

memo

subject	North Narrabeen and Birdwood Park Masterplan
from	Lucy-Cole-Edelstein, Director , Straight Talk
to	Lia Skountos, Project Manager, Warringah Council
date	31 January 2012

Key issues raised during community meeting held 5 December, 2012, North Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club

Council hosted a community workshop in early December, 2011 to introduce the masterplanning project.

Invitations to the meeting were extended to all key stakeholders and a letterbox drop of nearby residents also occurred.

Approximately 48 people attended the meeting, which was professionally facilitated by Straight Talk.

An introduction to the masterplanning process was given by Council, and presentations delivered by each of the three independent experts engaged by Council to provide background information and specific expertise in wave morphology, dune and sand movement, and flora and fauna.

As the presentations progressed it became apparent that many of the participants were highly anxious about what the master planning project would include. As a consequence of significant questions and discussion during the meeting, the format remained as presentations, questions and answers, and did not move into a workshop as intended.

The main issue and concern raised by participants, particularly the members of the North Narrabeen Coalition, included the build up and height of the sand dunes, specifically the Birdwood Park dune and in front of the surf lifesaving club, which had changed significantly over the years.

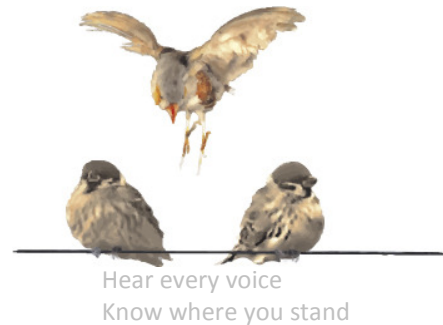
The impact of this was threefold:

- Increase in dune height significantly impacts on sight lines from the surf life saving club, resulting in concerns about safety for monitoring swimmers and surfers
- The change in the dunes has impacted the surf break affecting how the waves approach the shore (of particular concern to board riders as the beach has been identified as a National Surfing Reserve)
- Reduction in visibility impacts on the ability of beach users to assess the beach conditions from the car park.

Vegetation on the dunes further impacts on sight lines. There was considerable discussion about vegetation types appropriate for dunes.

Council identified that the project had its genesis in work undertaken with the North Narrabeen Coalition and was aware of the focus of many users on the dunes, their height and shape.

straight Talk



Other items for the master plan to consider include:

- Access to the beach
- Car parking
- Arrangement and functionality of the area around the Surf Club for emergency access, events and public uses
- Playground
- Relationship with Birdwood Park and Narrabeen Lagoon Entrance area
- Access to shops and other linkages.

Key factors relating to the dunes that were identified included:

- Dunes are necessary in order to protect the Surf Club and other coastal infrastructure. The dune height to address sight lines and visibility while maintaining coastal management and protection functions needs to be determined as soon as possible.
- The Birdwood Park dune is important for the management of the entrance of Narrabeen Lagoon
- Wave and sand movements will continue to occur and, with the impact of climate change, future plans need to take these into account when planning for the longer term
- A range of indigenous plants can be looked at which will stabilise the dunes and offer much needed environmental habitat and minimise loss of visibility.

Participants were thanked for attending. Information about forthcoming consultation activities and how they can continue to be involved will be distributed directly to participants where we have their contact details, otherwise information will be on the online forum, www.yoursaywarringah.com.au.