

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Philip Hindley <pehindley@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 October 2014 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth proposal

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a very frequent user of the area around Seven Mile beach. I park near the Surf Club 4-5 days a week and walk from the club house along the beach to the 4 wheel drive access and back. I cannot walk on hard surfaces and hence the beach walk is essential to my mobility and health. Points I would like to make are:

- I don't see the need to close the access on the east side of the lake for cars. To do so will cause major vehicle congestion around the club house and south at peak times.
- Also to close the access on the east will stop many people being able to drive there to exercise their dogs on the beach unleashed. They will have to walk much further with dog on leash and will have to pass through the area where swimmers etc are. Also even though they are not supposed to have dogs off leash in leashed only areas, **this frequently happens**. There will be even more problem with dogs running free amongst people ( including children) with the potential risks.
- In any development please ensure there are easy access points for all including the disabled, ie unbroken access surfaces with no steps. The access near the surf club is very good now ie gentle gradient and no steps ie where the surf club vehicles go down. "Improvements" are not always good for access for the disabled or those with mobility issues like me. For example the improvement at Angels beach ie steps on metal chain meant that I no longer could access the beach there and hence had to relocate my walk to Seven Mile beach.

Yours sincerely

Philip Hindley 66867779

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Mark Walshaw <mcwals@bigpond.net.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 1 November 2014 8:36 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Review

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Lake Ainsworth Precinct Review

I am surprised that Complete Urban has recommended a modified, and restricted access road be kept on the eastern shore of the lake. Under this proposal, there is significant loss of parking and public access, but no gain in safe natural recreational area.

As a Lennox Head resident and regular user of the lake and surrounds, I would like to plea to council to find a way to remove traffic from the eastern shore. Only then can our children run and play by the lakeside without being hemmed in by the traffic. What a rare playground it would be to have access between ocean and lake without a road to cross. It would be applauded well beyond our local area.

If there had never been a road there, surely it would be unthinkable to create one in this environmentally sensitive era. Is rebuilding it any different?

Kind Regards,

Mark Walshaw

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2014 9:32 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Comment

-----Original Message-----

From: [fletchballina@gmail.com](mailto:fletchballina@gmail.com) [mailto:[fletchballina@gmail.com](mailto:fletchballina@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 9:31 AM  
To: Paul Hickey  
Subject: Comment

Good morning,

I have commented on the Animal review today and then I tried to comment on the Lake Ainsworth plan but it seems because I did one ,I can not make this comment. I would like to comment on the proposal to close off the eastern road except for the access to Sports centre.I would like to see the road left open because this is the way to get to off leash beach most appropriately.Otherwise ,I don't think surf club activities would like dogs accessing via that <http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=iNPZ1K4Xxf9M52CDS5Tz6AdCIJXb9qDFgtSa1cn7Ow&u=http%3a%2f%2farea%2eit> would mean dogs were very near other public and lots of children,with Nippers etc.

Thank you

Elizabeth Fletcher

Sent from my iPad

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council  
<council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2014 4:01 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth Review Submission  
**Attachments:** Lake Ainsworth Review Submission.docx

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**From:** John Duffy [<mailto:johnduff@spin.net.au>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2014 2:42 PM

**To:** Ballina Shire Council

**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Review Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

Could you please forward my attached submission to the appropriate area

Thank You  
John Duffy  
11 Andrew Place  
Lennox Head

**Reference: Lake Ainsworth Review Submission**

Dear Sir

Though I am in general agreement that amenities at Lake Ainsworth need improving I would like to submit some specific feedback/concerns on the Complete Urban Report and the Preferred Program of Works that Council has currently on exhibition.

**The Eastern Road**

The existing eastern road could alternatively be improved at a reduced cost by affecting an engineering solution on the lake side to remove water and pollutants instead of the costly complete reconstruction of the road as proposed. This would lessen impact on the fragile eastern dune system and existing vegetation.

The proposed new road appears to be provided solely for access for Sport and Recreation people. If ratepayers are to be denied access and use of this facility then the State government should be asked to cover any costs associated with the reconstruction of this road. If this is not forthcoming then it should be open to all.

**Parking Spaces**

Though it is stated that there'll be eventually no actual loss of parking spaces the proposed new parking areas concentrates access to the lake to the south eastern part of the lake foreshore. People will generally take the shortest route to water and facilities and I'm sure will not walk any distance along the eastern/southern road to access facilities there. This will put pressure on the lake environs in that area closest to the parking spaces. Parking needs to be spaced more regularly along the edges of the lake - east, south and west.

Large areas of bitumen in the biggest 2 parking areas are heat generators and are at odds aesthetically with the lake environs. They need to be broken up with specific tree planting.

During high traffic flow periods traffic entering and leaving this high concentration of parking spaces may lead to traffic congestion.

Parking spaces created on the edges of the caravan park will inevitably be used by caravan park users and their visitors at the expense of locals and tourists to the village. The plan needs to address how this can be policed.

**Viewing Platform**

This is totally unnecessary structure and at odds with the visual amenity of the lake foreshore.

Its construction of composite materials is not sympathetic to its surroundings.

Views of the lake are already available at numerous places on the existing foreshore.

Small children playing on it unsupervised could risk drowning if they accidentally fell into water of any depth. Likewise when the lake recedes as it did recently there may not be sufficient depth of water for children jumping off or none at all for that matter.

It'll probably need policing and constant supervision by Council staff at further ratepayer expense.

Yours sincerely  
John Duffy,  
11 Andrew Place,  
Lennox Head. 2478

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2014 3:35 PM  
**Subject:** Lennox Head Lake Ainsworth

**From:** Margaret Purcell [<mailto:margiepurcell8@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2014 2:49 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lennox Head Lake Ainsworth

Perhaps the best place for your point of discussion last Saturday should have been extended to the lake itself.

Being such a fabulous weekend of weather... Sunday saw the lake packed...

I sat at the northern end near amenities. for one hour in the afternoon late..

To sit on the ground was quite difficult with all the raised roots of paper barks due to erosion. there's hardly any grass in that area.

Not to mention the two dogs that jumped into the lake with their partners attached.

MMMMMM ... there were people even entering the lake from the back track which has become an attraction in the last few years.

When are you going to realise that the lake is being ruined by humans...

We should not be allowing so many people in the lake... especially over the Christmas period ...

Building sand castles on the lake is that what's its purpose is.

As a rate payer I'm tired of paying for the back track and the 4WD entrance which collapses how many times per year... that I have to pay for that. Put it into fixing the lake before creating a sand dune that's now shrunk due to erosion of QLD numberplate using our beaches to TRASH...

thanks

Margaret

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2014 1:38 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth Redevelopment.

-----Original Message-----

From: john green [mailto:[john@sportsway.com.au](mailto:john@sportsway.com.au)]  
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2014 11:45 AM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Cc: [starballedit@northernstar.com.au](mailto:starballedit@northernstar.com.au)  
Subject: Lake Ainsworth Redevelopment.

Councillors, I wish to comment on the proposed alterations to Lake Ainsworth foreshores.

Its all about time!!!

These days it is the one commodity that we never have enough of,

With the Government concerned about all the time that children and adults spend indoors on computers etc. I think the designers have missed the point completely, that the lake is for the people, not a strategically correct design that looks so good on the CAD

It seems in all your alternatives you are committed to closing the road to the Sport and Recreation centre.

