AGENDA PAPER FOR THE 21st MEETING OF THE QUEENSLAND RECREATION AREAS MANAGEMENT BOARD 6 DECEMBER 2000

AGENDA ITEM NO : 7.3.2

SUBJECT : Cowan Cowan Beach Closure

PREPARED BY : Terry Harper

ACTION REQUIRED : That the Board approve:-

(a) the location of a new northern bypass access road and relocation of the northern closure boundary about 120 metres north, subject to Native Title compliance, and

(b) the clear definition of a vehicle/trailer parking area on the beach just south of the boat launch access point within Cowan Cowan township, and

(c) erection of appropriate regulatory notice style signage at each end of the closure, and at the boat launch/retrieve and vehicle/trailer park within the closure, and

(d) publication of the beach closure notification in the Government Gazette.

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- Following strong representations from the Cowan Cowan Residents Association (CCRA), the beach in front of the Cowan Cowan township was closed to vehicle traffic from 30 November 1992. A bypass was constructed behind Cowan for through traffic. Residents were given an exception to drive onto the beach to launch and retrieve boats, but were not supposed to have vehicles on the beach for any other purpose.

- Rangers have stringently enforced the closure, with drivers of vehicles breaching the closure being issued with infringement notices. A common complaint from those caught was that they saw vehicles on the beach within the closure (residents' vehicles) and assumed that they could also enter the closure. While this is not a valid excuse, the Residents Association acknowledges that some residents have been abusing the boat launching exception for their own convenience.

- The bypass road takes considerably longer to negotiate than direct beach travel would if the closure were not in place. It is also expensive to maintain (> $5000/year), and requires a major rebuild in the near future.

- Executive members of the Residents Association wrote to the Board and subsequently met the QPWS Board member, Des Boyland and Regional staff in April 2000 to address these issues. While acknowledging the problems of vehicles on the beach, including some delinquent residents' actions, a key issue for residents was the continued ability to park vehicles and boat trailers on the beach, rather than have to park them back up in the township. This was particularly important for single-handed launching/retrieving boats, when leaving the vessel unattended could result in swamping or stranding.

- It was agreed that the closure should remain, that there should be a designated area south of the current beach access through the Moreton Bay Fishing Club lease for parking up to

10 vehicles and trailers parallel to the frontal dune, additional signs reinforcing the closure and carparking conditions at the township beach access, and shortening the bypass by bringing the northern access closer to Cowan using an existing "shortcut" track.

- District staff commenced assessing the feasibility and operational requirements for these actions. In August the CCRA, having consulted further with residents, wrote to the Board seeking changes. Some residents had objected to the nominated shortcut, citing concerns of noise, dust and lights from through traffic. The Association requested re-opening "an old military road" a little further north of the township, still meeting the objectives of both parties. Mr Boyland replied that this was a substantial variation on the agreement, would require further assessment, could have substantial Native Title implications, and would need to be considered by the Board.

- District staff found there were no obvious signs that the proposed route had previously been used as a road. The area showed evidence that trenches had been constructed in the immediate vicinity, which could have European cultural heritage implications. The location did give a shorter and more direct route to the beach.

- A better location was determined by staff about 30 metres south of the CCRA proposal but still some 200 metres north of the nearest dwelling. Its advantages over the CCRA proposal are that it avoids the trenches, is on higher country and does not traverse any section of the Bulwer swamp, and avoids a section of soft sand on the bypass. Moving the beach closure to about 50 metres south of this track would not necessitate closure of any campsites on the beach (map attached).

- This track is about 85 metres long, and would require removal of 33 trees <5m tall or 150mm diameter, and 2 trees >5 metres, and some disturbance to ground cover. The proposed track has been inspected by Ranger D. Crouch, member of the custodial Murri community of Moreton Island, and there are no immediately obvious cultural implications. However, notification under the Native Title work procedures is required, and would be undertaken if the Board approves the proposal. Representatives of the community elders would also be invited to inspect the site, as has been a standard practice for works on the island.

- The Residents Association would prefer the new arrangements to be in place before the Christmas/New Year season, but this will not be possible with the notification requirements under Native Title. This will also give the Association executive and Island staff the opportunity to fully explain the strategy to residents and visitors before implementing it in the quiet post-holiday period.

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Enquiries Galen Matthews
Telephone (07) 3131 2852

11 April 2012

Tangalooma Island Resort Pty Ltd
PO Box 1102
Eagle Farm BC Qld 4009

RTI DL RELEASE - NRSR

Dear Mr Osborne

Application to traverse the Cowan Cowan beach safety zone for work purposes

I understand you have contacted the Ranger in Charge of Moreton Island National Park seeking an extension to your authority to traverse the beach safety zone in front of the Cowan Cowan township. An extension has been granted for a further 6 months. The utilisation of this authority is only for times when the bypass road is unable to be traversed during ongoing dry conditions, which lead to tracks becoming soft and likely to cause vehicles to become bogged or when the road is impassable due to flooding, road damage, maintenance or where safety issues identified and agreed to by QPWS and Tangalooma arise.

This letter constitutes an authority under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, and permits the vehicles and drivers specified in Attachment 1 to traverse the above beach safety zone subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment 1.

This authority is valid for the period from 15 April 2013 to 14 October 2013 which is an additional six months on the previous authority issued 21 December 2012.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Mr Chris Hanlon on (07) 3408 3928.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Galen Matthews
A/Area Manager
Moreton Bay
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

34 Trafalgar Street
MANLY QLD 4179
PO Box 5178, Manly Qld 4179
Telephone 07 3131 2888
Website www.nprsr.qld.gov.au

Attachment 1

1. Authorised vehicles

Vehicles covered by this authority are limited to those listed below:

VEHICLE TYPE	*MAKE*	*REGISTRATION NUMBER*
Tray truck	Hino	882 SDO
Tray Truck	Hino	607 SSH
Fork Lift	Manitou	C 98660
Fork Lift	Manitou	C 30303
Fork Lift	Manitou	09314 C
Fork Lift	JCB	C 36464

2. Authorised persons

The following persons are permitted to drive any of the above vehicles within the Cowan Cowan beach safety zone:

Nominated staff of Tangalooma Island Resort who have undertaken an induction of the provisions of this authority, hold the relevant licences for the vehicles and machinery listed above.

Tangalooma Island Resort is to hold records of such nominated staff, their licences and induction date.

3. Conditions

a) This authority shall only apply to the approved persons and vehicles whilst they are operating in an official capacity when removing waste or delivering waste bins to and from the waste rubbish sites at Cowan Cowan, Bulwer and Comboyuro Point on Moreton Island;

b) Vehicles are not to travel at a speed in excess of 20kph and must engage hazard lights, flashing beacon & headlights whist traversing the beach safety zone, for safety purposes;

c) The approved vehicles must be clearly identified as being a commercial waste vehicle or Tangalooma Island Resort vehicle whilst in the beach safety zone. For example, each vehicle would exhibit a decal or other sign;

d) The authority shall not be used at any time when it is not necessary (i.e. when the Cowan Cowan by-pass road is easily accessible after sufficient rain or road maintenance). This authority is not for the purpose of convenience.

e) When traversing the beach safety zone drivers must **give way** to and not block the passage of any other person including children using the beach;

f) A copy of this authority must be carried by the driver of the vehicle at all times whilst traversing the Cowan Cowan beach safety zone;

g) This authority is only valid during daylight hours during low to mid tide;

h) Any breach of the conditions of this authority may result in its cancellation;

i) This authority, or any part thereof, cannot be transferred, assigned or sub-leased without the prior written approval of the Moreton Bay Area Manager.

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34 Trafalgar Street
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QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

Enquiries Galen Matthews
Telephone (07) 3131 2852

08 October 2012

Tangalooma Island Resort Pty Ltd
PO Box 1102
Eagle Farm BC Qld 4009

RTI DL RELEASE - NRSR

Dear Mr Osborne

Application to traverse the Cowan Cowan beach safety zone for work purposes

An extension has been granted through till the 19th August 2017 or at the cessation of the current waste management contract. The utilisation of this authority is only for times when the bypass road is unable to be traversed during ongoing dry conditions, which lead to tracks becoming soft and likely to cause vehicles to become bogged or when the road is impassable due to flooding, road damage, maintenance or where safety issues identified and agreed to by QPWS and Tangalooma arise.

This letter constitutes an authority under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, and permits the vehicles and drivers specified in Attachment 1 to traverse the above beach safety zone subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment 1.

This authority is valid for the period from 15 October 2013 till the 19th August 2017 or at the cessation of the current waste management contract.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Mr Chris Dawe on (07) 3408 4723.

Yours sincerely

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Steve Hoseck
A/Area Manager
Moreton Bay
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

34 Trafalgar Street
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PO Box 5178, Manly Qld 4179
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