result and delivery of the capital program.

It is still early in the 2014/2015 financial year and therefore difficult to compare year to date budget and actual results with any degree of certainty. There are a number of timing issues that exist at the end of July 2014, namely:

- 2014/2015 operating and capital budget profiling is yet to be finalized and
- 2013/2014 budget carryovers are to be presented at this meeting as part of Budget Review 1.

The operating result at 31 July 2014 shows a positive variance of \$3.8 million compared to the forecast position.

The operating result variation is made up of higher than expected revenue of \$720,000 (0.6%) and lower than expected operating expenses of \$3 million (9.4%). Further detail is provided in the proposal section of this report.

As at 31 July 2014, \$3.7 million (3.3%) of Council's \$114.3 million 2014/2015 Capital Works Program was financially expended.

Council's investment portfolio remains within the guidelines established under the Investment Policy.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report titled "July 2014 Financial Performance Report".

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

There are no finance and resourcing implications from this report.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	<i>A public sector leader</i>
Outcome:	5.2 - A financially sustainable organisation
Operational Activity:	5.2.2 - Ensure council's finances are well managed and systems are in place to analyse performance, generate revenue and reduce costs and manage contracts and contract performance

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation

All departments or branches participated in the formation of the recommendations associated with this report.

External Consultation

No external consultation is required for this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement is required for this report.

PROPOSAL

The operating result at 31 July 2014 shows a positive variance of \$3.8 million compared to the forecast position.

This operating result variation is made up of higher than expected revenue of \$720,000 and lower than expected operating expenses of \$3 million.

Operating Revenue

Net Rates and Utility Charges

The favourable variance of \$906,000 is mainly due to budget estimates for cleansing charges that differ to actuals as follows:

- The mix between internal and external revenue
- Estimates around the number of services lost due to de-amalgamation
- New services identified due to data cleansing.

Fees and Charges

Of the \$515,000 favourable variance in fees and charges, \$389,000 relates to Sunshine Coast Holiday Parks and \$244,000 to development application revenue, across all application types.

Dividends Received

The above favourable variances are offset by an unfavourable variance of \$737,000 in Unitywater tax equivalents. This is a timing variance only.

Operating Expenses

Employee Cost

As at 31 July 2014, employee costs were below budget by \$541,000. Some vacancies are in the process of being filled.

Materials and Services

As at 31 July 2014, Materials and Services costs were below budget by \$2.4 million.

This is mainly due to minimal spend in reactive budgets and projects.

Capital Expenditure

As at 31 July 2014, \$3.7 million (3.3%) of Council's \$114.3 million 2014/2015 Capital Works Program was financially expended.

Detail by Capital Works Program is outlined below:

Program	Original Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	YTD Actual \$000	% of Annual Budget Spent
Buildings and Facilities	4,997	4,997	91	1.8
Coasts and Canals	2,070	2,070	8	0.4
Divisional Allocations	2,888	2,888	111	3.9
Environmental Assets	946	946	32	3.4
Fleet	1,290	1,290	9	0.7
Parks and Gardens	9,349	9,349	919	9.8
Stormwater	6,202	6,202	76	1.2
Transportation	47,391	47,391	1,483	3.1
Information Technology	2,768	2,768	201	7.3
Strategic Land & Commercial Properties	18,751	19,201	84	0.4
Aerodromes	581	581	9	1.6
Sunshine Coast Airport	5,148	5,148	64	1.2
Holiday Parks	1,158	1,158	31	2.7
Quarries	1,950	1,950	0	0.0
Waste	8,403	8,403	609	7.3
TOTAL COUNCIL	113,892	114,342	3,728	3.3

Investment Performance

- All investment parameters remain within the guidelines established by the Investment Policy.
- For the month ending 31 July 2014 council had \$203 million cash (excluding Trust Fund) with an average interest rate of 3.53%, being 0.80% above benchmark. This is compared to the same period last year with \$252 million cash (excluding Trust Fund) where the average interest rate was 4.16%, being 1.14% above benchmark.
- The benchmark used to measure performance of cash funds is the UBS Bank Bill Index and the Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) for term deposits.

Legal

This report ensures that council complies with its legislative obligations with respect to financial reporting in accordance with Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Investment of funds is in accordance with the provisions of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* and the associated Regulations and the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Policy

Council's Investment Policy.

Risk

The current risks associated with the operating result are as follows:

1. The risk that the State Government will transfer State Penalties Enforcement Register (SPER) debt back to local councils, who will then have to manage their own debt collection.
2. There is a claim for an additional \$22 million in cash transfer from Noosa Shire Council. This claim has been sent to the Minister who has initiated an independent process to determine the validity. An additional \$22 million in cash transfer would be shown as a loss on disposal and decrease the Sunshine Coast cash balance.
3. Unitywater is raising its tariffs across a range of council land and facilities. This is yet to be quantified by Unitywater to allow council to determine the impact which is expected to occur in the second half of the financial year.

Previous Council Resolution

Ordinary Meeting 22 May 2014, council made the following resolution (OM14/82).

"That Council, in relation to the Acquisition of the Omrah Avenue Caloundra property, refer the potential acquisition to the budget review process for consideration during the 2014/2015 financial year."

Special Meeting Budget 26 June 2014 council adopted the 2014/2015 budget.

Ordinary Meeting 24 July 2014, council made the following resolution (OM 14/100).

"That council amend the 2014/2015 Budget by increasing the Strategic Land Capital Program by the amount of \$450,000 to accommodate the requirements on the Council resolution OM14/82."

Related Documentation

There is no related documentation for this report.

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates for this report.

Implementation

There are no implementation details to include in this report.

8.2.3 ADOPTION OF CONSOLIDATED LOCAL LAWS AND SUBORDINATE LOCAL LAWS

File No:	22.12.1
Author:	Manager Corporate Governance Corporate Services Department
Appendices:	App A - Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 201167
	App B - Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011.....99
	App C - Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011159
	App D - Subordinate Local Law No. 5 (Parking) 2011221

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a council resolution to adopt consolidated versions of council's Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws that incorporate recent changes made to the local laws.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first Sunshine Coast Council suite of local laws and subordinate local laws came into effect on 1 January 2012. Since that time a number of minor local law amendments have been adopted by council.

This report presents consolidated local laws relating to cat registration, removal of provisions relating to Noosa, Bright Water off-leash dog area, and animals in eating establishments. This report presents consolidated local laws and subordinate local laws relating to *Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011*, *Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011*, *Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011*, *Subordinate Local Law No.5 (Parking) 2011*.

Consolidating local laws provides stakeholders and the community with a comprehensive and readable suite of local laws. Without consolidation, readers are required to read the original local law and amendment local laws together to ascertain the current lawful position of a particular issue.

It is good practice to consolidate local laws and subordinate local laws as soon as practicable following amendment.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Adoption of Consolidated Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws” and
- (b) resolve to adopt consolidated versions of:
 - (i) *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*
 - (ii) *Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*
 - (iii) *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*
 - (iv) *Subordinate Local Law No. 5 (Parking) 2011.*

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This is a consolidation report only. No financial implications will arise from this report.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	<i>Service excellence</i>
Outcome:	We serve our community by providing this great service
Operational Activity:	S23 - Local amenity and local laws - maintaining and regulating local amenity through local laws, regulated parking, community land permits and management of animals, overgrown land and abandoned vehicles

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation

Internal consultation in relation to local law amendments and the consolidation of such has occurred with all appropriate stakeholders.

