

SIRA Roads, Drainage and Environment Update June 2023

Six monthly opportunity to meet with Council staff regarding forward planning for items relate to our subcommittee. A lengthy agenda necessitated 2 meetings May 4 and June 1

May 4 - Items of discussion

1. Roads and Stormwater / maintenance requirements

- a. Catherine Park Capital works completed. **To be reviewed in June** as to further requirement e.g., Landscaping, water bars.
- b. Future Capital Works – 2023-2024 – Desired option Florence Terrace from Lot 2 to Lot 7 with improvements to the drainage at the intersection with Kevin Ave. Ideally improved drainage would include the swale behind the playground and prevent future flooding of the playground and foreshore. Note – **Follow up required.**
- c. The ring road remains a high priority. Section of concern include:
 - i. Robertson Road (Lot 71 to 43) Continues erosion and uneven surface.
 - ii. Richard Road (Lot 98 to 80) Presently has problems with septic runoff and significant potholes (Lot 98, 96) and slippage on the western side (Lot 17)
 - iii. Richard Road (Lot 32 to 53) Presently has problems with stormwater and potholing.
 - iv. Thompson Road (Lot 1 to 4) Continued stormwater erosion and uneven surface.
- d. Maintenance List was provided.

2. **Road to the Top of the Island** – Gazettal delayed as it passes through Sydney Water allotment.

3. **Survey of Property boundaries adjacent to Elizabeth Park** – Aim to remove and prevent resident encroachment.

4. **Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and registration of unregistered vehicles** – TfNSW is to report back June 1. The TMP is well underway – Note progression of many initiatives on the island is dependent on these items. **Follow up with TfNSW required.**

- a. **A review of the TMP is necessary prior to implementation including such details as vehicle weight and size and signage.**

5. **Leahvera Reserve** - Jeremy Smith has stated that remediation as identified on site with our representative will be undertaken in the new financial year.

6. Catherine Park Landscape Plan

- a. Stage 1 – The Revised Landscape Plan was available to local experts and subcommittee for comment prior to public display.
- b. **Stage 2** – The foreshore area around beach, wharf and path have been marked as Stage 2, with no detail under consideration in this revised plan. Council is planning to install bollards to prevent vehicles driving into the park. SIRA has requested advance notice to the community and signage. Foreshore planning was discussed at length in relation to laws prohibiting vehicles from travel on a footpath. It was also stated that the public are not allowed to drive on any beach in NBC area. No definitive answer on the legal aspect seems to be forthcoming.

7. **Ausgrid remediation** – **Negotiation with Ausgrid to complete remediation of Catherine Park follow their completion of the electrical connection is ongoing.**

8. **Character Statement for Scotland Island** – **How can this be progressed and by whom**

June 1 – Items of discussion

1. **Bushland management** – Note many items covered were introduced as issues of concern. It will now be up to us to follow up.
 - a. Fire Management using HR and APZ – The largest portion of the budget goes to this item (\$120,000) and the outcomes regarding biodiversity and weed management could be improved. Preparation and follow-up are required for better outcomes.
Note - On going liaison with Andrew Jennings and contractors is required.
 - b. Management responsibility for Reserves including Catherine Park, Elizabeth Park, Harold Reserve, Pathilda Reserve (total allocation \$30 or \$35K).
 - i. Funding for bush regeneration for these reserves has received a significant boost and is likely to be on-going into the next financial year. Catherine Park 10,000, Elizabeth Park 8,000, \$5K for Pathilda
 - ii. Bushland Management Plans do not appear to be in available for our reserves. Progressive improvement is important for progress and continuity of funding. How this can occur remains unclear, but could be guided by works as stated for contractors
 - iii. Note - Road Reserves management remains unclear and requires follow-up includes Elsie, Leahvera, Fitzpatrick and unnamed road reserve.
 - iv. Note – Residents are responsible for their own street frontage as for others in the NBC. Council will continue check drainage lines 6 monthly using spray or whipper snipping. There may be an opportunity to make available native tube stock for planting.
 - v. Note – Paths that used for major pedestrian access could be managed under Council’s Parks and Reserves.
 - c. Boundary survey for Elizabeth Park is complete (Kevin Avenue is in progress). On completion encroachment will be targeted in Elizabeth Park.
 - d. Opportunities to work together to facilitate public knowledge.
 - i. Council will continue to support the garden festival and provide opportunities for discussion at the Cafes during the year. **Note – Follow up with Juliet Wills required. Could target Madiera Vine and a wildlife survey.**
 - ii. Council could share information on a monthly target weed to SIRA or PON.
 - iii. Council will support bushcare groups of 4 plus persons.
 - e. Control of Invasive Weeds
 - i. **B Dray’s video for Madiera Vine to be place on the Scotland Island Community Website.**
 - ii. Council Renee Sands, Team Leader Streetscapes is working with Andrew Jennings, Bushland Management, on road reserves including Harold Reserve.
Note – How can we work together for a better outcome?
2. **Revised Catherine Park Landscape Plan**
 - a. Comments from local experts and subcommittee were compiled and submitted prior to the meeting. The Revised Plan was viewed by those involved as much improved and much more in tune with Island living and needs. Management of stormwater is acknowledged as a significant and will be guided by a hydrological study (2026-2027). Implementation is to be (2027-2028). The revised plan will be open to public comment as ‘Have Your Say’. **Note** – The depth and detail of comment provided by

local experts has been well received and facilitated further opportunities to contribute to forward planning.

- b. The timeline for works was surprising – 2023/24 – replacement of playground, 2025/26 – hydrological study, 2027/28 – works. We urged that improving drainage from Pitt View is the most urgent single work as it erodes the beach, path, playground and foreshore park. Council says this requires the full hydrological study of park scheduled for 2025/26. Really?
- c. The playground is scheduled for replacement in this financial year (2023-2024). However, the playground has no problems except erosion from the flooding. We advocate fixing drainage from swale and pit first, before spending money on playground. In the meantime, maintenance needed. **Note – A request for maintenance of the central swale in the interim is required.**
- d. Revised plan showed a pipe through centre of park. Resident group felt many problems with pipe, as explained in report by geohydrologist, Fabienne.
- e. Following acceptance of the Landscape Plan a short list of priorities needs to be agreed on to guide direct future works.

Note – An alternative initiative for 2023-2024 might be the connection between the 2 halls. (R Iredale may have this in hand.)

- f. **Note - There is still no answer as to how Council can allow vehicles to drive on the beach or a public path when it is illegal nationally and in NSW.**