If the designers went down to the lake after work or on a weekend they would see hundreds of families from children to grand parents all enjoying the fore shore with their cars parked adjacent to the lake.

I saw no sign of degradation or abuse by families, only enjoyment in a natural atmosphere and a convenient parking location.

We walk down to the lake nearly every day and have known the lake since the 60,s when we had the diving tower.

We see that the main problem with damage to the road is caused by the buses and delivery trucks that travel to the sports centre, also the staff racing to work and parents driving madly to pick up their children.

We see this time and time again.

An answer would be to stop access to the sports centre and make them drive around the long way.

This would reduce a lot of heavy traffic.

You have budgeted to upgrade the road so there would be no extra cost.

If there is concern about the road infecting the lake, a small retaining wall could be built that also could double as seating to enjoy the ambiance of the lake.

People will not walk 2-300 metres with picnic baskets, drinks kids floating toys, grand parents and all the bits and pieces that families need for an excursion.

especially if you have just come home from work and have limited time to take the kids for a swim.

No one loves the lake more than us and we understand the need to protect it, but surely not to the detriment of the people that want to use it for their pleasure.

I would be interested to know how much time the design team have spent at the lake, it is very obvious that they are determined to close the road to the very people that pay rates for the maintenance and are entitled to enjoy the beauty of the lake.

With regard to the Surf club as an ex Ballina lifesaver of course I would like to see a new clubhouse, but it seems pointless to do a design one and then have to change it in few years time due to construction techniques changing all the time.

One only has to look at the monstrosity of our Community centre that blends with nothing, plus being totally impractical.

Consider that against the adjacent football pavilion with its clean lines and how it fits into the environment.

Sorry to digress,



You could easily upgrade the ambiance of the Surf Club by just adding more facilities like more tables and seats with shade over. We see many people walking away due to having no place to stay out in the sun!!

As far as a Complete Urban P/L is concerned, I would be interested to know why they are any better qualified than many of our talented Architects and Designers in the local area.

To Sum up I think that not enough thought has gone into the aspect of people's pleasure and their valuable time and the money is burning a hole in your pocket. Many thanks John Green Lennox Head

## Lake Ainsworth Master Plan Feedback.

### General Comment.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of what I believe are iconic Lennox Head landmarks. These icons provide Lennox Head with a "point of difference" to other coastal towns, being its natural beauty and village atmosphere.

The concept plan (option 1) that is stated to be Council's preferred option for the Lake precinct fails on several counts. It is not the best option to improve the Lakes' health nor does it improve the community amenity. It will detract from the precinct's natural beauty and it will limit the usability of a large stretch of the eastern side of the lake.

### The Eastern Road Proposal

The concept plan (option 1) indicates that maintaining the eastern road for "Sport & Rec" traffic only is the preferred option.

In my opinion this option benefits only one stakeholder (Sport & Rec).

Maintaining this road basically gives the Sport and Rec exclusive use of this area. Although still open to the general public, it limits the public's use of this portion of the area to swimming only.

Traffic/pedestrian safety issues will still prevail if people are still swimming along this stretch whilst the road is still in operation.

This area will also become less attractive for the general public to use for more general purposes such as picnicking/ running around. It will therefore direct the use of the lake for swimming (and other recreation activities) to the southern end of the lake. This will place too heavy a burden on a small section of the lake.

Closing that road completely gives council the opportunity to enhance the natural beauty of the area by making it all parkland. I believe this would become a far more useful public amenity in this form.

The option that seems most logical given that the health of the lake is of prime importance would be "Road Option 3" of the Crown Master Plan which is referred to as the "New Southern Road Alignment".

Convenience of access to the Sport and Rec for staff, services, emergency vehicles and visitors should not take precedence over the general health of the Lake and the potential of making the lake a far more beautiful, natural and useful asset to the broader community.

### Car Parking

The plan as displayed adds more car parking close to the beachfront. This seems a waste of the natural visual aspect of the area (ie trees and beach) at the expense of a convenient place to park your car.

There are other areas that will have far less visual and natural implications such as the area near the amenities block opposite the road from the lake (southern end). Also the top end of Ross Street could be used for designated parking.

#### Surf Club Position

The plan to relocate the surf club closer to the residential area of Ross Street will undoubtedly affect residents in terms of noise and extra activity in that area given the various uses this new building will obviously facilitate. These uses may include that of a licensed restaurant/function facility.

There is also the issue of impacting on the current dune environment if the surf club were moved.

The combination of the surf club move and proposed car parking placement will in itself diminish the natural look of the area. It replaces grass, dunes and trees with a building and a car park.

#### General Issues

The lake precinct does not need playground equipment, exercise stations or a composite decking viewing area. These items will limit the scope of use of the area and detract from its natural beauty.

#### Conclusion

I understand that council has many issues and stakeholders interests to take into account. I am surprised at its choice for the preferred option and hope council considers a broader section of the community and their interests when making decisions on the lake precincts future. Furthermore, as a rate payer, I would like to be kept well informed of councils position with respect to any proposed changes in the area.

As for Complete Urbans' evaluation of this whole precinct, I think it fails to capture the natural essence of the area and has neglected to consult the broader community on their vision for the area.

Yours Sincerely

David Santamaria

2/1 Ross Street

Lennox Head NSW 2481

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** susi <scody8@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 15 November 2014 11:19 AM  
**Subject:** submission re Lake Ainsworth Plan

Dear mayor

I would like to add these ideas about the 'development ' of our Lake.

The main point in the action must be 'caring' for the naturalness and wildness of the lake landscape and maximising the health of the lake for us all. To achieve that I would like to see

1. Close the eastern Road to all but emergency and maintenance traffic. Replace the current hard road surface with a permeable surface such as grass pave that will bear the reduced traffic but absorb water and be pleasant visually from the lake edge to the dunes and treeline. This would spread usage more evenly around the foreshore and reduce wear and tear in the SE corner.
- 2 Leave out all new amenities such as playground equipment and exercise stations that would attract more usage. These activities can be equally well met elsewhere in Lennox. Let the lake be it's own attraction. In fact keep the wildness of the lake.
3. Use grass pave in all parking areas. We don't need to increase the air temp or reduce absorption of rain by constantly increasing the area of hard surfaces around our town. Our lake has a natural beauty that encourages one to take a deep breath . Let's preserve that rather than replace it with a highly managed environment of built paths, roads and car parks.
- 4 We don't need a boardwalk.
5. Ensure a treed/ shaded grassy open space on the site of the present clubhouse- no need for pathways or more concrete.

Thanks for the opportunity to have community consultation

regards

Susi Cody

13 Ibis Pl

Lennox Head

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 November 2014 7:44 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to Lake Ainsworth Reveiw

**From:** Ayla Woolley [mailto:ajmw438@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 15 November 2014 11:28 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission to Lake Ainsworth Reveiw

Hello,

I am a member of the Lennox Head Community and as I am part of the youth of this town, I believe I have a right to say what I think about this proposal as I will be part of the future generation in this community.

I think the proposal is practical shows that you, as the council are actively working to improve our community, and our environment.

