

## **Meeting Notes Pittwater Council, 8.00 am Wednesday, August 26**

### **In attendance:**

Pittwater Council – Mark Ferguson, Chris Hunt, Mark Jones, Paul Reid  
SIRA – Bill Gye, Cass Gye, Tim Jacobs

### **Purpose of Meeting:**

To discuss a range of issues further to the SIRA meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August, specifically:

- issue of hairpin bend and top track
- proposed works depot
- update on meeting with Rob Stokes re sewerage
- issues of car parking fees and demand management

### **1. Hairpin Bend and Top Track**

Council staff indicated they were aware of the issues being raised by affected residents and proposed an immediate response with two elements:

- to immediately lay road base of cold mix to soft seal the hairpin bend as a temporary solution
- to provide written advice to all top of the Island residents that they were authorised by Council to use the track to access their properties.

The first element would require closure of the hairpin bend for two weeks to ensure the soft seal “sets” before carrying traffic, thereby increasing its potential life. Council staff were supportive of SIRA taking a lead in consultations/communications with affected residents, developing usage protocols such as “no two wheel drive vehicles” and alternatives for the recycle rubbish collection.

Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council said they could look at defining the Contractor vehicles that use the track, but amending the URM contract would take a year to achieve.

The second element was preferred by Council as the simplest means of confirming residents’ rights of vehicle access through Elizabeth Park to their properties, and was certainly simpler and quicker than the option of re-classifying the track as a “public road through a reserve”, which option no longer enjoyed support with Council staff because of its complexity and the time it would take to deliver the outcome.

Mark Ferguson confirmed that this short term approach would be advised in writing, along with suggested protocols for usage of the track to extend the life of the temporary works as much as possible. He also reiterated that Council would continue to progress the “long term fix” approach along the lines described in previous correspondence. He has had discussions with Rob Stokes with regard to submitting a plan and design with the hope that extra funding will become available to achieve this aim.

### **2. Works Depot**

Council staff reiterated the merit of having a more adequate works depot facility on the Island, and quoted the current cost premium of 70% on budgets for roads and drains works on the Island.

They advised that the proposed works depot was at a very preliminary stage of development, did not involve a “400 sqm” area, nor would it be sited inappropriately in the public recreation area of Catherine Park as had been suggested by Paul Davies.

Options for location(s) were still being investigated.

Paul Davies agreed to provide details of the criteria that such depot facilities would need to meet, to assist with community briefing and consultation around possible options.

### **3. Island “Place Plan”**

Issue raised about the lack of communication between the various Council staff regarding works and activities being carried out on the Island i.e. roads and drainage; bushcare and regeneration. There is a need to ensure that the various stakeholders discuss methods and planning for any work on the Island for appropriate and sustainable outcomes to protect the environment. Mark Ferguson suggested that a “Place Plan” be developed in consultation with Council staff and the community to review the issues for a positive way forward. A meeting to be arranged between Paul Reid, Les Munn, Steve Lawler and Mark Beharrell.

### **4. Meeting with Rob Stokes re Sewerage**

Bill Gye briefed the Council staff on the recent meeting that SIRA had with Rob Stokes. The State Government’s public commitment was not disputed. A Joint Working Party is to be formed to progress the discussions between representatives of Sydney Water, Pittwater Council, the SIRA and Rob Stokes’ electoral office.

Mark Ferguson confirmed that Pittwater Council would be represented on the working party by Chris Hunt.

### **5. Carpark Business Model, Fees Proposed and Demand Management**

Council staff confirmed this issue would go to Council for decision in October. Council had received the detailed research paper from SIRA outlining various cost models, assumptions and forecasts for returns from fees and charges.

Council staff advised that they were still proposing that the annual fees be raised to \$500 (indexed annually), because (a) this a means of reducing demand, (b) the anticipated Council contribution of \$1.3M will be less as a consequence of the community opposition to the sale of the two blocks of land opposite the Pasadena (c) the reduction of Pay and Display income as a result of the implementation of requests from last year’s joint Onshore and Offshore communication. These requests included some degree of exclusivity during evenings for CP Permit Parking only and free parking during the day for all people with a Pittwater Sticker.

### **6. Commuter Wharf**

Council advised that they were ready to proceed with enlarging the Commuter Wharf at Church Point, but in the interim would be holding the maximum number of permits at the current level of 300, as the imperative was to reduce double and triple tie-ups. Council staff are considering a proposal to offer partial refunds of annual fees to people retuning their permit as this would assist in maximising the opportunity for new residents being able to obtain permits.

## **7. Vegetation Collection**

Issue about storm vegetation collection not being advised in advance resulting in some residents still with material on properties. Mark Ferguson said he would discuss with Robina Bramich having this material removed during the collection on October 12.

**The meeting ended at 9.10 a.m**