External Consultation

External legal advice and officers from the Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience were consulted in the preparation of this report.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is unnecessary as the changes are purely administrative and have no direct impact on the community other than to provide a fully comprehensive and readable version of the local laws.

PROPOSAL

Consolidating local laws provides stakeholders and the community with a comprehensive and readable suite of local laws. Without consolidation, readers are required to read the original local laws and amendment local laws together to ascertain the current lawful position on a particular issue.

Sunshine Coast Council introduced its first suite of local laws and subordinate local laws on 1 January 2012. Since that time a number of minor local law amendments have been adopted by council. A consolidated version of council's local laws and subordinate local laws was presented to council for adoption on 17 October 2013 and since that date further changes have been made.

The following table outlines the amendment local laws to be consolidated into council's suite of local laws, these amendment local laws and subordinate local laws have been adopted by council, published in the government gazette and notified to the Minister in accordance with section 29A of the *Local Government Act 2009*:

Amendment Local Law Title	Purpose of Amendment	Dated Adopted by Council	Gazettal Date
Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Animal Management) 2013	To exclude animals from Caloundra Central Park Sports Precinct and Caloundra Cricket Ovals 2-14 and Caloundra Croquet Club Greens. Amends: <i>Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Animal Management) 2011</i>	OM 12 December 2013	20 December 2013
Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2014	To remove the provisions relating to the Noosa Council area following de-amalgamation. Amends: <i>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011</i> – removes specific provisions in relation to placement of moveable advertising devices for the Noosa region. <i>Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011</i> – removal of dog off-leash area maps. <i>Subordinate Local Law No. 5 (Parking) 2011</i> – removal of off street parking in Noosa region.	OM 27 March 2014	4 April 2014
Amendment Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2014	To incorporate registration provisions for cats (Part 1A). Amends: <i>Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011</i>	OM 21 August 2014	22 August 2014
Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2014	To remove the prohibition of dogs in outdoor dining establishments and to include new dog off-leash area at Brightwater. Amends: <i>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011</i>	OM 21 August 2014	22 August 2014

It is good practice to consolidate local laws and subordinate local laws as soon as practicable following amendment. In adopting the consolidated versions of the local law and subordinate local laws, the consolidated versions are taken to be the local laws and subordinate local laws relevant to the Sunshine Coast.

The consolidated versions will be made available to the public through a link on council's website to the State Government's local law database website.

Legal

The proposal has been considered in accordance with the following legislation:

- *Section 32 of the Local Government Act 2009 and Regulation and*
- *Sunshine Coast Council's suite of Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws.*

Section 32 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that the local government may at its first reasonable opportunity prepare and adopt a consolidated version of its local laws and subordinate local laws as they were originally made, with all the amendments made to the local laws and subordinate local laws since the local laws and subordinate local laws were originally made.

In accordance with section 32 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the local government must provide a copy of the adopted consolidated versions to the Minister within 7 days.

Policy

The consolidated local laws have been prepared in accordance with relevant council policy.

Risk

Failing to consolidate Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws increases the risk of breaches and incorrect interpretation of local law provisions. It also makes the local laws difficult to read and understand.

Previous Council Resolution

OM 17/10/13 - Item 7.2.2 Adoption of Consolidated Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws
OM 12/12/13 – Item 7.2.4 Making of Amendment Subordinate Local Law No.4 (Animal Management) 2013
OM 27/03/14 – Item 8.2.2 Amendment Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Miscellaneous) 2014
OM 22/08/14 – Item 8.3.2 Making of Amendment Local Law No.1 (Animal Management) 2014 and Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2014

Related Documentation

- *Local Government Act 2009 and Regulations*
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws 2011
- State Government Guidelines for Making Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws
- Corporate Plan & Operational Plans

Critical Dates

It is important that the consolidation of local laws occurs as soon as practical after an amendment local law is adopted. This ensures that key stakeholders have a clear and articulate local law framework.

Implementation

The Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience will be provided with a copy of the consolidated local laws for inclusion on the Department's Local Law Database. Additionally, copies of the consolidated local laws will be provided on council's website.

8.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

8.3.1 LIMITED FACILITIES CAMPING - INTERIM POLICY

File No: ECM 18 September 2014

Author: Manager Community Facilities & Planning
Community Services Department

Appendices: App A - Limited Facilities Camping - Interim Policy 253

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to council for consideration and adoption an Interim Policy to inform the decision making and approvals process and to provide guidance on the application of conditions when assessing limited facilities camping under Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law No.1.

The “Limited Facilities Camping – Interim Policy” is provided as **Appendix A**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mobile travellers in recreational vehicles are noted by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia as the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry in the nation. These travellers often seek self-contained tourism infrastructure for short stays, which generally entails a patch of land, effluent dump facilities and access to potable water.

At present, while visiting the Sunshine Coast, these travellers can access commercial tourist accommodation parks or one of several non-commercial camping and rest areas located throughout the region. Some of the non-commercial camp areas are free, while some are provided at a relatively low fee commensurate with the facilities provided. Not all areas used by self-contained campers are approved for overnight camping activities.

There are also a number of community groups across the region that are providing low cost camping services or seeking approval from council to use freehold or leased land for this purpose.

The activity of limited facilities camping is governed by council by-laws and relevant state legislation. The current regulatory framework, including the *Land Act 2004* and the related Queensland Government *Caravan Parks Policy (PUX/901/102)* and Sunshine Coast Regional Council *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011* and *Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011* provide a conflict between the level of facilities to be provided to overnight campers on land parcels reserved for recreation. The State Government’s *Caravan Parks Policy (PUX/901/102)* allows for camping with limited facilities for a maximum of three nights as a consistent use for land parcels classified as ‘Reserve for Recreation’.

Council Local Laws prohibits camping on council controlled land without express approval, which is typically only granted if a high level of facilities are provided on the site. Such high level facility provision, ordinarily imposed on approvals through council local laws, include sufficient number of toilet and ablution facilities based on the number of accommodation park patrons, hot and cold water provided to all showers and hand basins, continuous supply of hot and cold water to all toilet, bathroom, kitchen, laundry and drinking water facilities, and minimum site size and distances between camp sites and distances to amenities.

To enable the region and local businesses to generate economic benefit from the expanding drive tourism market while a comprehensive drive tourism policy is developed by council, this interim policy provides a clear framework for council to assess and approve limited facilities camping without the need to satisfy the requirements that are ordinarily applied to accommodation parks.

In respect to commercial and/or private land applications, development of a new facility or extension to existing facilities may trigger the need for planning permission and the commencement of the Development Application process. Whilst the attached policy strives to encourage limited facility camping to be provided for both the private operators and public/not for profit sector, it should be recognised that planning provisions do differ and the private sector, in some instances, will encounter additional costs and longer timeframes in obtaining limited facility camping permission.

It should be emphasised that this policy has been developed to act as an interim measure. There is strong community interest across some council controlled reserves within the region. Community representatives are seeking a timely response toward their ability to cater for limited facilities camping travellers within the reserve over which they have been granted tenure.

In addition to this interim policy, council officers will be developing a comprehensive Drive Tourism Plan for Sunshine Coast Council. This Plan will be presented to council for consideration in 2015. At such time that council has a clear vision and strategic position in respect to Drive Tourism, it will be necessary to review the *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011* to ensure it accurately reflects this position.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Limited Facilities Camping - Interim Policy” and
- (b) adopt the “Limited Facilities Camping - Interim Policy” (Appendix A).

