

To Scott Lenton
Environmental Planning Coordinator
Clarence Valley Council

Draft Woolli Village Coastal Zone Management Plan Submission

From David and Patricia Hall
44 Main Street
Woolli
(Owners since 1980)
(Patricia having been visiting Woolli all her life, being Grafton born and bred.)

Dear Scott,

Thank you for the Information Session on Saturday, 25th September 2010. However, we feel that your method of "one-on-one" has caused quite a bit of confusion – with people having different reports of what they were told. We feel a public meeting would have stopped a lot of the rumours floating around the village.

The draft plan is about

- OUR VILLAGE
- OUR EXISTENCE

So we think the people of our village have the right to expect reasonable consultation and certainly over a much longer period of time, than with this draft plan.

Why the rush now, we have been waiting for over 10 years since the last plan, when it was recommended that work be carried out on the beach to help protect our properties.

In that time building rules were relaxed, old houses pulled down and new ones built on the terrace with council approved DA's, then all of a sudden we are informed by front page headlines in the local paper that Woolli is going to be washed away and some of us have to relocate. Do you think this has been handled satisfactorily? I am sure anyone trying to sell certainly wouldn't think so!

We would like to endorse fully the submissions of:-

1. Bruce and Margie Ward

We feel that this submission is written in language easy to understand and covers some very relevant points.

2. Doug Ensbey, Helen Foote and Colleen See

Being immediate neighbours of the above properties we agree with their points on beach restoration. Especially as David has been planting suitable plants and trees (mostly supplied by the Minnie Water Nursery, ie Dennis Milne) at the bottom of the main dune, along this block of houses. The point being here that we have been trying to help restore the dune, but the CVC has done little else than do the beach

accesses, and these have not been maintained. The one on Durrington Lane is in a very dangerous (as acknowledged by CVC with hazard tape) state of repair and has been for more than twelve months. The upkeep of the beach accesses would help the dune as, mainly visitors, do damage by using other routes over the dune onto the beach.

There was some beach scraping done to make beach access, but when inquiries were made about more being done, we were told the Solitary Islands Marine Park Authority would not allow machinery on the beach. However just after this I (Patricia) was at a meeting of "The Woolli Built and Natural Environment" committee where Libby Sterling, who was at the time in charge of the MPA, told us it was "because the Council at the time had upset the MPA with a do (or not done) decision."

Note: It was **NOT** an environmental concern or rule, but no further beach scraping has occurred other than to fill the sand bags for the accesses.

Do the rules for houses on the beach also apply to houses on the river? One large house has been built on the very edge of the river (certainly not 18 metres away from the bank) in recent years, obviously with council approval. We do not disagree with the position of the house but feel the council rules are inconsistent. If we have a storm capable of washing some of the sea terrace away and very high tides at the same time (as happened in 2002) then there would be considerable river bank erosion too.

This leads to protection of property. Are flood levies not built to protect property?

Some houses on the bank of the Clarence River at Ulmarra had to be protected from erosion – are we not, as ratepayers like them, entitled to some beach work to protect our properties?

At the very, very well attended public meeting at Woolli on Saturday, 16th October it was pointed out that recent beach scraping on a beach in the Byron Shire had been very successful through recent storms, and this was half funded by the State Government. Have the CVC applied for any grants, or just made an application for money, to help with work on Woolli beach?

We have no intention of selling our house, if we wanted to live anywhere else we would have sold when house prices were very high in the last three years or so. However, we do know of one older person trying to sell to raise money to go into Rathgar Village at Ulmarra, as she should not be living on her own. She has little hope of selling now after the front page headlines in the local paper, presumably from information given by council, and also as well as people in council reportedly advising prospective buyers NOT to buy at Woolli.

Not a very nice feeling to have your house selling price go from a possible \$500,000 (and some as you know have sold for double that) to almost nil – especially if it is being sold for the reason set out above.

Why wasn't a totally different company chosen to do another plan (or study), not some firm that would just rehash the 1997/98 one, without, as far as Wooli people know, any new surveys etc being done?

Your Scott mentioned that the land being considered for relocation (or land swap of freehold for lease!!!) was an area near the bowling club and the tennis courts, hardly a big enough area and will be in danger if we are, was to keep the village together. We came here thirty years ago first and foremost for the beach and the house position, the village atmosphere happens to be an added bonus.

One person at the public meeting on 16th October said Scott told my husband and I "that the people of Wooli were given the chance of a buyback in 1998/99". That is not correct. Yes there was a lot of talk about it but of course it never happened due to lack of money.

The money that it would cost council to carry out the land swap, with subdivision etc, etc, could this not be better spent to fund some preventative restoration of our beach as was recommended to be done 10 years ago.

In closing this submission we would once again like to bring to your notice that we fully endorse the submission of –

1. Bruce and Margie Ward and
2. Doug Ensbey, Helen Foote and Colleen See

We hope a balanced ecological, economic and social outcome can be achieved in the future.

Hoping that you and the various other people involved, take the time to read and consider this submission.

David and Patricia Hall
Properties owners at 44 Main Street
Wooli NSW 2462
18th October 2010