In my opinion the improvement to the environment of the lake , I am for, however, adding the artificial drainage systems and storm water infrastructure I DO NOT like. I would like you as a council to spend this money on natural drainage systems, such as putting back more reeds in the lake. (\*why take them out in the first place!?!?!) Or research into more environmentally friendly systems. Perhaps even educating a community on the importance of caring for the environment of the lake.

The reason I love the lake, firstly because its beautiful, but secondly it is a natural phenomenon, being right next to the ocean and being freshwater. Whenever I enter that lake, I feel healed, I believe it is very healing on the outside and inside.

However what makes it so enjoyable for me is not just the water, but the whole setting. We are incredible lucky as a community to have this lake, so we need to look after it and respect in in its NATURAL STATE.

What i mean by this is that adding all that fancy 'recreational infrastructure(such as new pathways, a viewing platform an playground equipment)' will take away that NATURAL STATE and we are all happy enough without that stuff, that's just ridiculous, like paths, viewing platform, REALLY???. Spend that money elsewhere, like where it is needed, such as the local primary school (Lennox Head Public School, in case you didn't know), seriously???! C'MON people, pull your heads in!!!!

The whole scene at the lake is instantly relaxing and enjoyable, we do not need any aid to that. Because if you put this 'proposed works' around the lake, our lake will not be special to us as it will be just like any other lake in Australia, it will be bogan and no longer unique to Lennox Head.

To sum up, I am grateful that the council is working to improve our community and especially giving us the opportunity to say what we think about the proposed works. I support and encourage any improvements the the environmental state of the lake, however they must be natural(REEDS) and not unpleasant to look at. However, I do not support the proposed works of recreational infrastructure, as it will the away the lakes natural beauty and uniqueness to our community.

Please take great thought into what I believe is best for the lake and community as I am part of the future generation of this town.

I have talked to many other young people about this proposal and they also agree with my thoughts on the care for the environment of the lake and keeping its NATURAL BEAUTY.

I will not appreciate any unthoughtfulness in our council and will continue to say what I believe is best.

Kind regards,

Ayla Woolley, Age 16.

General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council

council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

### Lake Ainsworth Upgrade Comments

Exclusivity of access road to Sport & Rec	Developers dream	This will grant exclusive access and would be a major selling point when it comes time to sell off the sport and rec to a developer. It is clear that this will become a resort or similar in the future. Furthermore the local citizens of Lennox do not get to access the best dog beach around
Road re-alignment	Major works seem unnecessary.	Option 4 seems best. Leave eastern road access as is. Realign certain parts of the road to create meandering affect. Raise level of road is a good idea to keep Lake flooding under control. Runoff to Lake will still occur as water from the new swale has to the east has to go somewhere! Bitumen seal western road to access Sport & Rec Retain as much parking as possible
Additional picnic areas and recreational infrastructure	Nice idea – but where will the extra people park?	The additional picnic areas will probably bring in more people so additional parking needs to be considered for them. The existing facilities could do with an upgrade but not desperately needed.
Car parking (currently about 150)	This proposal deletes about 70 - 80 car spaces Should be adding 70 – 80 car spaces (total 230)	Review road realignment to add car spaces. Review additional car park at existing dog beach entry and create formal area that caters for cars and multitude of surf school trailers and buses New surf club will need additional parking as well
Improvement of Lake “health”	Not well addressed	How is the cause of BG Algae treated in this new proposal?

		What effect does sunscreen from the Lake users have on water quality?
Dog exercise area	Not addressed! – shameful this is about all residents not just those who use the lake for recreation.	Dog walking is also recreation. Many older people have dogs. Dogs will have to walk on leash until they reach the dog beach entry and defeat the purpose of the off leash area being very accessible to young and old (people). Best dog beach around. Happy rate payers with current situation. High parking demand in early morning and late afternoon. Move dog beach access to surf club could create conflict especially on weekends. When 100's of kids are doing nippers.
Relocate surf club and create a new facility	Seems unnecessary to relocate	In present location can be renovated Should be submitted formally In new location could attract current planning regs and proposed car parking will only suffice for surf club Probably have a restaurant (need more parking) Great idea to have a brand new building and facility for everyone
Community Markets	Not addressed! Not working very well at Community Centre	Inappropriate at Williams Reserve. No shade in summer. Conflict with cricket club Not able to use Community Centre nor courtyard(joke) Community Centre should have been designed to cater for a market No shade or parking for customers as all local parking is taken by stall holders (they even put their own cones up on the road) Displays great lack of Community Spirit

Stan Ruch & Kay Rickerby  
Lennox Head



## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 7:25 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth proposed works

**From:** kurt bezjak [mailto:kurt.bezjak05@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 November 2014 6:28 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth proposed works

As a daily user of Lake Ainsworth and adjoining beach I will take this opportunity to forward my opinion as it is critical that BSC get it right as this is a special place in so many people's lives.

- we live here in Lennox because of the lifestyle. A lifestyle that has a relaxed atmosphere with a feeling of isolation and natural beauty. We don't need to turn it into a play pen for tourists, it does a good enough job at that as it is, NATURALALLY ! Byron is down the road.

- no to kids play areas, if they can't enjoy the natural surrounds as my children do then they can go to Lennox kids park on the Main Street. We don't take our kids to the lake and surrounding areas for that, it's much more special than that NATURALLY!

- fitness stations are ok only if they are inconspicuous and do not draw attention from the natural beauty of the place.

- no to the jetty, there are several beautiful walks to go on and it is not required and a waste of funds.

- Yes to closing off the Eastern road to ALL including the rec centre. Return it to its Natural Beauty and see how many people are attracted. My only issue is that if you close this area of please extend the dog leash off area to the south, no one uses the leash on area anyways.

- yes to cafes anywhere they will fit in the new surf club.

- if you are serious about the health of the lake than use the money you have saved by doing the above and control the cane toad issue in the lake, the western side is a haven for these grubs. Engage in a weed eradication program and remove the eastern road and rehabilitate this area with natural surroundings and BBQ areas and tables for all to enjoy

- yes to the road recamber on the southern end and natural catchments to treat storm water.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Kurt Bezjak  
Lennox Head resident

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 10:22 AM  
**Subject:** lake ainsworth

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**From:** Michael Pearson [<mailto:mnpearson@ozemail.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 10:05 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Cc:** 'Denni Pearson'  
**Subject:** lake ainsworth

Dear Council

I have read all the documentation concerning roads and access to the Sport and Rec. it seems clear to me that the preferred option has to be to close the eastern road, thus making the east side of the lake a passive recreation area, with picnic tables etc.

The S&R can be reached via the western side of the lake. However, this road needs to be sealed.

This may be a slight inconvenience for users of the S&R, but this is only a small number of people overall, and any problems they have are far outweighed by the great advantage of having the eastern road closed. This will help rejuvenate the lake, and provide an extra recreation area.

I am a rate payer and long time resident of Lennox Head, and a very frequent user of the lake.

