

Minutes of Basin Villages Forum General meeting, Monday 15th June, 2015, held at St Georges Basin Community Centre, Meriton Street, St Georges Basin. Commenced 7.30

Welcome: Cirs Mark Kitchener, Allan Baptist & Amanda Findley.

28 present.

Apologies: Mayor Gash, Clr White, Pam Wells.

LARMER AVENUE proposed Wetland. 28 ha.

1st speaker: Chris Grounds presented overview of ecology, flora & fauna. Note 2 endangered bird species - Osprey and Square-tailed Kite.

2nd speaker: Liz Dixon, Shoalhaven City Council. Also present, and answered questions, were Megan Birmingham, & Kellie Lowe.

Examples shown of comparable development in a park in Narawallee were shown.

BIOBANKING: The land is worth 250 – 300 biobanking credits. Biobanking inclusions means that use of the property “*must improve or protect*” it, ‘biobanking’ assessment. Footbridge & designated paths (to reduce damage to salt marsh), interpretive signs would meet this criteria.

CARPARKING:

Site#1: There is a potential formal small carpark for 140 car park spaces in the north-west corner of the area, during *dry times only*. In the past, participants of sporting events at nearby sportsground have used that corner, for overflow parking.

Site # 2: 40 spaces on north east corner, end of Mountain Street.

BASIN WALK: A bridge over the canal somewhere, will be needed; the wetland & its paths will be linked to the Basin Walking Track.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Paths: necessary.

- should be clearly-defined raised walkways;
- A ‘loop’ design which includes the bridge over the canal; consisting of a long walk and a short walk linking to the long walk.
- fully disabled accessible;
- accessible from north & south boundaries;
- signs needed, requesting walkers & bike-riders to stay on the defined formal paths;
- One walk should be close to waters-edge for paddlers to get off boat, and onto land for walk.

Birdhide: Open shelter may function as a birdhide, and if made by participants of ‘work for the dole’, may be less subject to vandalism. Birdhides should be slightly off the main walking track; not blocking thoroughfare.

Other facilities:

- Bench seats.
- Interpretive Signs.

Bay & Basin Community Resources’ programs may be able to be incorporated in the physical development stages of the wetland infrastructure. Their workshop adjoins the wetland; and respite-care house clients would benefit from the close access to walking tracks.

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT:

- Dog free.
- Must be zoned to E2. Will stay as Operational until Biobanking is accepted, then rezoned.
- The junction of the creek & canal needs rehabilitation.
- some rubbish removal is needed;
- Balance between public access and conservation/regeneration is needed.
- Artificial habitat e.g. Large ground hollow logs; nesting boxes; hollows in existing trees. Placement of boulders to create habitat.

Further investigation:

- should canal be filled in to become a rocky creek?
- Runoff from golf course – planting of specific cleaning plants to prevent nutrients going into Basin.
- Install a water-monitoring station, to monitor runoff from golf course, and any other sources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Significant engagement with all neighbours is crucial, particularly in Park & Mountain Streets.

Consult with:

- Local High School
- Local Primary Schools
- Local Aboriginal community
- Jervis Bay & Basin Arts.
- Local tourism industry group

- Website for the site.
- Rolling slide show at the SGB country club.
- Schools posting videos to youtube.
- Link to Council’s tourism website.

Name: an Aboriginal name or run a competition to choose a name.

Presentation completed; David Reynolds (Forum Chair) moved that all usual meeting procedure be deferred to next month’s meeting. Chris Grounds 2nd. CARRIED.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm