

**MINUTES FOR THE BELLS BEACH COMMITTEE
MEETING 2
18 April 2016
5.45 PM – 7.25 PM**

PRESENT:

Sandra Ahlquist (Chair), Cr. David Bell, Dave Mathews, James Dean, Graeme Stockton, Andrew Cherubin, Adam Robertson (Surfing Victoria) and Cahill Bell-Warren (from 6.10 pm)

APOLOGIES:

Cr Eve Fisher, Bryon Powell

IN ATTENDANCE:

Other people in attendance were Kate Sullivan (General Manager, Environment and Development, SCS), Rowan Mackenzie (Manager, Environment and Community Safety, SCS), Gabrielle O'Shea (Environment Officer, SCS) and Matt Taylor and Pru Farrer (Business and Tourism, SCS)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of Meeting 2 on 18 January 2016 were confirmed

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

NA

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Debrief Rip Curl Pro 2016

There was general discussion on the staging of the 2016 Rip Curl Pro with various members contributing comments.

The staging and organisation went well. Areas for potential further discussion/improvement were

- 1) traffic into Bells,
- 2) security around the Bells headland and access around Winki, and
- 3) management of the overflow car park which was very dusty this year.

Improvements in these areas will be worked on as part of future event planning.

42,000 people attended over the course of the event.

Rowan Mackenzie reported that the handback meeting occurred on 18 April 2016 and that the reserve is in good shape.

2. Review and renewal of Public Land Tour Operator Licences

Matt Taylor and Pru Farrar briefed the committee on the proposed review and renewal of the Public Land Tour Operator Licences in the reserve (the licences that enable guided tours to be undertaken, including the ability to bring a bus into the reserve car park.

Background

- There are six current licences (five local operators and one Melbourne company)

- Current term is one year expiring on 31 October 2016
- The fee structure is set by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- The new Coastal Management Plan enables up to 8 licences to be issued for the smaller buses (24 seat capacity, no large coaches)
- The new traffic signage and line marking, to be installed shortly, will be used to enforce the requirement to have a licence
- School groups and other non-commercial users in buses will still be able to enter the reserve without paying a fee. This includes large coaches.

Feedback from the committee was as follows:

- An increase in the term of the licence from 1 to 3 years is acceptable
- The line marking, including the previous blacking out of yellow lines at the 'neck' of the hammerhead, will have to be maintained if enforcement is to be fair
- If less than eight licences are issued the number of spaces provided for bus parking should be reduced to reflect the number issued
- Income from the licences should be used in the reserve

Action: Surf Coast Shire tourism staff will proceed with a competitive expression of interest process for licences with terms and conditions reflecting the feedback provided. The Bells Beach Committee will be kept up to date with progress towards implementation of the new licences.

3. Future discussions with the World Surfing League

Future arrangements for the running of the Rip Curl Pro were discussed with WSL representatives during the recent tournament. The discussions covered a range of event management matters including improvements related to the WSL's recently announced environmental initiative (known as PURE <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160405006672/en/World-Surf-League-Announces-WSL-PURE-Innovative>) and use of the surf breaks.

Action: Surfing Victoria to update the Committee on any proposed changes to the running of the Rip Curl Pro.

4. Infrastructure related projects

Updates were provided on the following projects:

- a) Helicopter landing area viewing area.
 - Detailed design proceeding incorporating changes as advised to the committee
 - Heritage Victoria has confirmed a permit is required and supplied appropriate documentation to apply
 - Application to DELWP in progress
 - Council to make an assessment against the National Heritage listing status (if the works require a referral against the EPBC Act)
 - Preparing construction documentation, aim to advertise request for quote by end of April for mid-May construction (assuming permits come through on time)
 - Ideally construction was proposed during the bump out period, but additional time has been required for further discussion on design changes.

- b) Rip Curl Pro Bump In/Out Audit

- Otium (and sub-consultants) have been onsite extensively during Bump In, event and Bump Out
 - Surfing Vic has provided great access and insights
 - Bump out expected to run 'full term' due to inclement weather at the start of this week
 - Draft report expected soon after that
- c) Traffic signage and fences
- New traffic signage will aim to be installed by the end of April and line marking will be shortly after. There will be a two week education period after that before formal enforcement commences within the reserve.
 - Fences and bollards for removal, replacement or new installation for the coming year are proposed as per attachment 1. Materials to be used will be as per the Style Guide in the Implementation Plan.

The updates were noted by the committee and additional information was requested on the bollards to be used and fencing design.

Action: Council to circulate additional information on bollard design and fencing style for the committee to provide feedback (via email).

5. Conduct of events other than surfing events

Some of the events passing through the reserve on the Surf Coast Walk make requests such as setting up check points. The new Events Policy provides direction on the conduct of these events but additional clarification would be useful.

The committee provides the following advice:

- A small checkpoint on the mulched area near the toilet may be acceptable
- Bells shouldn't be promoted as a viewing point for Surf Coast Walk events as increased spectators and their vehicles will impact upon surfers
- It is preferred if participants use the back track (not the Stairs to access the beach area.
- Event organisers to minimise disruption to traffic in the reserve car park, and event participants to adhere to traffic/pedestrian road rules.

Action: The above advice on the conduct of events other than surfing will be given to Surf Coast Shire events staff for incorporation into event management planning.

6. Other Business

The committee was notified that the Geelong Field Naturalist trapped a Swamp Antechinus (*Antechinus minimus*) north of the Wave car park last weekend as part of its third fauna survey in the Bells area. This is an important find as the Swamp Antechinus is no longer common in this area and is rarely trapped. The survey work has been supported by a donation from the Surf Coast Shire.

7. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 18 July 2016, 5.30 PM, Shire offices for a 5.45 PM start

ATTACHMENT 1: Draft Aims and Scope of Works for Rip Curl Pro Bump in/Bump out Process Audit

Created on Thursday, 14 April 2016 by WACHIE/rlister




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GDA94 is a geospatial datum based on the Australian Geoid 1996 (AGD96).
Surf Coast Shire uses the Map Grid of Australia (MGA84) Zone 56.


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