



12 November 2018

Mr Rod Blake
President
St Huberts Island Residents Association

Email: president@sthubertsisland.nsw.au

Dear Mr Blake,

St Huberts Island - Plan of Management prepared by GHD Consultants

Thank you for your email of 10 October 2018 and your request for specific information relating to the Plan of Management (POM) which had been omitted from an email issued to you by Council on 9 October 2018. The Mayor has taken a keen interest in this matter and has referred this to me to respond on her behalf.

The following information addresses the issues raised at the meeting on 3 July 2018, in particular, the POM prepared by GHD Consultants.

- The preparation of the Draft "St Huberts Island Canals Guidelines for Management" document was commissioned by Council's Roads Traffic & Drainage (RTD) Unit in response to a list of questions raised by the St Huberts Island Residents Association. RTD has traditionally been considered the asset owner of the canals, as these are Council owned drainage reserves.
- In the last year this responsibility for management of the canals has passed on to the Waterways and Coastal Protection Unit. During that time, Waterways and Coastal Protection Unit staff have met with representatives from the Resident's Association on three occasions. I note that the Resident's Association has also taken the opportunity to contact myself and the local MP.
- The bed of the canals is Council owned land rather than a Crown waterway. The private boat ramps, jetties and beach areas fronting on to the canals are therefore on Council land. The seawalls in front of each property are behind the property line and are therefore on private land.



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- Staff in the Waterways and Coastal Protection Unit have reviewed the draft document and believe that much of the advice in the draft document is not sound and therefore, is not proposed to be made public in its current form. Waterways and Coastal Protection staff have advised me that they recommend that the Guideline be reworked into an "Island Handbook", that is not a Plan of Management in its own right, but simply a guide that answers several frequently asked questions, provides advice on maintaining seawalls and beachfronts, and points the reader to relevant planning instruments.
- I understand the Waterways and Coastal Protection Unit is currently carrying out an investigation into the feasibility of a beach scraping procedure that can be carried out by local residents, whereby they can scrape sand back from the low-tide waterline to the base of their seawalls. This activity must avoid damage to seagrass beds and there must be no acid sulphate soil issues. Council officers have been in contact with NSW Fisheries about a license application to cover all the canal areas. Council's Geotechnical Laboratory has scheduled acid sulphate testing of waterline sand soil samples for early November. If there is no evidence of acid sulphates, then it is proposed to proceed with the NSW Fisheries license applications.

I hope this response covers all your issues of concern, however, should you require any further information, please contact me on 4350 5555.

Yours sincerely



Peter Ham
Unit Manager
Waterways and Coastal Protection

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