

DHP meeting Feb 21, 2022- Via Zoom - Started at 7:05 PM

Attendance - See addendum attendance sheet

Welcome to Hunter Ward Councillors Steven Lewis and Sally Betts

Robert Harvey is our secretary. Kerry Gottlieb is our DA Rep

Special thanks to Mary Shiner for her help organizing our ZOOM meeting in this space

No need tonight to sign the attendance roster as I can see who is here and Robert will note your presence for our attendance list

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING –

Do all agree the minutes are a fair and accurate representation of the meeting:

Moved - Robert Harvey

Second -Richard Morris

ACCEPTED





New Pump Station Design

- Added safety features (retaining wall, bollards and crash barrier)
- Added emergency lighting
- Relocation of emergency storage to reduce impact on nearby property
- Relocation of RPZ device to reduce visual impact



1 - We have 2 special guests this evening. Bala Subramanian who is the senior project manager for the Sydney Water's Refresh Vaucluse & Diamond Bay project

We also have Steven Farrugia who is the senior project manager of COMDAIN Infrastructure.

Due to our special guests, we are going to first discuss the Sydney Water Proposals at Eastern Avenue Reserve and then move on to our normal meeting

See photo of old plans and new updated plans. See photos of the reserve as it appears today

NOTE - Sydney Water established a community reference group in 2018 to work with the residents and stakeholders and come up with a plan for the sewage outfalls upgrades that everyone could agree upon. Myself, Peter Cappe, Ron Nothman and Councillor Betts have been members of the community reference group from Day 1.

After many years of work the concept plan for the pumping station in eastern Reserve were as per the image attached. The project is now 50% design completed and at the last CRG meeting on Feb 9 we were presented with the new concept plan which appears below the old one

Bala & Steve said design was 50% complete and issues with construction and the contractor caused the changes

Both said the New Pump Station Designs image was not the final design.

Steve said the bollards and hard surface were for maintenance and worker safety.

Sally asked if it needs to go to council and the answer is no. It will go back to the CRG for feedback.

Dov suggested reversing down the street to avoid turning circles for the trucks as do the garbage trucks now.

Marcus suggested the site be moved north but the site position has already been decided

George P mentioned there was a perpetual spring always running at 55 Eastern Ave and that might be an issue

Everyone agreed the sandstone block seating could be improved or removed

Bala suggested the 4 x 4 meters storage tanks might be able to be deleted by the EPA which would make a big difference

All suggested the pumps could be moved into the verge between the white fence at the end of the asphalt of Eastern Ave

Michael G suggested that less is more and that residents want a minimal impact as was promised in the original drawings

Dov mentioned to all the onsite meeting at 57 Eastern Ave on Feb 28th, 2022 at 9.00 am and encouraged all to attend

Dov thanked Steve and Bala for attending the meeting.

2 - Cliff Walks DA

The Cliff Walks DA was determined on Dec 8, 2021

2. GENERAL MODIFICATIONS

To reduce impacts on surrounding properties and from public spaces, the following amendments are to be made:

Delete the proposed 1.5-metre-wide concrete pedestrian path extending from the bottom of Oceanview Avenue into the reserve

Delete the timber bench seating with sandstone paving and sandstone block retaining wall at the end of the proposed path from the bottom of Oceanview Avenue.

Relocate the accessible seating to the eastern end of Oceanview Avenue.

Maintain the access to Eastern Reserve from George Street while ensuring that the remnant vegetation and nearby Aboriginal archaeological site are protected.

The proposed new low vegetation adjoining the clifftop coastal fence be no wider than 1 metre.

Remove reference to all tree planting of heath-leaved banksia and scrub she-oak to the northwest of Eastern Reserve and replace with low vegetation.

The proposed native vegetation on the western boundary of Eastern Reserve be no wider than 1.5 metres.

Detailed landscape documentation plans must be submitted for the approval of Council's Open Space Planning Team once further developed at 80% and 100% design review prior to tender and construction packages for the landscape component. Detailed landscape plans are to address the following:

Plantings immediately adjacent to the clifftop fence are to consist of only low height vegetation and the vegetation area is to be no greater than 1 metre in width.

New sandstone terracing/steps in Eastern Reserve to accommodate sandstone log terracing with planting at the edge of the stair where possible to treat erosion on slope to match the treatment of existing stairs and terracing.

Future revisions of the landscape plans to provide details on tree placement with number of plants to manage views and provide shade to seating and walkers.