Yours sincerely

(Dr) Michael Pearson  
1/27 Sunrise Crescent  
Lennox Head  
NSW 2478  
AUSTRALIA

61 2 6687 6047

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 12:35 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Submission: Lake Ainsworth Master Plan

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**From:** Berenice Roberts [<mailto:berenicer@ssfs.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 11:09 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission: Lake Ainsworth Master Plan

Dear Councillors,

With regard to the Lake Ainsworth Master Plan I would like to note the following:

- A) I see no reason what so ever for Sport and Rec to have a sole purpose road maintained as there is access via the western road. Maintaining the access on the eastern road simply increases the traffic in that precinct unnecessarily. In addition I believe the road should follow the Option 2 proposal which from my understanding was always the preferred and most logical route for the road. The caravan park managers were always aware this was ultimately where the road would go. I think it is really important to remove as many car movements from that surf club/lake corner as possible and if the road bypasses it and goes as per Option 2 this will be an excellent outcome.
- B) Car Parking will always be a contentious issue and so if the road doesn't follow through in the Lake/surf club corner this should help and may allow for more parking in the surrounds.
- C) I am not really a fan a 'created environments' and so lament the fact we need to put platforms and paths everywhere so I don't really have much to offer in this regard. I remember as a kid the joy of running through the trees on the beach – not a designated path and created structures which get damaged in 'extreme' weather events and then cost to have the repaired let alone the ongoing maintenance of such structures. I realise I am probably on my own in this issue.
- D) If the likelihood of a successful grant application is greater if the DA process is complete then I see that as a reasonable thing to do.

Thanks for the opportunity to have a voice.

Regards  
Berenice Roberts

0413 814 708

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## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 3:29 PM  
**Subject:** lake Ainsworth proposal

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**From:** Andrew Lines [<mailto:ajlines@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 2:29 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** lake Ainsworth proposal

Recently I attended the gathering the residents association organised at Lake Ainsworth. I was informed a proposed drainage system and the rebuild of the eastern road, with for the sustainability if the lake. This is fantastic news and my family and I are so glad that the lake will be looked after.

However, the intention of adding concrete footpath, a play ground, and even the boardwalk, we would all have to agree, this is a horrible idea. We are at the lake daily in the summer with our small children. We enjoy the natural surroundings, please keep it that way. Many of us would be absolutely devastated to see our town waste money and resources on recreational activities at a place where people go to enjoy peace and relaxation. Lets keep the lake simple

Andrew lines

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 3:28 PM  
**Subject:** Submission regarding Lake Ainsworth and Lennox Surfclub Improvements

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**From:** Melitta Firth [<mailto:melitta.firth@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 2:34 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission regarding Lake Ainsworth and Lennox Surfclub Improvements

Dear Councillors

Pleaser reconsider your decision to keep the access road to the lennox head recreation centre open to restricted traffic. Imagine people were able to use that space to picnic, do a walk and run between the lake and the beach. It will make it an even more popular tourist destination with beautiful regenerated bushland to enjoy. This will also improve the health of the lake and ensure that we can all continue swim it in for years to come.

Aside from the arguments put forward for doing something about this road soon, there is also road safety. The number of kids playing in the lake with a road so close by is dangerous and it's just a matter of time before an accident occurs where a child strays on to the road there.

Thank you

Melitta Firth  
m: 0412 954 656  
[www.melittafirth.com](http://www.melittafirth.com)

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 4:34 PM  
**Subject:** FW: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

-----Original Message-----

From: [phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au) [<mailto:phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>]  
Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2014 4:00 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

### GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/18/2014 2:58:29 PM Response End Time: 11/18/2014 3:59:34 PM IP Address: 220.244.206.125  
Completed Survey: Yes  
Respondent: Anonymous

### SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.  
lake ainsworth review and consultation report for south eastern precinct
2. Your name (anonymous submissions may be disregarded by Council):  
Heather Lloyd
3. Phone number (optional):  
[No Answer Entered]
4. Email (confirmation of your email address is required to provide feedback from Council):  
[Lloyddavi@gmail.com](mailto:Lloyddavi@gmail.com)
5. Having read the document, is it easy to read and understand?  
Yes
6. Please provide any suggestions for improvement.  
[No Answer Entered]
7. Do you support the overall objectives and content of the document?  
No

8. Please provide further comments if you wish.

I wish to object to the proposed closure of the northern car park and eastern access road adjacent to Lake Ainsworth. The northern car park and eastern access road has a long and well established history of use by dog walkers accessing the off leash dog walking area on Seven Mile beach. Access via the northern car park provides a good separation of dog owners from non dog owners who are able to access the beach via the surf club and other southern access points.

One of the major attractions and strengths of current management of Seven Mile Beach/Lake Ainsworth is that there is a clear separation between dog walkers and non dog walkers which very effectively separates potentially conflicting user groups. If the northern car park and eastern access road is closed as proposed this will result in dog owners being forced to access the beach in an area of very high used near the surf club and caravan park. This obviously increases the likelihood of conflicts between users that is not currently a problem under existing access arrangements.

The proposed additional 35 car parking spaces to the south will not solve the potential problems between conflicting user groups (dog owners vs non dog owners) and is likely to increase safety issues associated with funnelling a large number of vehicles into one area. Currently the smaller car parks are safer and provide good access for all users.

The reasons given for closure of the eastern access road and car parks include health of the lake and dunes, road safety, amenity and the caravan park operation. Frankly I don't believe these are legitimate concerns. While I support the current traffic management arrangements which prevents car parking on the lake verge I do not support further restrictions such as closure of the eastern road and northern car park. What is the demonstrated impact of the existing northern car park and eastern access road on

the health of the lake versus that of the caravan park and other existing southern car parks? What is the demonstrated impact of the eastern road and car park on the dune? In regards to safety concerns I believe that the proposed larger car parks will not improve safety at all and will result in traffic congestion with more cars in one locale and be more of a safety hazard than the current smaller car parks. I note that the report refers to the existing northern car parks as informal but I can assure council that these informal car parks in their current location meet a very real need of people wishing to access Seven Mile beach and the lake. The northern car park is often full even on a week day and in the mornings.

I am concerned that the needs of the Department of Sport and Recreation appear to have been given a higher priority than the local community. I access Seven Mile beach from the northern car park on a daily basis and personally I find the numerous "no trespassing " signs along the section of the coast and lake environs north of the car park offensive. Surely this is public land which the local community and visitors to our area should have a right to access. I don't find this to be a very community friendly attitude and I object to the lengths proposed to satisfy the access needs of the Department seemly above the rest of us.

9. If you wish your feedback to remain confidential please provide reasons for this.

[No Answer Entered]



## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 4:34 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Feedback on Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct

**From:** Dario Scopesi [<mailto:dario@bookeo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 3:47 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Feedback on Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct

As a Lennox Head resident and regular visitor of Lake Ainsworth, I would like to submit my preference for the original 2006 plan of completely removing the eastern access road to the Sport&Rec centre. The camp drew road is already there, and used regularly by centre staff (ex. when Lake Ainsworth was flooding the eastern road a few years ago).

This would have many advantages:

- save the expenses to maintain a road used by few vehicles only
- save the expenses to re-do the eastern road, realign it to reduce pollutants flowing into the lake, making new bays, etc. Why spend all this money on the eastern road? To end up with TWO roads to reach the sport centre? Spend the money to pave camp drew road instead.
- the area of the eastern road could finally be freed for public use, with grass, barbecues, etc. It would be a great assets for locals and tourists alike. The souther grassy area is way overcrowded in summer, and the eastern road leaves no grassy area on the eastern side, only few nooks and crannies in between trees and lake.