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

There is limited financing and resource implications associated with the interim policy as presented in this report, other than staff time taken to assess applications received and staff time associated with compliance auditing of approved sites. It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken by Community Services within current budget provisions.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal:	An enviable lifestyle and environment
Outcome:	3.2 - Well-managed and maintained open space, waterways and foreshore assets
Operational Activity:	3.2.4 - Manage the region’s high quality urban and rural open space network

CONSULTATION

The interim policy has been informed by a Councillor Working Group developed to consider options for non-commercial camping on council owned or controlled land. Consultation and discussion with internal technical staff have assisted to prepare, develop and refine the interim policy as presented.

Internal Consultation

Relevant internal stakeholders across various departments of council have been consulted during internal discussions and working groups held throughout July and August 2014, including:

Community Services

- Community Facility and Planning
- Community Response

Corporate Services

- Property Management

Corporate Strategy and Delivery

- Strategy and Coordination
- Economic Development

Regional Strategy and Planning

- Strategic Planning
- Development Services

Office of Mayor and CEO

- Legal Services

Councillors

- July 2014: Councillor workshop to provide background and consider camping options across the region (incl. Cr Thompson, Cr Dwyer, Cr Rogerson, Cr O'Pray, Cr Baberowski, Cr McKay, Cr Robinson)
- August 2014: Councillor working group to further consider options for non-commercial camping on council controlled land (incl. Cr Robinson, Cr O'Pray, Cr Baberowski, Cr McKay, Cr Dwyer and Cr Rogerson).

External Consultation

There has been no external consultation undertaken in relation to the interim policy at this stage.

Community Engagement

There has been no community engagement undertaken in the development of this interim policy. Any amendment to a local law will require public notification and community consultation. Extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and community members is also expected during the development of a more comprehensive drive tourism plan for the Sunshine Coast Council region.

PROPOSAL

Background

Limited facility camping options are important tourism infrastructure for the drive tourism market, which accounts for 70 percent of the overnight leisure market in Queensland and is rapidly expanding.

In April 2014, the Queensland Government released the *Queensland Camping Options Toolkit* to assist local governments to increase the provision of camping facilities and attract more drive tourists to their regions. This toolkit details a range of options for council to explore that could contribute toward the doubling of overnight tourism in Queensland by 2020.

Consideration and implementation of the recommendations in the *Queensland Camping Options Toolkit* is a long-term undertaking for the Sunshine Coast Council. It is proposed that consideration be given to issues such as assessing the tourism market profile within the region, identifying tourism market offerings and current market gaps, understanding management and enforcement, and wide industry and community consultation.

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify for limited facilities camping the conditions that must be satisfied for council and to inform the decision making and approvals process and to provide guidance on the application of conditions when assessing limited facilities camping under *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 1*

This policy does not alter or override any other statutory or policy provisions that apply to the use of land or the activity of operation of accommodation parks.

Policy Outcomes

The outcomes of this policy will allow for:

- increased opportunity for the provision of lower cost tourism infrastructure in the Sunshine Coast Council local government area;
- an enhanced tourism experience for drive tourists visiting the region;
- an improved match between the application of regulations and the risks to the community and environment associated with limited facilities camping; and
- consistency and transparency in the application of the non-mandatory provisions within the Sunshine Coast Council *Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011* Section 6 of Schedule 10.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to the operation of accommodation parks as defined by and subject to the Sunshine Coast Council *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*.

Policy Statement

All limited facilities camping proposals will be subject to the requirements of Section 9(1) of *Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011*, for example:

- Necessary planning approvals must be in place; and
- The provisions of the *Land Act 1994* must be complied with where applicable.

Conditions that will ordinarily be imposed under local law covering the operation of an accommodation park will also be consistently and transparently applied to all operators of limited facilities camping grounds (commercial, public and community), based upon the risk to the community and environment.

Operation of an accommodation park will be subject to all provisions within *Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011* Section 6 of Schedule 10 unless a comprehensive risk assessment demonstrates it is unnecessary to do so, or:

- only limited facilities are provided where the land is to be used for camping; and
- the users of the land for this purpose will be 'self-contained campers'; and

- there is a reliable mechanism in place to limit the use of the land for short-term self-contained camping.

When deciding an application for approval for a limited facilities camping activity that meets the three conditions stipulated above (i, ii and iii), an authorised person (or Council) may approve the application under Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011 s 9(1) for limited facilities camping to be undertaken on the land and elect to not apply the conditions that will ordinarily be imposed in Section 6 of Schedule 10 of Subordinate Local Law No.1.

Policy Timeframe

It is proposed that this Interim Policy will remain in place until such time as any relevant local law is reviewed and amended as necessary, and/or a more comprehensive drive tourism plan, with associated replacement policy, is adopted by council.

Legal

The lawful use of the land is a key consideration in the development of any policy that enables approvals to be granted for limited facility camping. As such, considerable engagement has occurred with council's Legal Services Branch in the development of this interim policy.

State Legislation

Relevant state legislation includes:

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- Land Act 2004, with associated Caravan Park Policy (PUX/901/102) SLM/2007/3127 Version 3.3 and Secondary Use of Trust Land (PUX/901/209) Version 5.3
- *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*

The *Local Government Act 2009* defines competitive neutrality principles noting the local government entity should not enjoy a net advantage over competitors only because the entity is in the public sector, and allows a Local Government to make and enforce any local law. This includes local laws dealing with the locations that travellers are allowed to camp at.

The *Land Act 2004* allows the minister to dedicate unallocated state land as a reserve for one or more community purposes. The use of the reserve is set out in local laws or by-laws made by the trustee.

Within the *Caravan Park Policy (PUX/901/102)*, the classification of a 'Reserve for Recreation' allows for camping with provision of limited facilities as a consistent use of the land. The length of stay is to be restricted to no more than three nights. Local governments wishing to utilise 'Reserves for Recreation' for camping need to adopt a local law to authorise the activity.

The best guidance around a definition of limited facilities camping is the *Queensland Camping Options Toolkit*, released by the State Government in March 2014. This toolkit provides a definition of a basic camping ground offering minimal facilities as providing water, toilet and / or dump point and rubbish bins and an agreed minimum standard of site management to ensure health and safety. Showering facilities are not considered suited to the standard definition of a basic camping ground.

Local Law Provisions

The use of a structure or vehicle for temporary occupancy on land that is controlled by the Sunshine Coast Council is governed by *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011: Part 2*, and may also constitute a Material Change of Use and require a Development Permit under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Under this law, camping is prohibited on council controlled land, unless approval is granted under s7, or the activity or use is placed outside of the reach of this legislation through the establishment of a subordinate local law, that declares that Part 2: s6(2) does not apply to a particular prescribed activity.

Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011 defines the operation of accommodation park as a 'means to operate, or permit access to or use of, on a commercial basis, one or more of the following:

- a) a place for parking and residing in caravans, including a place that provides also for complementary accommodation;
- b) a relocatable home park;
- c) a camping ground'.

