

Committee: ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
Section: Strategic & Economic Planning
Date: 10 July 2012

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION – 12.103/12
(Crs Howe/Tiley)**

That

Council endorse further refinement of the draft Wooli Coastal Zone Management Plan consistent with the direction outlined in this report with a view to finalising the draft Plan by the end of 2012.

Voting recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Williamson, Comben, Dinham, Howe, Hughes, McKenna, Simmons, Tiley and Toms
Against: Nil

ISSUES

Importantly, there has been extensive on-going consultation with the Wooli community, particularly the Wooli Coastal Communities Protection Alliance (Wooli CCPA), to work through some of the challenging issues raised during consultation.

Some of the actions undertaken since exhibition include the following, a number of which actually implement likely management options of the final plan and have widespread support:

- Beach and dune surveys to establish baseline data for future monitoring
- Beach monitoring (in partnership with the Wooli CCPA) including funding from NSW Government
- Monitoring cameras – installed by the Wooli CCPA with Council commitment to maintenance and reporting
- Adoption of an Emergency Action Sub-Plan

CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Wooli CCPA in particular has been very productive to further clarify and refine potential management options in a way that is acceptable to all parties . This on-going consultation has identified that in broad terms, the community opinion is that:

- There is recognition that a coastal erosion issue exists
- There is lack of support for a land swap for a number of reasons including the social impact that it would have on the Village community
- There is a need for further information and investigation to better define the erosion hazard and to inform potential responses
- There is support for further consideration of both “soft” and “hard” mitigation options

Council staff accepted an invitation from the Wooli CCPA to meet with them on Saturday 9 June. This meeting, attended by 30-40 members of the community, generally confirmed the above concerns and indicated general support for a way forward as discussed in the following.

Way Forward

While many aspects of the exhibited draft Plan are soundly based, it is clear that some components have little community support (eg land swap and the terminology “planned retreat” has been seen to be divisive). There is concern that some options may have been prematurely discarded and warrant further consideration with the benefit of further data collection. This is a product, in part, on the resources made available for the draft Plan.

In consideration of the community feedback, a revised draft Plan based on the following principles is considered appropriate:

- A greater emphasis on an on-going, evolving rather than a static plan based on continual data capture
- A greater emphasis on structured and on-going data collection and analysis to inform beach processes and option development (similar to above)
- On-going assessment of a wider range of management options with specific options being discarded or embraced based on the data collection and other merit considerations
- Confirm dune management and rehabilitation as on-going management options
- Implementation of the emergency action plan

OPTIONS

1. That the revision of the draft Plan post-exhibition proceed based on the principles identified in this report.
2. That the draft Plan not be amended and Council proceed to finalisation based on the exhibited draft.
3. That Council take another course of action.

Option 1 is recommended. The formal exhibition process and the subsequent on-going dialogue with the Wooli community has raised a number of valid issues. The proposed approach slightly re-emphasises the draft Plan away from a more traditional plan that has a defined suite of preferred management options to one which is more evolving over time, with an emphasis on gaining more information on the nature of the coastal processes and hazards before determining what management actions are or are not worth implementing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended approach will require commitment from all parties – Council, the State Government and the community – to resourcing the recommended data collection and further, more detailed assessment of potential management options. Existing partnership arrangements with the Wooli CCPA, such as the beach camera monitoring project, suggests that a collaborative approach is possible and very productive.

Des Schroder
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER – ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC

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Approved/Reviewed by Manager: David Morrison
Section: Strategic & Economic Planning
Attachment: Nil