Lake Ainsworth is a tourism gem, and it could be enjoyed so much more with more grassy area on its shores, away from vehicles. It's a great spot for small kids, much safer than the ocean on many days. This is why it's so popular with families. Now when we sit in the little sand patches on the eastern road (no grass there) we have vehicles driving up and down, looking for a car spot, leaving engines running, etc - only meters from people and kids sitting down. It's not a nice experience. If you close the road to most traffic, close it for good, and reclaim the huge space for the public.

The sport&rec centre already has access via Camp Drew western road. pave it and they'll be perfectly fine. I don't see the need to give them two roads, when they have very few vehicles getting in & out on any day?

Regards  
Dario

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council  
<council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 November 2014 4:31 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Cameron [<mailto:patriciac@bigpond.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2014 4:10 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: Lake Ainsworth

Ballina Council

I would like to support the submission of the Lennox Head Residents' Association with regard to future plans for the lake.

Patricia Cameron  
1/13 Patricia Parade  
Lennox Head NSW 2478

5 Fieldcrest Pl.  
Lennox Head NSW 2478  
16 November 2014

General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW. 2478

RECORDS  
SCANNED

19 NOV 2014

Doc No: .....

Batch No: .....

Dear Sir

**Submission relating to Complete Urban Concept plan for Lake Ainsworth.**

### **General comments**

I wish to acknowledge the important decision that was made to devote the money from the sale of the lot on the corner of Ross Lane towards improvements to the Lake Ainsworth precinct. I am sure this will go a long way to enhancing the long term viability of this unique and fragile natural asset.

It is important these funds are now devoted to maximising the ongoing health of the lake water, its foreshores and the protecting dunes. No funding should be excised from these objectives to encourage further activities around the lake that will add further unwanted pressures on what is a very fragile eco system. It is also an area that council is under considerable strain to properly maintain because of limited resources.

The relocation of the surf club building could have some positive benefits if sensitively handled but there appears to be resistance from many club members. If it is moved south then consideration should be given to moving the dune material in the proposed site to extend the northern dune southwards so providing additional protection for the lake.

### **Specific Comments**

The viewing platform should not be included. It is in an area of high use by swimmers that is badly eroding and further concentration of activities will exacerbate the problem. There is no demand for such a facility and it has created much adverse comment not only from the point of view of detracting from the naturalness of the site but also because it is an obvious safety issue with lake users using it as a diving platform.

Exercise stations should be located where people currently exercise along Seven Mile Beach and Williams Reserve. Such activities should continue to be spread out and not used to attract additional people to the lake.

The same argument applies to the proposed playground. This will also attract additional concentrated usage of the area and should not be included in the proposal.

Consideration does need to be given to a disabled access point into the lake.

Signage provisions must consider educational messages concerning protecting the health of the lake. Similar signs are located along the Richmond River and Lake Ainsworth is by far a more sensitive environment. Signage used at Lake McKenzie, a lake with similar risk factors, is recommended with the addition of information regarding dog impacts.

Drainage proposals to cover road runoff seem to be satisfactory although no detailed design has been completed. No water should enter the lake unfiltered. Water sensitive urban design principles should be applied on the basis the lake is one of the most sensitive waterways and be designed to cover our more extreme rainfall events.

It is not clear from the exhibited proposal whether storm water from the camping ground is to be treated but the several drains running under the southern road also have the potential to contaminate the lake water. The proposed swale drains along the southern road may not be deep enough to catch these drains but an appropriate way of handling these flows needs to be considered. With campers disposing of wash up water incorrectly they could be source of detergent and nutrients.

The pedestrian pathway along the southern road should be constructed using grass pavers as it is north of the swale drain. The exact location of the path across the SE corner of the grassed area should be very carefully determined to ensure it is as far from the lake edge as possible without encouraging short cutting. This path will probably attract many dog walkers and should keep dogs as far from the lake surrounds as possible.

Dog walkers should not be allowed along the eastern side of the lake but enter the beach via the most northern track in the surf club precinct.

Funding saved by omitting items mentioned above should be used to place power lines along the eastern side underground. This is a high priority item from the 2002 Management Plan and it will go a long way to improving and maintaining dune health. Higher standard pruning requirements have made a major impact this year on the dune vegetation and also decreased shade amenity to picnickers under the depleted trees.

The eastern road should be closed to all traffic and be reconstructed as a service road and emergency exit from the Sport and Recreation Centre. All existing bitumen and road base must be removed and replaced with a sand base. Grass pavers should be considered for the new access track.

The proposed car parking along the southern road is a big improvement on the existing arrangement insofar as reducing pollution but will increase the risk to pedestrians. This road should terminate near the western most beach of the lake and the Master Plan option of access to the western road using the existing road reserve through the caravan park should be implemented. I believe appropriately designed fencing and vehicular and pedestrian crossing points between both sections of the divided caravan park would make this a safer pedestrian option than any other alternative. The existing eastern and southern roads are both major pedestrian hazard areas now and the proposed southern road parking will exacerbate the risks. Possibly there is a strong case for a formal risk management study of the alternatives if this has not previously been undertaken.

## **Summary**

I believe the above actions will go a long way toward ensuring an improvement in the quality of the water in the lake and Council is to be congratulated for initiating the proposal. Unfortunately, alone, they will not guarantee good quality water until the Caravan Park and Sport and Recreation Centre management are convinced to adopt similar storm water management processes.

The Caravan Park needs to adopt water sensitive urban design principles to several drainage points from its property and the S & R has major works to undertake to capture and treat the drainage from most of its bitumen areas.

As I have pointed out at B ward many times and to council directly the lake cannot be managed efficiently without effective coordination between the three major management agencies. That is why it is the first item for action in the 2002 Management Plan

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Milner', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Malcolm Milner

13 November, 2014

6 Rayner Lane,  
Lennox Head, NSW 2478

General Manager,  
Ballina Shire Council,  
PO Box 450  
Ballina, NSW 2478

Dear Mr Hickey,



**Submission re Lake Ainsworth Review - South Eastern Precinct**

I wish to submit reasons why Council should NOT proceed with the closure of the Eastern road.

- There has never been a serious attempt to investigate alternatives to road closure.
- There are quite sound alternative engineering solutions for the isolation of the road corridor from the lake foreshore. That may be expensive but would retain the advantages and attractions of access to the lakeside.
- The proposal to close the road has been in a plan for at least 12 years and in that time there has not been any serious effect on the health of the lake. There is little or no evidence that the road has interfered with the lake's health. Indeed, there is no apparent deterioration in the water quality or health consequences for those who swim in the lake.
- Although there has been some deterioration through erosion on lake shores this has been caused by increase in the height of the lake not by intrusion from the road. In any case the erosion will continue unless remediation is undertaken preferably in conjunction with the engineering solutions mentioned above. In addition there is a clear solution by controlling the height of the lake. Again this requires sound and innovative engineering. It has been proposed before but no valid reason for rejection was presented.
- Access to the Sport and Recreation Centre should be maintained thus providing both emergency service access and maintenance access for protection of the dunes and other environmental features.
- Replacing the existing road with more environmentally suitable materials and repositioning it, in places raising it with a camber to the east is possible. Also parking should be limited to a smaller number of specified spaces. Lost parking should be replaced on the southern roadside.