Within the Sunshine Coast region, the approval process and requirements for commercial accommodation park operators are established under the Sunshine Coast Council *Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011*. The following conditions, among others, are ordinarily imposed on accommodation parks requiring provision of facilities beyond guidelines used to depict 'limited facilities' camping:

- 6.1 (a) sites must be large enough to allow a 1.8 metre separation distance between sites, or if devices are used to secure a tent, between the devices and the adjacent tent or devices used to secure it; and
- 6.1 (b) every site shall have a well-drained surface and where concrete pads are provided they should be designed and built in accordance with the current Australian Standard; and
- 6.1 (c) a sufficient number of conveniently located and suitably equipped toilet and ablution facilities must be provided for each gender in accordance with the following guidelines—
 - (i) if private ensuite facilities are not provided for accommodation on a site—
 - (a) facilities must be located at least 6 metres but no more than 100 metres from the site; and
 - (b) where there are 40 sites or fewer, one pedestal for every 7 sites must be provided for female occupants, one pedestal for every 10 sites must be provided for male occupants, and a 0.6 metre urinal must be provided for every 20 sites (or part thereof) for male occupants; and
 - (c) where there are more than 40 sites, the appropriate number of toilet facilities shall be as provided in caravan park industry guidelines; and
 - (ii) at least one sanitary disposal unit must be provided for every four female toilet cubicles; and
 - (iii) all ablution facilities must have reticulated hot and cold water provided to all shower cubicles and hand basins; and
 - (iv) individual toilets, showers or baths must be adequately screened for privacy; and
 - (v) separate ablution facilities for each gender must be provided in the ratio of one shower or bath and hand basin to every 15 sites.

The interim policy attempts to mitigate the conflict that currently presents between the *Land Act 2004* and *Caravan Park Policy (PUX/901/102)* and council's local law provisions. The adoption of this interim policy will allow existing campgrounds and tourist parks, as well as 'Reserves for Recreation' under approval to better cater for the self-contained motorhome market, by having areas within their park or reserve as a lower cost option with lower access to facilities than the traditional caravan / family camping market provides.

Policy

The interim policy presented with this report will provide a clear framework for council to approve limited facility camping and better cater for the expanding drive tourism market, whilst a more comprehensive drive tourism plan is developed.

Further related policies to this report include:

- Queensland Government Caravan Park Policy (PUX/901/102). SLM/2007/3127 Version 3.3 – as noted above; and
- Queensland Government Secondary Use of Trust Land PUX/901/209 Version 5.3 – applies when an organisation, other than the appointed trustee, obtains approval from the trustee to use the trust land under a trustee lease or trustee permit, or where an inconsistent use is undertaken by the trustee

Risk

This interim Policy endeavours to control council's risk exposure by:

- providing a clear framework for council decision making over limited facility camping requests;
- providing equitable application and decision-making processes for both commercial and non-commercial entities;
- reduces conflict between the *Land Act 2004* and council's local law provisions;
- triggers a permit process allowing for due consideration of applications and defensible decision-making; and
- allows the region to better cater for the growing drive tourism market.

In managing risk and when assessing applications relating to this policy where the applicant is operating on council owned or managed land, council will consider the following:

- Demonstrated Consumer Needs - establishment of a new or expanded camping service on Council owned or controlled land should be based upon evidence that an identified consumer need cannot be adequately met by the existing camping grounds / caravan parks.
- Fit with wider community goals and priorities - the interests of groups who use the site, as well as community members who live in the surrounding area and use the road infrastructure should also be taken into consideration.
- Capacity to limit the use to allowable purposes only – the organisation's ability to limit the use of the land to only the approved purposes and to manage non-compliance with these conditions.
- Competition Neutrality - fair business dealings and defensible use of rates funding should underpin council's decision. Exceptions to the competition neutrality requirements may arise where the service provides:
 - Social welfare and community service benefits;
 - Access and equity benefits;
 - Economic and regional development benefits; or
 - Meets a consumer's need that cannot be met on commercial terms.

- Environmentally Responsible Use of Land - the environmental impacts of increased use of the open spaces and waste disposal must also be considered and it must be demonstrated that the proposal will have minimum impact on local species and eco systems. It must also be demonstrated that tourism waste reduction, waste recycling and residual disposal will be met to the standard that all tourism operators must adhere.
- Safe and Sustainable Use
 - parking access, pathways, driver visibility and traffic issues
 - the extent of hard stand ground surfaces
 - barriers between the proposed site and private dwellings
 - proximity of toilet and grey water disposal points
 - current demand and level of available toilet facilities and picnic facilities
 - interactions between campers and sports participants, including children

In respect to commercial and/or private land applications, development of a new facility or extension to existing facilities may trigger the need for planning permission and the commencement of the Development Application process. Whilst the attached policy strives to encourage limited facility camping to be provided for both the private operators and public/not for profit sector, it should be recognised that planning provisions do differ and the private sector, in some instances, will encounter additional costs and longer timeframes in obtaining limited facility camping permission.

Previous Council Resolution

There is no previous council resolution relevant to this report.

Related Documentation

Documentation relevant to this report includes:

- Corporate Plan 2014 -2019
- Queensland Camping Options Toolkit 2014
- *Land Act 2004 (Qld)*
- *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
- Queensland Government Caravan Park Policy (PUX/901/102) SLM/2007/3127 Version 3.3
- *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 (Qld)*
- Queensland Government Secondary Use of Trust Land PUX/901/209 Version 5.3
- Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011.
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates relevant to this report. There is however strong community interest across some council controlled reserves within the region. Community representatives are seeking a timely response toward their ability to cater for limited facilities camping travellers within the reserve over which they have been granted tenure.

In addition to this interim policy, council officers will be developing a comprehensive Drive Tourism Plan for Sunshine Coast Council. This Plan will be presented to council for consideration in 2015. In the development of this Plan, council will engage with the tourism and caravan park industry, secondary trustees and lease holders of council land, peak tourism bodies, other government agencies and the wider community.

Ideally, this Plan will contribute to a better road experience for all travellers to the Sunshine Coast and to the economic prosperity of our region. Beyond providing a range of accommodation options to meet the needs and expectations of the consumer, the Plan will also endeavour to identify the adequate provision of:

- Delivering road quality and safety;
- Clear and effective signage;
- Roadside infrastructure that enhances the experience;
- Effective visitor information and technology applications; and
- Effective marketing and promotion of camping alternatives.

At such time that council has a clear vision and strategic position in respect to Drive Tourism, it will be necessary to review the *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011* to ensure it accurately reflects this position.

Implementation

The applicant will need to apply for an accommodation park licence under Sunshine Coast Council *Local Law No. 1 (Administration)*. The form will need to be submitted along with supporting information and the application fees to council. The application will be processed by the Healthy Places Unit, with processing time between two to four weeks depending on the quality and completeness of the application. The licence when issued will be valid for a maximum 12 month period.

Council's Environmental Health Officers will undertake an annual inspection of the activity to determine compliance. This includes the audit of records required to be kept by the licensee on the vehicle details, length of stay and persons who stayed at the park and those dates. Compliance checks shall also include whether the licensee has added additional services or facilities outside of those permitted under the limited facilities camping sites category. The checks will also ensure that the licensee has not added additional sites to the accommodation park, as this will breach their licence.

It is likely that spot unannounced audits will also be required to ensure the time period limitations of stay are upheld by the licensee. Failure to meet this licence conditions may result in compliance and enforcement action, prosecution, issuing of fines or cancellation of the accommodation park licence. Officers will also respond to complaints lodged by the community in relation to the operation of the accommodation park.

