

SIRA Roads and Drains Subcommittee

Meeting Notes, 14 August 2015

In attendance:

Graeme Crayford, Cass Gye, Tim Jacobs, Sharon Kinnison, Tim Turpin

Meeting commenced: 7.45pm

Purpose of Meeting

1. To review the current position regarding restricted access to properties at the top of the Island, the need for hairpin bend repairs following degradation and recent storm damage, and recent advice from Pittwater Council engineers indicating major delays to any significant road upgrade works on the Island
2. To consider a report received from a meeting of some top of the Island residents, held on 12 August
3. To develop advice for SIRA on options for addressing these issues

Summary Report

The subcommittee considered:

- the report on a meeting with Paul Davies, 30 July, where he had advised that in his view Council needed a concrete loading ramp at Cargo, a semi permanent Works Depot, detailed design and works planning, appropriate consultation and budget commitment, before any major works could be done to address the degraded condition of the road system on the Island
- the two letters sent by SIRA President to Rob Stokes, MP and Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council on 22 July, thanking them for recent storm damage funding, and reiterating the need for substantial further funding to properly address the issues faced by the third world standard road system on the Island
- a letter sent by SIRA President to Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council on 25 July, requesting Council act urgently to resolve the issue of the degraded condition of the hairpin bend leading to the top of the Island
- a report of a meeting of a group of top of the Island residents on 12 August, convened to discuss options and actions to achieve urgent restoration of essential services and access to the properties at the top of the Island i.e. above the hairpin bend

A broad range of options were discussed, ranging across:

- the standard and adequacy (or not) of storm damage rectification works being currently undertaken by Council
- the merit and risk of pursuing some short term rectification of the hairpin bend, pending the mooted, but time frame free, permanent fix
- the merit and risk of advocating a “do nothing in the short term, but focus on the permanent fix”
- the relative priority of advocating to get the hairpin bend fixed, either temporarily or permanently, compared with other priority improvements to the road system on the Island
- the need for SIRA to recognise the seriousness of the hairpin bend/top track issue and support sustained advocacy of the need to work out how to, at a minimum, restore service vehicle access to all properties

Recommendations

The subcommittee agreed to recommend to SIRA:

- that all the issues and choices for addressing access to the top of the Island specifically and upgrading the roads system generally, hinged on funding, and that “get the money” should be the central focus of SIRA’s efforts on this subject.
- that SIRA advocate broadly on behalf of the community and the wide range of road system upgrade issues, but should accept that the hairpin bend/ top track access issue was a current and immediate “hot spot” in that context
- that SIRA adopt a core principle, namely that all residents should have, as a minimum, service vehicle access to their properties and that SIRA’s advice and advocacy to Council and State Government should identify as priorities the situations on the Island where that was not currently the case.
- that recent letters to Rob Stokes, MP and Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council should be followed up with requests to meet with a SIRA delegation and that Councillors should also be briefed on the ongoing problems with the roads system on the Island

The meeting closed at around 10.30pm