I also wish to oppose any additional infrastructure around the lake such as the proposed playground. All materials used around the lake should be as natural as possible eg paths should be surfaced with permeable materials such as grass pavers and should only be placed where walking is inevitable.

Money has already been wasted on faulty plans but Council should reconsider the briefs given to consultants to ensure all alternatives are considered before more money is wasted.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Goodman".

Fred Goodman

Lake Ainsworth Precinct.....consultation.

We as a community have a unique opportunity to ensure the long term wellbeing of our environment. I always take interstate visitors 'down' to the lake and explain how fortunate we are in Lennox to have a fresh water lake some 100 meters from the ocean.

I feel I am in a good position to provide feedback on the proposed plan as I use:-

The lake for swimming and general recreation regularly.

The 'off lead' dog area, once a day

The Sport and Rec camp for tennis and exercise classes 4 times a week

So would use the existing eastern road every day of the week.

My overriding concern with the proposal is that there appears to be too much 'give' to secondary stakeholders. These being the 'Caravan Park' - not utilised by residents and the Sports and Rec Camp - minimal usage by residents:

I do not believe that we as a community should comprises our amazing natural asset for these two parties.

To make a more concise feedback I will comment along the key issues

#### Preferred Road Layout

Preferred is the original Option 2 of previous master plan.

That being the road on the western side of the Lake thru the Caravan Park.

The Eastern Access should be closed to all traffic, as this is the ideal area to have multiple picnic, bbq, and general recreational areas all along the eastern foreshore, without having to worry about vehicular access, or a scar (road) running thru the middle of it.

The 'reasons ' for keeping it open...emergency access, and amenities closer to the Southern end, are quite insignificant, when our primary objective is to 'improve health of Lake Ainsworth , additionally any boom gate system, will inevitably involve a build up of traffic as the gate opens and closes, and create safety issues for relational uses...as they will assume infrequent usage.

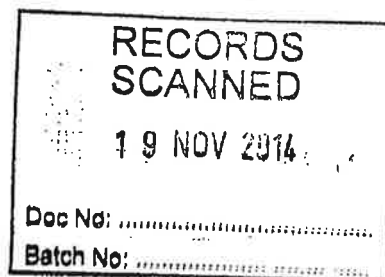
#### Car parking

Options are satisfactory however some 'greening', and shade provision between parking would soften the landscape.

Range of recreation infrastructure.

I don't believe a viewing platform is required.

The lake can be viewed very easily from the existing contour of the land...and constructing may provide an additional H&S aspect as kids are inevitability drawn to a structure to jump/dive off.



I don't see that a playground is relevant either as that congregates people in one area, where a plan of utilising the whole of the Eastern side of the lake for picnic facilities would be much better.

#### Planning and design

I believe the Surfclub needs upgrading and ideally a new building on the proposed site. As to what comes first in design and planning consent, that is really a council decision, and I have no views either way

#### Negating the disadvantage's.

I believe all of the disadvantages highlighted can be eased or eliminated by adopting the above

Further to walk to the off leash dog area

Perhaps the off lead area can be moved further south to accommodate. The beach area between the surf club (which will be moved further south) and the 'off lead area...is relatively unpopulated or used most days. Dog walkers can keep their dogs on the leads a little longer as the primary aim is exercise.

Significant cost of maintain road *is eliminated*

Stick to the 2005 master plan

No pedestrian and vehicle interaction

#### Scope of Works

Remove the existing Eastern roadway

Run the Eastern power line...underground...and therefore allow the shade trees to grow out.

Plant trees down the existing eastern roadway

The above proposal caters for the most important parts of our community, the environment and the residents. It also would uniquely showcase our environment for further tourism, which we need to bolster economic activity in the village.

There is also a great opportunity to turn this into a community project and create our own 'Green army' to help with landscaping and establishing the Eastern recreational precinct.

  
Andy Davis  
3 The Crest  
Lennox Head  
0409 043 028  
abromfield@wwires.com

13 Nov 2014



## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 10:36 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Denni Pearson [<mailto:dennip98@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 10:09 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

To whom it Concerns

I am a frequent user of Lake Ainsworth as a dragonboater, picnicher and swimmer. Parking needs to be in close proximity as people are carrying recreation, BBQ and other equipment. I oppose a children's play park. There is one in the village and the lake and beach provides plenty of play opportunities for children. I agree that the eastern road should be closed and the area be developed with tables, seating and BBQ facilities. The environment needs to be left as natural as possible.

Yours sincerely

Denise Pearson  
1/27 Sunrise Crescent  
Lennox Head  
NSW 2478

0266876047

**Sandra Bailey**

---

**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council  
<council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 10:38 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

**From:** Susan Perrow [<mailto:susanperrow@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 9:06 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

**RE: Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct**

We are residents of Lennox Head. We have a large family and many grandchildren. We use the lake and the grassy shady banks for many family gatherings.

We support the plan for the redevelopment where the Lake Ainsworth camp staff have to drive in on the western road which leaves the eastern side of the lake for safe recreational purposes.

Please acknowledge receipt of our submission,  
cheers,

Susan Perrow

**and John Adam**

13 Karalauren Ct, Lennox Head, NSW, 2478, Australia

Mobile: +61-413734125 / Phone: +61-2-66877025

Email: [susanperrow@gmail.com](mailto:susanperrow@gmail.com)

[www.susanperrow.com](http://www.susanperrow.com)

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General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council

council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Submission re upgrade to Lake Ainsworth Precinct,Lennox Head

As this natural wonder is the jewel of Lennox Head ,I feel compelled to comment on the recommendations currently under consideration at council.We would all agree this area needs careful management particularly at a time when all coastal environments are increasingly stressed.

Strangely, mostly missing from this overview is the issue of Lake "health".

Actions to restrict road and dog access imply some concern yet blue green algae events will need more attention given quite serious community health implications.Measures to assess the impact of chemical sunscreens & human waste should also be a consideration for council.  
If council is serious about increasing use through a child's play area and more picnic facilities then additional measures are critically needed.

Perhaps signage to encourage people to avoid sunscreen use in the lake,  
In particular,a cover up policy could be adopted as preferred mode of use.Education via media,council and signage to explain why our lake is so fragile and unique.

Please publish weekly water quality results as a way of assuring we worried folk the lake continues to be healthy.

At least upgrade toilets and shower facilities to encourage their use.

Road re-alignment seems excessive as more paved and sealed areas become a part the problem because of run from their surfaces.Does this also mean loss of more limited parking space adjacent to the lake?Surely long term,the road needs to be west of the lake,why not upgrade and solve access issues now.

Dog lovers regularly use the road as access to the free dog area.How will this be possible if it becomes exclusive?How do they access the much needed and used zone for dog exercise?  
It seems providing an exclusive access road to the State Government Sport and Recreation Facility means excluding most people who currently access the area.

Surf Club facilities need more consideration and planning as this proposal removes so many parking spaces.It could be renovated and elevated into position above the new car park already in use as a start.