Depending on the current purpose of the reserve and the associated tenure agreement, amendment may be required for certain applicants where limited facility camping sites are approved to ensure agreements note limited facilities camping as a recognised use of the reserve.

The policy will be applied in the following instances:

- Where the applicant has been able to demonstrate a recurring history of the site being utilised for camping (i.e. demonstrate pre-existing use rights);
- Where the applicant has satisfied all the requirements of the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014* and if required, a Development Application has been approved.

8.4 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**8.4.1 BRIBIE ISLAND TIDAL BREAKTHROUGH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

File No:	ECM	
Author:	Coordinator Coastal, Constructed Water & Planning Infrastructure Services Department	
Appendices:	App A - BMT WBM Report Exec Summary	269
Attachments:	Att 1 - State Response to Mayoral Correspondence	271
	Att 2 - Bribie Is Work Locations.....	273
	Att 3 - SEMP Key Actions Golden Beach	275

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide to council an update on key components of council resolution (OM13/232) in particular items (c) in relation to Mayoral correspondence to the Premier requesting state government support and (d) which sought to identify the detailed protection works for Golden Beach.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bribie Island is considered a barrier island separating Pumicestone Passage from the Coral Sea. The northern end of the island spit is narrow with a low dune crest height and is vulnerable to current and emerging erosive forces resulting in a significant risk of simultaneous breakthroughs in multiple locations. Council is monitoring four areas of potential tidal breakthrough using aerial and ground surveys and site inspections.

Community concerns have been actively demonstrated over successive years regarding the potential risks and threats of a breakthrough. These concerns culminated in the Aurecon report which provided for the identification of a number of risks, SWOT analysis of the modeled results associated with these risks and a number recommendations.

On 14 November 2013 staff presented to council the report titled 'Bribie Island Breakthrough Investigation and Management Options'. The report also outlined responsibilities of both council and the state government and sought to create a formal partnership to action works to prevent or manage any breakthrough occurrence associated with Bribie Island.

The purpose of this report is to provide to council an update on key components of council resolution (OM13/232) in particular items (c) and (d) as detailed below.

- (c) *write to the Premier detailing Council's position in relation to Golden Beach protection works and the importance of state support in considering preventative works on Bribie Island*
- (d) *note that further detailed investigations and costings for Golden Beach foreshore protection works associated with a Bribie Island tidal breakthrough scenario will be presented to council for its consideration*

The detailed BMT WBM Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan provides for both the detailed investigation, justification and triggers for foreshore protection works at Golden Beach and is consistent with the management options discussed as part of the endorsed Sunshine Coast Council Shoreline Erosion Management Plan 2014 (SEMP).

In addition, while the State Government is yet to make a commitment to support council in the delivery of coastal protection works, the BMT WBM plan also addresses the State Government requirement for key planning documents to be in place for the long term protection of Golden Beach. It is envisaged this will assist in the progression of the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Government to progress interim protection works on Bribie Island and a review of the statutory constraints to support foreshore protection works for Golden Beach.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Implementation Plan”**
- (b) endorse in principle the BMT WBM “Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan” for protection works for Golden Beach as detailed in Appendix A of this report**
- (c) note that the State Government is still yet to make a commitment to protection works on either Bribie Island or Golden Beach but is willing to consider a technical proposal for interim protection works once a plan is in place for the long term protection of Golden Beach**
- (d) note that council will be focusing efforts on the planning and delivery of currently funded foreshore protection works on Golden Beach which is consistent with the BMT WBM “Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan” and**
- (e) consider the operational and capital program funding requirements for the delivery of foreshore protection works required once the water level triggers (both 1 & 2) as detailed in Table 1 are reached.**

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

Detailed below are the proposed financial forecasts (including current funding) for implementation of the management actions as required by the BTM WBM report.

For spatial reference these individual project line items are mapped in Attachment 2 of this report.

Map No.	Year	Action	Costs	Funding Status
1.	14/15	10,000m ³ dredging Golden Beach	\$70,000	Allocated - 14/15 op program
2.	14/15	Seed funding support to progress a state government permanent tide gauge at entrance to Lamerough Canal	\$50,000	Allocated - 14/15 cap program
3.	14/15	Community revege support Bribie Island as approved by state government	\$10,000	Allocated - 14/15 cap program
4.	14/15	Approvals to dredge up to 40,000m ³ from 15/16 onwards	\$80,000	Allocated - 14/15 cap program
5.	*TBA	Dredge up to 40,000m ³ of sand to be placed on Golden Beach (south)	\$500,000	** Bid required when trigger 1 reached, to be staged over successive financial years and maintained as required
6.	*TBA	Stabilise dredge sand with reveg works along Golden Beach (south)	\$100,000	**Bid required when trigger 1 reached
7.	15/16	Approvals to upgrade seawall at Jellico and new wall at Cal Power Boat Club	\$75,000	Allocated - 15/16 cap program
8.	15/16	Approvals to upgrade and extend Keith Hill Park and Roy St seawalls	\$75,000	Allocated - 15/16 cap program
9.	*TBA	Construct upgrade seawall at Jellico and new wall at Cal Power Boat Club	\$500,000	***Bid required as a one –off cost when trigger 2 reached
10.	*TBA	Construct upgrade and extend Keith Hill Park and Roy St seawalls	\$1M	***Bid required as a one-off cost when trigger 2 reached

Table 1 – Financial Requirements for Protection Works based on Defined Water Level Triggers

*Note costs associated with these items are unfunded and would constitute funding requirements associated with any mobilisation undertaken as emergency works if required

**Trigger 1:

- An observed increase in the mean high water spring water level greater than 0.1m relative to 2014 levels
- An observed increase to the mean seal level greater than 0.1m relative to 2014 levels

***Trigger 2:

- An observed increase to the mean sea level greater than 0.2m relative to 2104 levels

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal Outcome	3 - An enviable lifestyle and environment 3.2 - Well-managed and maintained open space, waterways and foreshore assets
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CONSULTATION

A range of both internal and external stakeholders were consulted as part of the development to this report.

Internal Consultation

- Councillor Tim Dwyer
- Executive Director Infrastructure Services
- Manager Environment and Sustainability Policy
- Coastal Management Working Group

External Consultation

- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
- BMT WBM Consultants

Community Engagement

A communication plan will be developed to highlight the range of actions associated with this contingency planning report to ensure key messages are delivered to the community.

In addition community consultation in relation to this issue will be undertaken as part of a broader coastal processes program currently under development.

A range of fact sheets have been available for a number of years associated with the outcomes of the Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force investigation.

PROPOSAL

Background

Bribie Island is considered a barrier island separating Pumicestone Passage from the Coral Sea. The northern end of the island spit is narrow with a low dune crest height and is vulnerable to current and emerging erosive forces resulting in a significant risk of simultaneous breakthroughs in multiple locations.

Council is monitoring four areas of potential tidal breakthrough using aerial and ground surveys and site inspections.

A breakthrough of northern Bribie Island is dependent on the dynamic balance of a number of factors. They include:

- ocean swells and locally generated waves
- tidal currents
- storm surge
- winds
- fresh water flows

The primary cause of the erosion in this area is a long term loss of sand to the north and south into the passage. Given there is no modern day source of replenishment to balance this loss, the island will continue to erode and retreat westward until a shoreline position is reached that is in balance with the local sand transport.

As this erosion continues the narrowest areas will become vulnerable to short term processes such as a major storm event. These events can result in a breakthrough occurring where storm waves wash across the island and lower the dunes where tidal flows can deepen the channel and create a new entrance.

