Roads, Drainage and Environment Subcommittee meeting November 25, 2021

Agenda and Outcomes (red)

1. Restricting vehicle access to Catherine Park. SIRA's position as stated in the Annual Report

"Restoration of access along foreshore to the beach, park, commuter wharf and ferry access. Aims are to ensure safety of all foreshore users and to provide access in all tides, mobility parking a short term drop off and pickup area and increased amenity for recreational use."

Jeremy Smith to facilitate work in cooperation with Russell Jenkins, Senior Asset Management Officer. Actions to include letter to residents followed by bollard placement to restrict vehicle access to the park.

SIRA supports Council efforts to ensure the safety of park users and restoration of the waterfront as stated in the annual report. We accept that vehicle access will be restricted but confirm the need for some mobility parking spaces and a short term drop off and pickup area at the entrance to Catherine Park.

In moving forward SIRA would support

* advance notification to the community of any changes or restrictions to parking,
* prior removal of abandoned vehicles an upgrade of the parking area below the fireshed designating a space for front to curb parking for small vehicles
* a locked gate installed at the emergency access road with side restriction and a locked gate installed on the foreshore to allow emergency access to facilities (keys to the RFS and SIRA)

We appreciate the difficulties involved and hope Council will move in a timely manner to implement improvements and restoration of the waterfront.

NOTE: SIRA is dismayed that the funds allocated to the seawall that were to be dedicated to restoration of the foreshore access to Catherine Park and Tennis Court wharf have been removed to general revenue. These funds had been in the budget for several financial years. The foreshore has deteriorated greatly since 2000 when the community, supported by Council, constructed the stonewall. Council has been aware of the issues at the waterfront and despite a community survey (2018), numerous meetings, letters and planning we seem to struggle to make progress on what would seem to an important issue of safety, dilapidation, and amenity. SIRA would request that the matter be reviewed, and funding be restored.

2. Ausgrid restoration - Moving forward making immediate and final repairs. Immediate repairs: Emergency Road surface and drainage. Park drainage and a playable surface.  Final repairs: Emergency Road log edging, durable surface, and water bars. Park surface turfed and access path along waterfront restored. Our contact for drilling is Jonathan de Vos, who has promised to leave the park in better condition than it was on arrival. Jeremy Smith to speak to the project boss (Council has a dilapidation report)

SIRA would request that the access road, drainage, and park surface be restored to its original state prior to the departure of the existing contractor. We understand that additional restoration work will be required, but experience has shown that all too often time and money run short and promised remediation is not completed. This has been the situation with previous works completed on behalf of Ausgrid in the vicinity of Carols wharf. It is inappropriate for our community to live for an extended period with an unfinished work site, restrictions to access and loss of amenity.

SIRA would request that the contractor meet with community representatives and Council officers to agree and confirm the works required and the timetable for implementation

3. Future planning for the Catherine Park - Meeting with Lia Skountzos, NBC Landscape Architect (next 2 weeks)

Our subcommittee has been contacted by Lia and December 7 is the likely date of a meeting to review the basic design needs for the development of a Landscape Plan for Catherine Park. Once complete the design will be followed by community consultation in the new year.

4.. Possible future NBC workshop Living within the Endangered Spotted Gum Forest Community - Why is the forest special, providing habitat for fauna, managing invasive weeds and fire protection.

Working with Andrew Jennings Bushland Management (Discussed Nov 23 NBC, RFS, Dragonfly, SIRA, bushcare volunteers)

In planning stage. All ideas welcome. Andrew is keen to make the bushland around the hall and park a showcase for the island

To be discussed and explored further with Andrew Jennings and the Roads, Drainage and Environment Subcommittee. Andrew will investigate additional funding to extend the works presently being undertaken by grant funding targeting invasive weeds esp. vines on the Eastern slopes.

5. Report from meeting on maintaining bushland habitat and asset protection (Meeting Nov 23 NBC, RFS, Dragonfly, SIRA, bushcare volunteers)

**Present:**

Rural Fire Brigade: Scot Molenaar

SIRFB: Peter Lalor

Northern Beaches Council: Andrew Jennings, Bushland Management Officer; Matt Horwood, Coordinator, Bush Fire Management; Michael Kneipp, Coordinator, Bushcare Volunteers

General Manager Dragonfly / Principal Ecologist, Geraldine Dalby-Ball

Bushcare Volunteers: Hazel, Jenny, Steve, Sharon, Cass

Recent Asset Protection Work completed by NBC Contractors was of concern to a few Island residents, including bushcare volunteers, who found their sites brush cut without notice or consultation. A walk-through of areas of concern and discussion highlighted the need for on-going work, but also options for future improvements. Options include residents formally committing to adopting their road verge or boundary and all parties working cooperatively to set goals that are site specific, facilitate weed control and continued restoration with appropriate native species.

Council is completing a survey of properties bordering Elizabeth Park where boundaries are undefined to prevent further encroachment into the park and to assist with identifying future hazard reduction areas.

Andrew Jennings suggested considering a long-term goal of restoring habitat and reintroducing native fauna facilitated by restrictive fencing on the park boundary.