Unfortunately at this stage the devil seems to be in the lack of detail able to be gleaned from these options.There is only one dune left on the foreshores,we need to be very careful about possible consequences of these decisions.

Cheryl Haack  
Lennox Head

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Samantha Handley <samh@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 2:24 PM  
**Subject:** FW: submission on Lake Ainsworth infrastructure improvement

---

**From:** Barbara Sparrow [mailto:bsparrow7@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 November 2014 2:23 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** submission on Lake Ainsworth infrastructure improvement

To Ballina Shire Council,

I have lived in Lennox Head for 10 years and during that time have swum in the lake often and walked my dog(s) each morning on Seven Mile Beach. I have read most of the reports written on the environmental status of lake for the last 20 years, first, when I was visiting LH and later after I bought my home here on retirement. The lake is very precious to me and I am sorry so little has been done over the years to promote the health of the lake.

1. road layout: maintain the eastern road to S & R as a permeable, emergency road only. Provide access to S & R on the western road in its current condition or updated by the state government funding. The riparian zone along the eastern road should be devoted to walking paths and recreational space.
2. car parking provisions in the southern locations are adequate. These should have a permeable surface and adequate shade.
3. the surrounds of the lake should be as natural as possible. I see no need for viewing platforms and playground equipment around the lake. This area is small and much better devoted to natural 'space for people' rather than constructed attractions.
4. decisions about the rebuilding or updating of the Surf Club require more discussion esp. by members of the club and the availability of funding.

The \$1.3m immediately available should be used for roadworks mentioned, car parking and drainage. The ensuring of the natural amenity of the lake is most important. This work and the planning approvals required are the good first steps in the important effort toward a healthy lake.

Barbara Sparrow

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 7:17 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth Proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: [jclose8@bigpond.com](mailto:jclose8@bigpond.com) [mailto:[jclose8@bigpond.com](mailto:jclose8@bigpond.com)]  
Sent: Wednesday, 19 November 2014 7:00 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: Lake Ainsworth Proposal

To the local Councillors,

I write in response to your invitation to comment on your Consultants plans for the Lake Ainsworth precinct.

I am a resident of Lennox Head and with two dogs I frequent the lake precinct, often twice a day, in order to access the dog beach.

I have seen the usage of the lake reduce quite significantly over the years possibly because of the warning signs that are erected when the lake is affected by blue green algae.

Apparently Council believe this problem is caused by traffic accessing the lake frontage and therefore plan to exclude all traffic from the eastern side road other than that going to the Sport and Rec facility. However, in the Council report, it is stated that the problem is actually occurring as a result of the build up of decaying matter on the lake floor.

I believe this should be scientifically addressed by employing a water quality expert to survey and analyse the lake base and assess how to improve the situation before spending a significant amount of money on the surrounds.

On the advice of out of town consultants Council plans to disallow parking for hundreds of cars on the eastern side limiting access to most potential users and giving priority to the Sport and Rec facility. Last Sunday I counted 247 cars parked outside the designated car parks which were full. Where will the cars go once access is denied? I would suggest the Consultants visited the site at the time of seasonal under use. Summer is coming, what then?

The proposed car parking looks totally inadequate and will require visitors to the lake having to walk a fair distance carrying all their belongings in order to find somewhere to sit, picnic and swim.

The common sense of the local Council members who are possibly users of Lake Ainsworth should make the informed decisions, not the out of town Consultants.

Yours Faithfully,

Jenny Close

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 7:35 AM  
**Subject:** FW: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

-----Original Message-----

From: phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au [mailto:phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au]  
Sent: Wednesday, 19 November 2014 4:37 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

### GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/19/2014 3:42:21 PM Response End Time: 11/19/2014 4:36:48 PM IP Address: 165.228.154.228  
Completed Survey: Yes  
Respondent: Anonymous

### SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for south eastern precinct

2. Your name (anonymous submissions may be disregarded by Council):

Malcolm Fox

3. Phone number (optional):

0434233289

4. Email (confirmation of your email address is required to provide feedback from Council):

[foxes\\_den@bigpond.com](mailto:foxes_den@bigpond.com)

5. Having read the document, is it easy to read and understand?

Yes

6. Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

[No Answer Entered]

7. Do you support the overall objectives and content of the document?

No

8. Please provide further comments if you wish.

I feel that the parking should remain on the eastern road to the sport and recreational centre as this is very popular with the public. I do not feel the proposed parking at the southern end shown, truly reflects the current usage in particular on hot summer days. If parking is restricted to the southern end this will restrict the general usage with particular the ability for the public and families to carry recreational equipment picnics along the eastern side of the lake. This will restrict families enjoying the lake and concentrate people to the southern end which could create overcrowding in one area.

9. If you wish your feedback to remain confidential please provide reasons for this.

[No Answer Entered]

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 10:40 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth Community Consultation Submission

---

**From:** R. & M. Richardson [<mailto:ross.richardson@bigpond.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 9:30 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Community Consultation Submission

We would like to congratulate Council for their initiative in initiating the Complete Urban Report process on the important subject of the welfare of Lake Ainsworth which is rightly "The Jewel in the Crown" and held in high esteem by Lennox Head residents. As neither the 2002 or 2005 Management and Master Plans were ever implemented it is of utmost importance that we get this one put into action as quickly as possible.

The demand by Sport & Recreation that they need to have sole use of the proposed eastern road should not be a consideration. Camp Drewe Road has been happily used by them whenever the Lake road has been flooded and as their traffic movements increase, especially if the proposed Winter Olympic facility becomes a reality, it makes no sense to allow them use of a road that should only be available to Emergency and Service vehicles. No vehicle usage means everybody!

All power lines should be put underground so that trees can grow freely and maintain a well vegetated protective canopy. This dune is the only protection of the lake from the sea and must be maintained as protection from sea incursion which would destroy the lake. All existing beach access tracks should be maintained and the one adjacent to the Surf Club be used by dog owners with their dogs kept on lead till they reach the existing "doggie track" from where the existing off-lead beach area begins. It is very important that this is well policed! As the Ranger cannot be always available maybe Surf Club members on duty could be able to remind people of the on-lead restriction. We feel that maybe the construction of a new Surf Club could be held over as the renovations recently completed seem to be serving the purpose for the present.