Community concerns have been actively demonstrated over successive years regarding the potential risks and threats of a breakthrough. These concerns culminated in the formation of the Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force (PPATF) by the then Caloundra City Council in 2006. The membership of the taskforce included a range of local, state and federal stakeholders and was chaired by Cr Tim Dwyer.

The Taskforce disbanded in 2009 after completing a risk based investigation regarding the possibility and implications for a Bribie Island breakthrough. This investigation produced both the Aurecon report 'Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Risk Assessment' and "Shore Line Erosion Management Plan" along with the production of a number of community education fact sheets regarding the issue.

In 2009 Aurecon consulting engineers were engaged to undertake a risk assessment of the implications to Bribie Island and the Golden Beach foreshore associated with tidal breakthrough/s on Bribie Island. Please note at the time of production this report was considered confidential.

The final Aurecon report provided for the identification of a number of risks, SWOT analysis of the modeled results associated with these risks and a number recommendations.

Ordinary Meeting 14 November 2013 - Council Resolution (OM13/232)

On 14 November 2013 staff presented to council the report titled 'Bribie Island Breakthrough Investigation and Management Options'. The purpose of the report was to present to council a summary of the issues, risks and the range of possible council actions associated with the probable tidal breakthrough of Bribie Island and subsequent possible impacts on the adjacent Golden Beach foreshore.

The report also outlined responsibilities of both council and the state government and sought to create a formal partnership to action works to prevent or manage any breakthrough occurrence associated with Bribie Island.

The final resolution for that report is detailed below.

Council Resolution (OM13/232)

Moved: Councillor T Dwyer
Seconded: Councillor R Baberowski

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Investigation and Management Options"*
- (b) *support the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government detailing the state commitments for funding and initiating preventative tidal break through works on Bribie Island as well as reviewing both state and federal statutory constraints to support future council foreshore protection works*
- (c) *write to the Premier detailing Council's position in relation to Golden Beach protection works and the importance of State Government support in considering preventative works on Bribie Island*
- (d) *note that further detailed investigations and costings for Golden Beach foreshore protection works associated with a Bribie Island tidal breakthrough scenario will be presented to council for its consideration and*
- (e) *endorse the continuation of integrated contingency planning and delivery of Council's foreshore protection works for Golden Beach.*

Carried unanimously.

The purpose of this current report is to provide to council an update on key components of council resolution (OM13/232) in particular items (c) and (d).

Mayoral Correspondence

As per item (c) of the resolution above the Mayor wrote to the Premier on 17 December 2013 requesting support for preventative works on Bribie Island. As per attachment 1 of this report, the response from the Premier indicates that while the state government would consider a submission for a technical solution for interim protective works on Bribie they have not indicated if it would be supported by state government funding. In addition for council to progress this request would require a plan to be in place prior for long term protection of Golden Beach.

This cooperative arrangement will be progressed further through the development of an MOU as previously discussed.

Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan

As per item (d) of the resolution above, staff commissioned BMT WBM engineering consultants to undertake a Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan which would be utilised to provide Council with a clear approach to implementing the management actions in relation to this issue.

Key items of the study included:

- Identification of viable options and intervention triggers for addressing prospective impacts from the permanent breakthrough(s) of Bribie Island

- Provide Council with a clear, preferred approach to shoreline management option implementation between the northern entrance to Pumicestone Passage and Bells Creek, including existing permitted management approaches (e.g. beach nourishment using material dredged from within the Pumicestone Passage navigational channel) within an overall strategy and triggers for intervention for the study area
- Provide a document that can be used to support further public consultation
- Include sufficient detail and information for statutory bodies to consider and evaluate any proposed actions
- Form part of the information supporting a Development Application (DA) to implement a preferred shoreline management strategy or strategies
- To ensure that both the discussion of generic shoreline management options and shoreline management works is consistent with the Sunshine Coast Council Shoreline Erosion Management Plan 2014 (SEMP) as noted in attachment 3

For ease of reading only the executive summary of the final report is provided as Appendix A of this report. The full BTM WBM report is available on request.

Please note the BTM WBM report is currently at final draft while consultation is undertaken with appropriate state agencies prior to finalising.

Proposed Program of Works

The BTM WBM report provides for three key stages (as tabled below) as enhanced management activities focusing on the shoreline in the southern half of the Golden Beach area. This reflects the perceived increased risk to the southern shorelines associated with the Bribie Island breakthrough and the recent investment in shoreline and foreshore management throughout the north of the report area. Note existing permitted activities are also expected to continue (e.g. Golden Beach nourishment, mangrove habitat protection etc).

As per the Executive Summary attached, the mean water level triggers have been provided with works to be realised in stages 2 and 3 once these levels have been reached. The detailed costing for this schedule of works are provided in the Finance and Resourcing section of this report. The intent will be to implement the schedule of works as provided by Table 1 below through both the current coastal operational and capital allocations with budget bids for the additional funds to only occur once the water level triggers both 1 and 2 have been reached.

Contingency mobilisation planning will continue in terms of material requirements, designs and relevant permits to ensure that works activation can occur in an expeditious manner both on the basis of realising trigger points and/or emergency intervention.

Stage 1		Period of Acceptable Risk
Monitor water levels	Installation of permanent tide gauge near the entrance to Lamerough Canal. Monitor changes to tidal regime and/or mean sea level within Pumicestone Passage.	
Existing permitted activities	Undertake minor shoreline management works and existing permitted activities including revegetation works at Bribie Island	
Lodge Development Application	Seek agency approval for Stage 2 enhanced management	
Stage 2		Risk Approaching Unacceptability
Water level trigger 1	The initial trigger for enhanced management action is realised, either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An observed increase to the mean high water spring water level greater than 0.1m relative to 2014 levels. • An observed increase to the mean sea level greater than 0.1m relative to 2014 levels. 	
Beach nourishment	Expanded beach nourishment program using 40,000m ³ of sand from within target dredge area. Sand placement to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline between Lamerough Canal and Bells Creek • Council-controlled land between Nelson Street and Lamerough Canal 	
Revegetation works	Stabilise placed sand with dune revegetation works	
Existing permitted activities	Undertake minor shoreline management works and existing permitted activities	
Lodge Development Application	Seek agency approval for Stage 3 enhanced management	
Seawall planning	Commence planning for proposed rock revetment upgrades and extensions (i.e. concept design and preliminary approval)	
Stage 3		Unacceptable Risk
Water level trigger 2	The second trigger for enhanced management action is realised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An observed increase to the mean sea level greater than 0.2m relative to 2014 levels. 	
Seawall detailed design and construction	Implement Stage 3 enhanced shoreline management action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed design and construction of rock revetment extension between Lamerough Canal and the Caloundra Power Boat Club to provide an increased level of protection for the Council-controlled boat ramp car park and associated facilities • Detailed design and construction of rock revetment extension /upgrade between Keith Hill Park and Roy Street. 	
Existing permitted activities	Undertake minor shoreline management works and existing permitted activities	

Table 2 – Key Stages of Proposed Shoreline Management Actions

Summary

The detailed BMT WBM Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan provides for both the detailed investigation and justification for foreshore protection works at Golden Beach and the state government requirement for key planning documents in place to support action on this issue.

The intent will be to implement the schedule of works as provided through both the current coastal operational and capital allocations with budget bids for the additional funds to only occur once the water level triggers both 1 and 2 have been reached.

