

Dangar Island League

PO Dangar Island, NSW 2083
www.dangarislandleague.net



Diane Campbell
Manager, Natural Resources
Hornsby Shire Council
PO Box 37
Hornsby NSW 1630

17 May 2015

Dear Diane,

Re: Damage to Bradley's Beach Dangar Island

Following the recent storm damage to Bradley's Beach and the adjacent reserve, on 7 May 2015 a meeting was held of beachfront property owners and other interested parties, including representatives of the Dangar Island League (DIL) and the Dangar Island Bushcare Group. The meeting resolved to write to HSC to inform it of discussions, and to seek advice on its intentions for remedial and longer-term actions.

The group would like to thank Council for its prompt assessment by officers of conditions at the beach, and for the time these officers took to discuss issues with residents.

At the meeting of 7 May residents:

- Shared their particular observations regarding the effects of the recent storms, including the success or otherwise of ad hoc protection measures that have been implemented at various properties over time, and how these measures impacted adjoining parts of the beach and reserve. Particular concern was raised about the exposure of old 'fill' material, including furniture, broken glass, concrete and logs, and the safety issues posed by both these, and the scouring out of the base of the grassy reserve;
- Offered observations and anecdotes of beach dynamics and alterations to these over the years. Resident history extended back to 1945, and;
- Discussed various 'solutions' that might be considered to provide greater stability and protection for the beach and reserve in the future. The intent here was simply to share and discuss ideas rather than agree on any preferred approach. That said, the benefits of an 'integrated' solution were generally agreed.

The residents group and the DIL would like to understand Council's intentions and views on ways forward from here. We see any actions falling into three distinct categories – short (immediate), medium and long term.

In the short term, debris needs to be cleared. Residents have already undertaken much of this work, but may need some Council assistance and payment to the ever-helpful garbage team for removal of any dangerous or non-combustible rubbish or scoured out fill.

In the medium term, and hopefully prior to any further damaging events, the group was of the view that some preliminary stabilisations works probably need to be undertaken. Some sand moving and perhaps soft engineering works such as coir logs were suggested. The importance of this phase is emphasised. In its absence, beachfront property owners may understandably move unilaterally to protect their assets, making longer term, more integrated solutions more difficult to achieve.

In our view, a longer-term plan, presumably involving plantings for stabilisation, also needs to be developed and implemented. Obviously careful thought and planning needs to go into this, and residents are keen to be part of both the planning and the implementation processes. There is a significant amount of community goodwill and energy that can be harnessed in this regard. Discussions are already afoot about the formation of a new Dunecare/Coastcare group or expansion of the remit of the current Bushcare group.

We look forward to your views and advice on the matters raised so that we can advise the community of progress and plans as soon as possible. There is A DIL public meeting on 20 June 2015 and we'd very much like to use that opportunity to update residents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V. O'Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vanessa O'Keefe
DIL Vice President
T: 0439 405 999
E: vanessa@vokeefe.com.au