DA-378/2021

- (i) The native vegetation area on the western side of Eastern Reserve and adjacent to the eastern side boundary of 22 Bulga Road is to be designed so that existing pedestrian access from the side gate to Eastern Reserve is adequately maintained.
- (j) Detailed design and location of any bench seating at lookout points are to be sufficiently setback from the coastal fence to minimise safety risk to the public whilst not impeding on standing room.
- (k) Detailed design and location of the accessible bench seating to be located in Eastern Reserve adjacent to Oceanview Avenue is to be shown on amended plans.
- (l) Interpretive signage detailing the geological, archaeological, and historical aspects of the stone portal and cliff stairs in Diamond Gully should be provided along the clifftop walk in locations that are in proximity and view of the stone portal and cliff stairs. Details of interpretive signage are to be submitted to Council's Heritage Advisor for approval.

The amendments are to be approved by the **Executive Manager, Development Assessment (or delegate)** prior to the issue of any Construction Certificate. An electronic copy of the amended plans or additional information (see website for electronic document requirements) addressing this condition, including a covering letter shall be provided to Council for review.

2A. SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS AND FINISHES

- a) Materials and finishes are to be consistent with the palette used elsewhere along the coastal walk to provide a cohesive experience of Public open space for example Waverley Cemetery coastal walk.
- b) Durable materials to be explored should include composite materials and high-grade marine quality stainless steel.

The materials are to be approved by the **Executive Manager, Development Assessment or delegate** prior to the issue of any Construction Certificate. An electronic copy of the amended plans or additional information (see website for electronic document requirements) addressing this condition, including a covering letter shall be provided to Council for review.

Dov wrote to the Council's Assessment Officer today as follows:

I know the residents tonight will be keen to know how the exact process regarding landscaping and materials will be determined. That is, will the community have an opportunity to have a say or provide input to proposed detail plans regarding landscaping and materials

Dov will advise when he receives a response.

GB said that there should be specific a height limit to items planted in the Cliff Walk. There should also be enforcement of the height limit, so plants are cut back when they exceed the height. Dov said that nothing, but native grasses should be planted as all else grows too tall

Hopefully we will have an answer sooner than later, but it appears that there is still hope in the details of the landscaping and u of inferior materials.

Note all motions about the Cliff Walk were submitted as DA submissions so the assessment officer did see and consider them.

3 - Agenda Item - Biodiversity Action Plan for 2021-2030

The Biodiversity Action Plan is all about ecology but does not even consider resident amenity. The plan acts as if the residents, ratepayers and visitors to our reserves simply do not exist

Motion - DHP request that there be NO NEW BUFFER plantings of ANY SIZE and in ANY FORM in Weonga Reserve, Rodney Reserve, Raleigh Reserve, Eastern Reserve & Diamond Bay Reserve on the west side of the fence as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2030

Response:

Motion was forwarded to the Executive Manager Environmental Sustainability and to the Urban Ecology Co-ordinator for inclusion as feedback to the draft Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021-2030.

A report on the draft BAP is being prepared for Council's consideration, for either the March or April 2021 Council meeting.

Agenda Item - Rodney Reserve Acacia Disaster in the Rodney Reserve Safety Slope

Sam McGuinness Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability wrote to me as follows:

The plants put into the buffer at Rodney Reserve were planted as per the Biodiversity Action Plan – Remnant Sites. The 'problematic' plant *Acacia longifolia* is in the recommended species list for Rodney Reserve as per the 2015 Plan. There is a coastal subspecies (*sophorae*) that is lower growing and is the preferred species for coastal locations, but the plants are very similar and easily mixed up. Even within the same species plants have a range of growth characteristics.

Council contractors have been instructed to thin out the *Acacia longifolia*. *Acacia longifolia* is an excellent pioneer plant which assists establish vegetation but can then dominate. Now that the vegetation is reasonably established, we don't want the acacia's dominating the low growing understory. I can't give you an exact date as all of our bush regeneration contractors and their work has been impacted by COVID but we are wanting this to occur soon.

Further there is NO plan to remove the other species of trees which were planted and have grown to heights of 3 to 4 meters. There is NO explanation why these other trees even exist since they are clearly NOT low growing shrubs"

On this question, I am not sure what species you are referring to. I will try and get on site to have a look and then respond to this.

NOTE - I have been requesting an onsite meeting with Sam and he promises to make time in the next weeks.

4 - DUDLEY PAGE Playground:

Motion - DHP requests that council move the current playground in Dudley Page Reserve to the area next to the pump house. DHP further requests that a new gym be located where the current playground is situated at the south edge of the reserve at the location of the current playground.

Motion - DHP request that council install a shade cloth above a new playground directly to the west of the pump house which will not impact resident views but will provide shade for playing children

Response:

Council receives many requests for upgrades to our facilities across Waverley Local Government Area. To assist in prioritising playground upgrade works Council adopted the Play Space Strategy in 2014 following community consultation. This strategy is a guide to how and when Council upgrades the forty (40) play spaces in the Local Government Area (the strategy can be found online via this link here).

Dudley Page Reserve playground was recently upgraded in Dec 2015 and the children's cycle track and fitness stations in 2012 and are not currently due for an upgrade for several years.