Legal

Council has a range of legal obligations associated with a number of key pieces of legislation (both federal and state) in relation to undertaking any current and proposed works at the site.

Policy

Council's endorsement of this report is in line with the direction of the following organisational strategies:

- Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011–2021
- Climate Change and Peak Oil Strategy 2010–2020
- Open Space Strategy 2011.

Additionally, council's Regional Strategy and Planning department have prepared a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP). This report is in line with the SEMF.

In addition, this report and the council policies and SEMF mentioned above are consistent with the intent of several State statutory coastal planning instruments, including:

- Queensland Coastal Plan, which is the primary statutory plan under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* and comprises the 2012 Coastal Management Policy
- Coastal Protection State Planning Regulatory Provisions
- Single State Planning Policy (SPP).

Risk

In summary a number of risks to people, property and environment are identified. These include:

- Tidal change range – high risk level associated with tidal range change with flooding consequences affect low lying areas
- Storm surge change – moderate risk level associated with storm surge propagation within the Passage
- Mean sea level change – extreme risk level vulnerability associated with long term global sea level rise (longer term planning horizon).

This report seeks to provide a response to these risks, based upon council acting only when certain trigger points have been reached in terms of measurable impacts from any future breakthrough.

Previous Council Resolution

Four previous (Caloundra City Council/ Sunshine Coast Council) resolutions apply.

Caloundra City Council – Notice of Motion (General Meeting 16 March 2006)Resolution (06/96)

That the Chief Executive Officer urgently form a Pumicestone Passage taskforce to address a variety of issues associated with the Pumicestone Passage Waterway between Bells Creek and the Caloundra bar. The taskforce is to include appropriate Council officers and Councillors, interested community persons and appropriate State Government representatives. The taskforce would prepare a prioritised list of the issues and produce a detailed action plan and associated strategies to address those issues.

Caloundra City Council – General Meeting 23 November 2006Resolution (06/422)

That:

- (a) *Report No. 20061113.cs.01 from Principal Policy Officer (Environment) C Savage, dated 13 November, 2006, be received and noted;*
- (b) *a surveyor be commissioned to establish permanent markers for height datum at three sites of potential breakthrough on Bribie Island;*
- (c) *photo-monitoring and monitoring of beach profiles at three sites of potential breakthrough on Bribie Island be undertaken to establish baseline data;*
- (d) *aerial photography survey of Pumicestone Passage be undertaken;*
- (e) *a federal grant be applied for to undertake a risk assessment of potential impact to adjacent development and foreshore infrastructure in the event of a breakthrough of Bribie Island;*
- (f) *regularly reporting to the wider community be undertaken on the status and findings of the Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force and Council endorsed actions and as specified in section 17 of the report identified in (a) above;*
- (g) *an information brochure on the Pumicestone Passage be drafted and targeted at residents and visitors of the Passage, to highlight environmental values and recreational opportunities of the Passage, government jurisdictions and current management of the area;*
- (h) *funding for (b) to (g) above be provided from current program funding and application of federal grant as specified in section 13 and 14 of the report identified in (a) above;*
- (i) *a letter of request be forwarded to Queensland Environment Protection Agency and Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to identify location of oyster bed rubble pile(s) within the Passage and to advise if these rubble pile(s) have any impact on the Pumicestone Passage channel location and subsequent erosion at the Bluehole; and*
- (j) *members of the Pumicestone Passage Advisory Task Force be acknowledged.*

Sunshine Coast Council – Notice of Motion (Ordinary Meeting 25 July 2013)Council Resolution (OM13/1)

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to continue negotiations with the Queensland State Government in relation to the situation referred to as the Bribie Island breakthrough to seek proactive coastal protection measures by the State Government including, but not limited to, sand nourishment/sand replenishment program, improvements to groynes and enhancement of coastal vegetation buffers.

Sunshine Coast Council – Ordinary Meeting 14 November 2013**Council Resolution** (OM13/232)

Moved: Councillor T Dwyer
Seconded: Councillor R Baberowski

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Investigation and Management Options"*
- (b) *support the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government detailing the state commitments for funding and initiating preventative tidal break through works on Bribie Island as well as reviewing both state and federal statutory constraints to support future council foreshore protection works*
- (c) *write to the Premier detailing Council's position in relation to Golden Beach protection works and the importance of State Government support in considering preventative works on Bribie Island*
- (d) *note that further detailed investigations and costings for Golden Beach foreshore protection works associated with a Bribie Island tidal breakthrough scenario will be presented to council for its consideration and*
- (e) *endorse the continuation of integrated contingency planning and delivery of Council's foreshore protection works for Golden Beach.*

Carried unanimously.

Related Documentation

Sunshine Coast Council Shoreline Erosion Management Plan 2014 (SEMP)

Aurecon Engineering Consultant Report - Bribie Island Tidal Breakthrough Risk Assessment.

BMT WBM Golden Beach and Bribie Island Breakthrough – Options, Design, Approvals and Investment Plan.

Critical Dates

Key critical dates for this report are as tabled in this Report and relative to realising intervention trigger points as noted in Table 2 - Key Stages of Proposed Shoreline Management Actions.

Implementation

Implementation programs and triggers for the report recommendations are as detailed in Table 2 – Key Stages of Proposed Shoreline Management Actions.

8.4.2 LAND FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM

File No:	Statutory Meetings
Author:	Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer Infrastructure Services Department
Attachments:	Att 1 - Conservation Partnership Program Testimonials283

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the activities and outcomes from the Land for Wildlife (LFW) and Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) programs and the results of the SEQ Land for Wildlife Membership Survey that underpins the national benchmark that Sunshine Coast Council has created in the delivery of these programs. The report highlights the benefits of Council's continued efforts in supporting private landholders in the protection and management of environmental assets, which includes a significant return on Council's investment in enhancing the Sunshine Coast's natural advantage. The extraordinary contribution made by private landholders in the Land For Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreements programs can be a source of pride to the Sunshine Coast community and is certainly a contribution that Council would like to acknowledge and continue to support.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Land for Wildlife program is a voluntary conservation program that supports landholders to conserve wildlife and habitats on their properties. In South East Queensland ten local governments deliver the program, with SEQ Catchments providing a regional administrative coordination and support role.

The Land For Wildlife program as delivered by Council has achieved some noteworthy distinctions, including:

- Largest LFW membership in Queensland;
- Largest membership of a LFW program administered by a local government authority anywhere in Australia; and
- Council's LFW program protects more non-remnant vegetation in the local government area than all other tenures combined, including state and council land.

Through landholder cash and labour in-kind contributions the Land For Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs delivered a \$6,025,800 or 652% return on Council's investment of \$922,806. That is, for every \$1 invested by Council in the Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs, a return of \$6.52.

While the cash and in-kind contribution to the community is enormous, it is the underlying passion and dedication underpinning that contribution that will ensure that the Sunshine Coast environment will continue to be protected and enhanced through community conservation programs.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled “Land for Wildlife Program”
- (b) note the significant contribution private landholders make in partnership with council for the protection and enhancement of the region’s natural assets and
- (c) request the Mayor, write to each participant in the Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs to thank them for their commitment and contribution to our environment and the community.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

The Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs are funded from the Environment Levy and the operational budget for Environmental Operations, Infrastructure Services through the following operational components:

\$334,593 – Voluntary Conservation Agreements – Environment Levy funding
\$80,000 – Land for Wildlife Incentives – Environment Levy funding
\$44,368 – Land for Wildlife expenses – operations funding
\$463,845 – Conservation Partnerships management – operations funding

This results in a net funding split for these programs of 45% Environment Levy funding and 55% operations funding.

Council’s total investment of \$922,806 in the program provided a return of \$6.52 for every \$1 spent, or \$6,025,800 in financial and in-kind contributions from private landholders in managing and enhancing the region’s environmental assets.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal	3 - An enviable lifestyle and environment
Outcome	3.3 - A reputation for innovative environmental practices
Operational Activity	3.3.2 - Continue to engage, support and grow community partnerships in managing and enhancing the region’s natural assets on public and private lands

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the following Council staff:

- Manager – Environmental Operations
- Coordinator Community Catchment Partnerships
- Community Conservation Partnerships Team
- Ecologist, Regional Strategy & Planning

External Consultation

No external consultation was undertaken.

Community Engagement

The findings of the report are based upon a survey of Land for Wildlife Members conducted in July/August 2013. However, no other community engagement was undertaken aside from the ongoing engagement with private landholders.

PROPOSAL

Introduction

The Sunshine Coast region is located in one of the most biologically rich areas of Australia with just over 60% of remaining bushland under the management of private landholders. As part of Council's long term commitment to effective and sustainable environmental land management, Council administers two private land conservation programs in the region.

Private Landholder extension and support initiatives are the most cost effective landscape scale biodiversity conservation programs that Council retains in its toolkit. The extension programs provide superior spatial coverage while generating significant in-kind and financial investment from private landholders.

Land for Wildlife Program

The Land for Wildlife program is a voluntary conservation program that supports landholders to conserve wildlife and habitats on their properties. Originating in Victoria in 1981, the program commenced in South East Queensland in 1998 where ten local governments now deliver the program, with SEQ Catchments providing a regional coordination and support role.

The Sunshine Coast currently has 649 registered members, protecting 6,653 ha of retained habitat with 609 ha under restoration. There is a further 181 properties who are working toward full registration.

The Sunshine Coast Council program has the largest membership in Queensland and is also the largest Land for Wildlife program delivered by a local government authority in Australia.



Land for Wildlife Property Field Day

The 1,462 ha of non-remnant vegetation protected under the LFW program is greater than all other tenures combined, including state and Council land.

The Land for Wildlife program continues to attract landholder interest each year and the program experiences an annual growth of 8 - 10%.

Voluntary Conservation Agreement Program

Council's Voluntary Conservation Agreement program (VCA), funded from the Environment Levy, offers a unique way of conserving our natural heritage for future generations. Through the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program Council supports landholders to permanently protect ecologically significant areas of privately owned bushland. A conservation covenant is the legal mechanism used to permanently protect the proportion of the property covered by the Voluntary Conservation Agreement. The covenant is registered under the *Queensland Land Title Act 1994*. Conservation covenants place conditions on the title that are binding on title and on any future owners. Through the covenant mechanism landholders who have spent considerable time and resources restoring their bushland, are provided security that their conservation area is protected in perpetuity.

There are currently 58 properties in the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program, covering an area of 918 ha. The Land for Wildlife program can serve as a launching platform for the Voluntary Conservation Agreement program, with all current VCA landholders starting first with Land for Wildlife membership. The Voluntary Conservation Agreement program continues to experience steady annual growth, with an increase of 15% since 2013.



Sunshine Coast Council Conservation Partnerships Officer presenting at VCA Information Day

Council's support of the VCA program helps:

- Contribute to the survival of plants and animals that are dependent on particular habitats that may not be protected in the public conservation estate;
- Provides links between isolated conservation reserves, allowing for essential wildlife movement;
- Provide greater security for endangered species and ecosystems;
- Promote a sense of community responsibility for nature conservation;
- Build the capacity of private landholders to undertake ecological restoration;
- Recognise and reward good conservation management by private landholders;
- Provide valuable guidance and advice to enable integration of nature conservation with complete property planning; and
- Helps nurture a mutually supportive and cooperative relationship between council and private landholders.

SEQ Land for Wildlife Membership Survey

The SEQ Land for Wildlife network surveys its membership every 5 – 7 years. In July-August 2013, 1,124 members completed the survey, 401 of which were from the Sunshine Coast.

Through the survey the following information was captured:

- Sunshine Coast respondents identified that since being involved in the LFW program their knowledge and skills in the following areas had improved:
 - Restoration techniques
 - Weed identification
 - Native plant identification
 - Habitat requirements
- 363 properties reported planting a total of 441,000 trees.
- Respondents felt that their LFW membership had resulted in an improvement in their weed control knowledge, skills, practices and condition.
- 95% of Sunshine Coast respondents reported plans to continue weed control next year on their own properties and 13% had plans to assist on other properties.
- 60% of respondent properties were adjoining a conservation reserve. In addition to the direct conservation benefits on LFW properties, the program also enhances the quality of the public conservation estate through the provision of buffers, corridors and increased habitat viability.

As the survey is an extensive document it has not been included as an attachment to the report but it is available upon request. However a range of testimonials have been provided in Attachment 1 which provide some insight as to the value participants place in the Conservation Partnerships Program.

Benefits to the Community

Traditionally, all the responsibility and costs of protecting and managing ecologically significant private land rested with the individual landholder, even though the whole community shared the benefits. Council's investment in the Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs offers a range of environmental management advice, incentives and grants to assist property owners in protecting and managing wildlife habitat for the benefit of the whole community. In so doing, the programs enhance our region's natural advantage.

In addition to Council's investment of \$922,806, LFW property owners contributed an estimated \$4,780,800 in labour and \$1,245,000 in cash in conservation works on their properties, resulting in a 652% return on Council's investment.

Legal

There are no legal implications relevant to this report.

Policy

The relevant policies include:

- Sunshine Coast Corporate plan 2014-2019
- Sunshine Coast Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020
- Sunshine Coast Waterways and Coastal Management Strategy 2011-2021
- Sunshine Coast Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2012-2016
- Environment Levy Policy
- Voluntary Conservation Agreement Policy

Risk

There are no risk implications for this issue.

Previous Council Resolution

There are no previous Council resolutions that relate to this report.

Related Documentation

The SEQ Land for Wildlife Membership survey is available upon request.

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates relating to this report.

Implementation

The Environmental Operations Branch continues to deliver a range of private landholder engagement and support programs that include the Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Agreement programs.

8.5 CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DELIVERY

Nil

8.6 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CEO

Nil

9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

10 TABLING OF PETITIONS

Petitions only eligible for submission if:

- * Legible
- * Have purpose of the petition on top of each page
- * Contain at least 10 signatures
- * Motion limited to:
 - Petition received and referred to a future meeting
 - Petition received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for report and consideration of recommendation
 - Petition not be received

11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**11.1 REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PLANNING**Nil

11.2 CORPORATE SERVICES**11.2.1 CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - DISPOSAL OF LAND - MALENY DISTRICT**

File No: Statutory Meetings
Author: Project and Development Officer
Corporate Services Department

This report is confidential in accordance with section 275 (h) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* as it contains information relating to other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

11.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

11.4 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Nil

11.5 CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DELIVERY

Nil

11.6 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CEONil

12 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 16 October 2014 in the Council Chambers, Corner Currie and Bury Streets, Nambour.

13 MEETING CLOSURE
