

# SCOTLAND ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



## CECS Community Discussion Sunday May 4, 2014

### Summary of Comments

#### PARKS AND RESERVES

##### Topic: Vehicle access through Elizabeth Park

##### Issues

- Access for residents and safety for fire and emergency
- Priority section - the hairpin and steep section
- Planning, cost for construction and maintenance
- Preservation of endangered ecological community and Council recognised significant environmental asset

##### Of concern/relevant to

- All residents
- Potential and new residents
- Residents without road access to their homes (25)
- Island groups – Bushcare, SIRAC Subcommittees PRW&M (Parks, Reserves, Wharves and Marine) R & D (Roads & Drainage), Fire Brigade and CFR (Community First Responders)
- Council Environment and Infrastructure Units

##### Action

- Elizabeth Park recognition as critical access through to Fitzpatrick/Thompson intersection
- Suggest possibly the least expensive and easiest option is to gain recognition of track as a fire trail and negotiate for a unlocked gate
  - Gazette access through Elizabeth Park as a fire trail,
  - Use fire brigade funding for upgrade including sealing of steep hairpin bend.
- Residents and Sub-Committee reps. approach Council to form Bushcare groups for Fitzgerald and Thompson St. where they are not a street, but footpaths.
- Need follow up Sub-Committee meetings to follow through on suggested plans to improve fire trails on the island and better wharf facilities on the island for better safety for commuter boats.

##### Topic: Formation of Wharf User or Action Groups

##### Issues

- For residents availability of storage/space for boats (demand exceeds supply) and cost for boat tie up or storage
- For resident easy access to the waterfront/ wharf for disabled, cyclist or for transport of goods e.g. sealed path for kart or buggy
- For resident improvement to recreational facilities (electric BBQ at Carol's)
- For new residents access to wharf facilities
- For Council concern about liability for infrastructure of poor design or quality and health of the park areas e.g. Erosion of soil
- For Council recovering cost for infrastructural improvements

## Of concern/relevant to

- Boat owners especially those accessing different wharves (Initially Carols)
- SIRAC to assist additional community engagement and involvement e.g. Subcommittee PRW&M, R&D, Hall, Finance
- Special interest groups i.e. Bushcare, Wharf Users, Kindy,
- Council for resolving issues of safety for residents and care of parks and facilities
- New residents especially those requiring boat tie ups

## Actions

- Interested residents to form wharf user group
- Wharf user groups to investigate and develop a proposal (consult with existing groups and subcommittee re design, funding and management)
- Subcommittee PRW&M and existing Wharf groups to assist groups including:
  - Access to older wharf plans
  - Investigating location of old pontoons
  - Template for project development and management
  - Consider strategies for increasing or managing supply so as to assist as many persons as possible without damage to environment and within ability to manage cost effectively
  - Promote sharing of private jetties
- Subcommittee to provide information to realtors and on the website for old and new residents
- Catherine Park
  - Hall & Kindy – Need for working bees, Improvements (besser brick wall)
  - Recreation – Boot camp, cafe
  - Park & Bushland
  - TUG – Investigate additional low level solar lighting, tinnie tie up and low tide access
- Harold (Carols wharf)
  - Investigate, plan complete kayak storage
  - Alternative ramp access to wharf (e.g. Bells)
- Leahvera (Cargo wharf)
  - Protection of Kurrajong tree

## Topic: Management Plans for Parks and Reserves

### Issues

- Provide a coordinated approach to management and planning for parks and reserves include:
  - Rationale - Identify and protect what we value in our community
  - Community consultation seek local knowledge and input
  - Maintenance is essential
  - Begin small, celebrate and build on success
- Maintaining healthy ecosystems and environmental communities including: the endangered spotted gum forest community, sea grass beds and mudflats, habitat for wildlife,
- Maintaining/foster Council guidance and support for regeneration and restoration
- Providing guidelines for future island planning and development
  - nature/walking trails
  - recreational facilities and day to day access

## Of concern/relevant to

- All residents
- New and potential residents
- SIRAC including Subcommittees (PRW&W, R&D, Vision)
- Special interest groups (Bushcare, Fire Brigade, Kindy, Hall)
- Council (Les Munn is contact for parks and Karen Nippard for reserves) Catchment Management Committees

## **Actions**

- Review existing Council plans
- Develop/extend management plans to include description, principles, user groups, priorities
- Form local action groups to facilitate projects and maintenance (i.e. Bushcare, Wharf User Groups, Wards)
- Investigate, plan develop walking trails/nature trails i.e. Elsie Street, Pathilda
- Website to provide relevant information or links re: endangered plant community, weeds, management plans, contacts, projects
- Resident education re: management practices that control invasive weeds and stormwater runoff on their block to maintain healthy ecosystems, prevent erosion of roads and sediment transport, loss of trees and provide water for permaculture gardens
- Investigate resident 'adopt a drain' project
- Identify and deal with special needs – weed control, cats

## **WATER AND WASTEWATER**

### **Background Information/history/comments/questions**

- Mains water
- Delineation of responsibilities between PWC and Sydney Water
- History – of water
- Fundamental error in 1923 to subdivide land
- Who maintains the macerator (if we have mains sewerage)
- What about the Western Foreshores?
- What are the arrangement/legalities of the old septic tanks?
- Who keeps track of where we are at with the IPART and EPA
- When talking to Rob Stokes, bring up issue of enforcing boat pumpouts – holding tanks?
- Do we need a tank at the top of the island?
- Would water demand go up if wastewater removal was more efficient – if so, how would we manage this?
- Discuss funding costs and details
- Explore issues around co-location of water and wastewater and maybe optical fibre and electricity
- A resolution to remove of effluent and wastewater from island will improve the health of the island and of Pittwater as a whole
- Possibility of people on the island with appropriate skills forming working parties to reduce the cost of connection to macerating pump should be investigated e.g. for trench digging etc may even be tradesmen prepared to donate time to help. Also some people may not be able to afford connection SIRA could look at raising money so these people could be connected to sewer line. Offer to do some flow and pressure testing on the existing water lines on the island to determine if in an interim period we can make use of the existing water lines to provide water to all households with permanent metered connections. There is no doubt that a big tank at the top of the island is one solution for a reliable water supply. Also SIRA should investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant from the EPA for the recovery of household waste.
- The native trees and vegetation would benefit from the removal of phosphates
- There would be significant reduction of mosquitoes
- The cost to individual households would be significantly outweighed by the increase in value of homes
- Improve reticulation of emergency water currently piped to the island by equipping each household with a float system in each household tank system so that each tank has a certain level of water without any need for intervention from the householder
- A small diameter say 12 mm coming from the main providing drinking water for each household.
- Talk to neighbours to 'own' the issues

- Alternative water supply suggestions
- Good suggestions for managing water better
- How to get info on water out to the community

### **Consultation moving forward**

- Work together with Vision Sub-Committee
- Community forums to discuss proposals
- More info/forums to inform and educate about the opportunities
- Survey/vote
- SIC page
- Web forum –resurrect SC forum page
- Once a quarter newsletter with questions and answers
- Use the database for marketing purposes
- Permission to email members about other issues with opt out box
- Simple voting.com allows for more sophisticated polling more flexible than Survey Monkey, links for feedback and ability to collate

### **Important link to NSW EPA Organics Large and Small Infrastructure Grants Program:**

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/grants.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/grants.htm)