Dudley Page Reserve is owned by Sydney Water who have an agreement with Council to allow public access and enjoyment of the reserve and Council had agreed to maintain soft landscape areas, the playground, children's bicycle track, fitness area and park furniture such as seats.

Unfortunately, Sydney Water places very strict controls on what can and cannot be built on top or beside their underground water reservoir including but not limited to:

- Weight of extra material added on top of the underground reservoir to build the track and fitness stations.
- Limiting underground excavations as the top of the reservoir lid is very shallow.
- Maintenance and construction vehicle restrictions to protect the underground reservoir limiting the size and weight of construction equipment and strictly excluding any equipment that creates vibrations.
- The type of soft landscape allowed can only be grass and very limited low gardenbeds, no trees are allowed to be planted on the reservoir.
- Use of fertilisers and weed control on soft landscape areas.

What this means is Council will not get permission from Sydney Water to build a children's playground or a shade structure which require deep footings and larger machinery on top of the reservoir. The current playground sits on the very edge of the underground reservoir meaning we cannot place any deep footings to support shade sail posts. Options to improve shade were investigated as part of the works in 2015.

The underground water reservoir is a vital piece of water infrastructure that plays a significant role in providing water services to the area and therefore must be protected.

This advice remains consistent with previous advice provided to the Dover Heights Precinct to similar requests raised.

5 - Motion re licensing of dog walkers

Council Officers, including Rangers, have discussed the proposed registration/licensing of commercial dog walkers with Council. We support further consideration of such a scheme. We note that there are a number of benefits to having licensing of dog walkers in place but also recognise that there would also be likely to be a number of enforcement difficulties.

A report to Council will be drafted with a recommendation for Council to implement a 'Have Your Say' for community consultation on the subject.

6 - Buddleja in Weonga Reserve:

RM noted that there were a pile of bricks and debris next to the Buddleja in Weonga Reserve and two large holes were made in the Buddleja. It was like a monster had taken 2 big bites of the shrubs, left a mess of bricks and wood and then departed:

Council officers have clarified that the following occurred:

Council engaged contractors to clear a pathway in the Buddleja at Weonga Reserve to enable a geotechnical

and risk assessment of the cliff. Even though the contractors were not briefed to remove rubbish, they did remove some. The purpose of the Geotech and risk assessment is to ascertain the feasibility and safety of any further removal.

General Business:

1 - PC was distressed at overdevelopment in general and 57 Military Road, Dover Heights specifically. He had asked Sally to report back but Sally's laptop died. How does this happen?
He asked the issue of 57 Military be put on the agenda at the next meeting. He requested Sally respond to him ASAP in private

2 - Robert asked who is notified in any DA? CR Lewis said it varies and he spoke on overdevelopment in general. He said it was a vexing issue as elected representatives are unable to deal with as they have been taken out of the DA process. He said private certification should be abolished. He said council takes an aggressive stance at Land & Environment court and that council will be going to court more often

Motion 1 - DHP requests that council re turf large dead zones in Rodney Reserve, especially in front of 169 Dover Road. DHP further requests that all holes in the reserve be filled in.

Moved - Richard Morris
Second - Peter Cappe
Approved

Motion 2 - DHP request that council complete their studies and create a capital works project for the Radio Telescope Viewing Platform Project. The funds were allocated long ago and to date little to no progress has been made.

Moved - Richard Morris
Second - David Rosenwax

Approved

Motion 3 - DHP again requests that old wrong signage in the DH Coastal Reserves indicating Blake Street as the entry and exit to the reserve be replaced with the new approved pathway up Weonga Street. This has been requested for many years now with no progress

Moved - Richard Morris
Second - Jean Morris
Approved

Motion 4 - DHP requests that dead trees next to the new bubbler in Raleigh Reserve at Lyons Street be removed. There are no safety issues to remove these dead trees

Moved - Valerie Saffer
Second - Briar Ridgeley
Approved

Motion 5 - DHP requests an onsite meeting with council officers regarding the exact placement, materials and position of the new Coastal Fence at Rodney Reserve

Moved - Richard Morris
Second - Peter Cappe

Approved

Motion 6 - DHP requests a meeting with council officers onsite to discuss Children Crossing signage at 211 Military Road as to the exact location of signs and the crossing path.

Moved - Robert Harvey
Second - Valerie Saffer
Approved

Motion 7 - DHP request that preexisting ocean views enjoyed by residents near 268 Military Road be restored by council. Residents have provided proof of preexisting views. These views should be restored by council

Moved - Peter Cappe
Second - Valerie Saffer
Approved

Lots of discussion about this one - everyone agreed council should trim trees to retain residents preexisting views. Lots of frustration with council on this issue.

VS had issues about this on her property. It was noted that trees on council land are easier to remove than trees on private property. PC told how many years it took to rectify his situation at the bowling club.

Meeting ended at 9:05 Pm