



ST HUBERT'S ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

'The Central Coast's Island in the Sun'

Secretary
PO BOX 247
ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

Web Site: <http://sthubertsisland.nsw.au>

MEETING WITH CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL ON ST HUBERTS ISLAND BRIDGE SAFETY UPGRADE

Purpose of Meeting: Bridge Safety Upgrade
Location: Gosford Administration Chambers.
Date: Tuesday 27 October 2020
Time: 4.00 – 5.30pm

Present	
Central Coast Council	Jane Smith (Deputy Mayor), Clr Jeff Sundstrom, Jay Spare, Janette Williams
Police	SC Rachael Scott plus one more
Lucy Wicks office	Charlette Bocock
BridgeWarriors	Lindy Wilson, Stephen Ghent
Daleys Point	Michael Goss, Rob Pragnell
SHIRA	Ken Stewart, Geoff Flynn

Minutes of Meeting:

No.	Item
1.	Introduction
	Jane Smith gave introduction, and participants introduced themselves.
2.	Overview by Jay Spare
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project is a bridge safety upgrade to address bridge jumpers• Council has been aware of this issue and community concern for safety for over 20 years• There has been a request for a fence. Several heights were considered, 2100, 2400, 3000.• In 2007 consultants Cardno prepared a design. In 2009 it was costed.• Lucy Wicks office became involved, and the early design was revisited and other designs considered.• But the review showed the bridge concrete cantilever edge could not carry any extra load, above the load already imposed by the existing metal handrails.• Only 2 options really become suitable, weldmesh or chainwire. Perspex with cutouts was considered, but could not be made to work.• The weldmesh fence, 2400 high, was the only suitable choice.
3.	Police
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Police are aware of the safety issue, and anti-social behaviour of youths on the St Huberts bridge, and the jumping off the bridge into the water. They even jump when police turn up.• The Police cannot chase them into the water, and this would need a combined operation with the Water Police.• The Police regularly receive complaints.• When Police turn up the youths disperse, but return when the Police leave.• CCTV could be considered, but impractical, as not continuously monitored, and reaction time would have to be considered.• Police are concerned that a fatality will occur.• The Police can impose a fine of \$725 if their caught.• Luck Wicks has asked that the safety issue be addressed.• JSpare said a safety fence was not the Council's first choice, but is the only realistic choice. Council is aware of the serious neck injuries suffered by a boy in 2017 when jumping off the bridge.

4.	<p>BridgeWarriors presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG asked why is weight such an issue. Is the bridge unsafe? • JSpare said the bridge is totally safe to carry vehicle and truck loads on the roadway, but the cantilever concrete edges have a finite load capacity, which cannot be exceeded. • JSpare said designs independent of the cantilever concrete edge were considered, but these would have to span between the concrete headstocks, and this would exceed the budget. • SG asked why is there no handrail between the raised footpath and the roadway. If weight is an issue, replace the infill concrete footpath panels with lightweight GRC. JSpare said this will not solve the cantilever concrete edge load restriction. Handrail to be considered. • SG then proposed other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place plastic triangles on the top rail to stop kids jumping off it. - Place rubber spikes on the outside ledge, so kids could not stand on it to jump. - Extend horizontal beams from the bridge supporting a net. Most people thought the kids would love jumping on the net before going into the water. - Other possible options would be given to the Council. <p>JSpare said Council will consider these, but they don't really address the issue. LW said the BridgeWarriors have over 500 items of correspondence on the proposed fence. Their attitude is the bridge is a law and order issue.</p>
5.	<p>Daleys Point presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RP gave a brief slide and video presentation showing groups of kids jumping off the bridge into the water, from most spans of the bridge, and even jumping off the roof of a moving SUV into the water. Even night jumping has occurred. • RP said he lives in a house near the bridge and sees all these activities all the time. • RP said some of the kids try to play chicken with boats and try to land as close to the boat and kayaks as possible. A serious accident is waiting to happen. • RP said the noise, foul language and anti-social behaviour of the kids gathering on the bridge is a major concern for the Daleys Pt residents close to the bridge. The kids regularly trespass on their properties as they climb out of the water, and abuse the residents. Bottles have been thrown from the bridge onto roofs and into swimming pools, with broken glass in the pools. • They are desperate for the fences to be erected, to remove the kids from the bridge. They are quite prepared to always look at the fences, if it stops the kids. People who are only concerned with their view driving down the bridge are irresponsible. • MG said the safety issue and responsibility for these kids is a problem for us all. The Police should not be expected to babysit these kids. We urgently need the fences.
6.	<p>SHIRA Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GF said when the Island Assn became aware of the proposed fence barriers we distributed a Flier to all island residents and neighbouring Daleys Pt. Over 150 responses were sent to Council, with the majority against any fence barrier. • GF said since then we have meet with Council on the matter, and Council issued their letter on 1 Sept 20, explaining the process, reasons for the fence barriers, and program for implementing the works. The Assn letter of 17 Sept 20 replied noting that the weldmesh barriers would be erected, but most residents would not be happy. • GF said both these letters were included in our September Newsletter that was distributed to all island residents. We have not had any feedback from residents after the Newsletter. • GF said we now believe that most residents accept there will be a barrier of some sort.
7.	<p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clr Sundstrom asked for a show of hands on who thought something needed to be done. All raised their hands. • JSmith said it is good to see we all agree that something needs to be done. • JSpare said the weldmesh fence barrier is being developed and the finish of galvanised or coloured is being considered. He said coloured renderings will be presented at the Drop-In session on Thurs 29 Oct 20. Also a 2400 pool fence option. • JSpare said the Drop-In session is next to inform the residents and invite feedback. • JSpare said the program is now to tender the works after Christmas in January/ February 2021.
	Meeting closed at 5.30pm.