



Scotland Island Residents' Association

Minutes of General Meeting

Date: June 28, 2015, 10 AM

Venue: Scotland Community Hall

Apologies: Shar Jones, Kylie Ferguson, Carol Floyd **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by 30 members and guests Mark Ferguson, Sue Young and Michael Wiener.

WELCOME

Bill Gye welcomed Councillors Ian White and Sue Young, Pittwater Council General Manager, Mark Ferguson and WPCA President Michael Wiener.

ROADS AND DRAINAGE

- Mark Ferguson announced that Council have just allocated \$300,000 for the roads for capital works on R&D on SI (applause!)
- Mark also announced that the hairpin upgrade had been designed, plan is to use concrete, the costs of about \$400 was still an issue with money to be located (about \$400K)
- In the meantime there was considerable pressure from existing users for at least a temporary fix so it can be used.
- Kerry Borthwick said that elderly and disabled people cannot get up this hill, also not by car and some would be forced to sell their house and move off the island.
- Scotland Island is the last area in PWC where the storm clean-up will take place.
- The fire trail across the Island will probably be "gazetted" as a road (although this increases Council's liability to maintain it in future). That is, there will not be a swap (for the bush track section of Thompson Street) as this is too complicated.

CHURCH POINT

- Mark Ferguson said the Council will get the two reports and make the final decision to proceed on 17 August.
- Steve Crosby presented the alternative plan and there was some discussion. When asked, Mark Ferguson said that he had looked at the alternative proposal by Steve Crosby and that he had written to the proposers. He said he would not be supporting the idea as it would mean a 3 year delay of the project. This would mean that the low interest loan opportunity would be lost. Emmie Collins said the alternative plan would be a lot cheaper, so why not investigate it. Mark Ferguson repeated his opinion that this would mean that Council had to go back to the drawing board with long delays as a result.
- Steve Crosby said he had spoken to Rob Stokes who said that the LIRS loan could be transferred to an alternative plan. He also spoke to Fisheries who said that seagrass would be an issue, but that it could be moved to another location.
- Jenny Cullen said she was asked to approach the BCPRA and Church Point Friends. The feedback was that they all hate the 2 story carpark. The initial response to the alternative plan was mixed, but agreed that it was worth to be investigated.

- Though it will be the Councillor's decision, the reports will be recommended to Councillors that the fee be increased to \$500 (increasing by 5% per annum). Mark Ferguson said that initially he said so that reason for this was that this allowed to the project to be paid for, when this was questioned (and we had a brief look at our analysis of the financing of the project) Mark added two other reasons for the increase, these being firstly as a means of demand management, and secondly as this was politically necessary to get it approved by certain Councillors.
- David Hegarty suggested that with 60 leased spots the fee for the general permits could be lower. Mark Ferguson said that the height of the fee had a demand management aspect to it.
- Hubert van Mierlo asked it is not possible to get enough people to take up the exclusive lease (\$4,900) per annum, would it be us or Council who wore the risk. Mark Ferguson answered that it would be Council.
- In terms of having some exclusivity for Church Point Permit holders between 6pm and 6am, Mark said that something like this will be in their "demand management report" that will go up to Council on the 17th.
- Judy Readman asked when the works would start. Mark Ferguson, said that the plan was to start in 2015.

COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

- Mark Ferguson explained that this is a big issue and the Council meeting on June 29 is key. The issue is not whether or not to support the status quo, clearly that is happening, the question is whether or not to submit a backup plan proposal in the response to the state government by Tuesday night.

SCOTLAND ISLAND SEWERAGE

- Bill Gye presented the results of the Wastewater Survey, which had 290 responses, of which only 7 "no".
- Mark Ferguson said that Council supports our push for installation of a system and is speaking to Rob Stokes and Sydney Water. It is a function of Government to provide these services.
- Hubert van Mierlo raised the issue of the need for us to seek an integrated solution, including water, data, electricity as well as sewerage in a single trench system. This was well received and Marie Minslow noted how we can leverage off the NSW State Governments whole of Government Strategy to support this approach.

OTHER MATTERS

- Hubert van Mierlo presented the [new membership system](#) and self-service portal, which is about to be introduced. A new membership fee structure and the need of changes to the Emergency Non-Potable Water agreement were presented and discussed.
- Emmie Collins spoke about several practical environmental matters including the issues of block clearing which has as result increased water flows and that too many trees were being removed on the island.
- Carmel Patterson briefly addressed the meeting and made a plea for the communities' support for some major difficulties that she is facing. Several people at the meeting made comment that they would try to help.