Ross and Margaret Richardson  
46 Amber Drive ,  
Lennox Head 2478  
Phone 6687 6441

## **LHRA Submission Based on Complete Urban Proposals and Ballina Shire Council's Preferred Options for the Lake Ainsworth Precinct November 2014**

### **Preamble to the Submission**

The compilation of this submission has relied on a number of consultative elements which have informed this response and facilitated the articulation of a balanced and objective position. The consultative elements comprise the following:

- Presentation by Council officers of the varying scenarios offered in the Complete Urban Report and the nature of Council's options
- A question and answer session attended by council officers and Councillor Cadwallader where a range of issues were raised. Approximately 50 residents attended this meeting
- An ongoing conversation on the Association's Facebook Page
- Community open day Information and Engagement sessions at stalls set up outside IGA and Lake Ainsworth on Saturday and 8 November and again at IGA on Sunday 9/11. The sessions on Saturday were attended by Council Staff where explanations of the Options were explained and informational materials distributed and further community input noted.
- Numerous information pieces published in the local news media

### **Results of Community Information Sessions and Consultation:**

- Keep lake area natural.
- No new attractions such as viewing platforms, playground equipment or exercise stations. Paths should be natural surfaces such as grass pavers rather than concrete.
- Many dog walkers happy to park to the South of the precinct and walk their dogs on a leash to the off leash beach strip; some however unhappy.
- Most strongly wanted the eastern road closed; fewer felt it should be open for everyone; little support for providing sole access to Sport & Rec.
- General support for having restaurant/café facilities at the new surf club.
- Most were satisfied by a 1:1 replacement of lost parking spaces; some concerned the plans wouldn't achieve 1:1. Some Ross St residents concerned about the management of spill over parking in Ross St.
- Eastern foreshore should be used to disperse people entering the water and reduce the concentration of usage in the SE corner.
- Should allow for disabled access to the Lake



## **Broad Themes for the Submission:**

*At all times our absolute priority is to maximise improvements to the health of the lake!*

- **Amenity of Public Space:**

Keep the lake and surrounds natural – no new facilities or attractions. Paths through the precinct should only be formally defined at a later date and only if foot traffic is damaging the grass. This way their placement will be determined by usage. Any formally defined paths should have a permeable and natural looking surface. Concrete or asphalt should be confined to the perimeters adjacent to parking areas if needed so run off can be collected by swales.

Public recreational space needs to be the maximum possible – it is a very small area and in the interests of social justice and community amenity a 5m road through the length of the east for one user appears indefensible and lacking in equity.

- **Roads:**

Obviously emergency and maintenance access needs to be maintained along the eastern lake foreshore however, in order to maximise benefits to the health of the lake, optimise public amenity, and noting expected increases in traffic movements to and from Sport and Recreation over time, it is our position that access to Sport and Recreation via the eastern road should be closed and the access for emergency and maintenance vehicles be on a narrower, permeable surface that is natural looking and has a sand base to improve the natural outflow of lake waters under the dunes in times of high rainfall. This conforms with the proposals in the Master Plan as posited in the Connell Wagner Report.

We believe that all through traffic to the northern end of the lake and beyond needs to be channelled away from the high pedestrian area and parking in the south eastern lake/surf club area for safety reasons, and for ease of pedestrian access to the lake for members of the public who are required to park away from the immediate Lake precinct as a result of increasing congestion. It is again noted that through traffic to Sport and Recreation can only increase with time.

**Our preferred road option is the Master Plan Option 2 together with the maintenance of vehicle access and parking along the southern lake foreshore – as far west as the boat access area as identified in the Master Plan. The road to be closed from this point on.**

**We do not believe that adoption of Option 2 needs to be contingent on sealing the Western road. There has been no evidence of environmental degradation thus far along this road.**

Since any further increase in traffic would be created by access to Sport and Recreation we maintain that any upgrades required should be funded by this State organisation.

Our preferred option was formally endorsed and committed to by the Crown in writing at the time of the handover of the Caravan Park to the State by Council

If this option is absolutely and definitely rejected by the Crown, then the cost of rebuilding the eastern access road to a satisfactory standard as per Complete Urban's Option 4 should be met by the State.

- **Parking:**

We support the replacement of lost parking spaces on a 1:1 basis as long as all new parking spaces have a permeable surface and are adequately shaded by tree plantings. It is noted that there appear to be anomalies in the maps provided by Complete Urban

- **Access to the Offleash Zone by Dogwalkers:**

Access to the beach needs to be directed along the track at the northern edge of the surf club grassed area to minimise the incidence of dog faeces along the lake foreshore.

- **Power Lines:**

The Climax dune vegetation towards the northern end of the eastern road is approaching maturity. It is critical that funding available from omitting the amenities mentioned above, be made available to move the power lines along the Eastern road underground. This is essential to prevent further threat to this vegetation due to power line maintenance as has unfortunately already occurred along the more southern stretch.

- **Location of the Surf Club:**

We see advantages and disadvantages with both proposed locations in terms of protection of the dunes and providing a healthy lake precinct.

Since finalisation of road and parking layouts largely depend on determining optimum location of the Club, we believe that there needs to be considerably more discussion, consultation and clarity on road and parking positioning, before an effective location for the Club can be ultimately determined. Funding needs to be made available to facilitating this process prior to moving to the design stage.

- **Interpretive Signage:**

We support implementation of the Master Plan in terms of providing Interpretive Signs advising users how to support the health of the lake such as used on the perched dune lakes on Fraser Island but modified in a manner to suit our context including keeping dogs away from the lake foreshores.

## **Conclusion**

An attempt has been made in this submission to develop a balanced and objective report relating to proposals for the Eastern precinct of Lake Ainsworth. The substance of the Submission has been informed by significant community consultation and further directed by reference to the Master Plan, the Connell Wagner Report, the Complete Urban Report and recommendations, Council's options and key correspondence relating to the road layouts at the time of transfer of the Lake from Council to the State.

We appeal to Council to consider the consultative process and the authoritative position adopted by the Lennox Head Residents' Association in compiling this submission

Graham Shaw

President LHRA

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 2:27 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement Consultation Overview.

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**From:** Tonya Ranyard [mailto:tonyar@NORCO.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 2:22 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement Consultation Overview.

Dear Jamie,

In regards to the Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement plans that are currently on display. I would like to provide my feedback to the questions on Community Consultation Overview as a resident of Lennox Head.

### Your preferred road layout

I would prefer that the Eastern Road Access be continued to be used by Residents and tourists of the lake/ dog track access to the beach. Part of the beauty of being able to use the lake, is being able to spread out around the lake. If you restrict access to this part of the lake by car, the usage will be condensed to the south east corner. I appreciate Sport and Rec are an important business to the Lennox Head community, however I feel that they don't own the lake. They should be allowed to continue to use the road, however not have exclusive use.

My next preferred option is to allow residents & tourists access to the Eastern Road. Sport & rec users to use the Western Road to access Sport & Rec.

### Car Parking

As a family with children aged 6 & 4 who use the lake all year round, I would prefer to see the car parking moved back to lakeside, rather than the caravan park side. As you can appreciate, when we come down to the lake, sometimes we can be fully loaded up with all sorts of items – surfboards, buckets & spades, towels, esky, chairs etc. Whilst every parents does the best they can so ensure the safety of their own children, when you are unpacking the car, it's a relief to know that when the kids jump excitedly out of the car & run towards the lake, they are not crossing a road. Parking on the lakeside is far safer all parties concerned - parents, children & drivers of other cars. By having the car parking lakeside, the children do not have the danger of crossing the road when they get out of the car.

I appreciate the run off to the lake is what you are trying to avoid, so perhaps the parking could be sloped back away from the lake Or put a barrier to catch the runoff and drain it elsewhere..

Although formalising some parking, there will still be an issue in holidays & weekends as there has not been enough created. Therefore the Eastern road needs to remain open for car parking . Also, as mentioned above, when families come to the lake, they are usually carrying many items. Families will struggle to walk down the eastern side of the lake to use if they are carrying many things. Once again, families will be condensed to the southern side of the lake.

### Play Equipment

Although I have small children who would be the primary beneficiaries of the play equipment, I do not feel that play equipment needs to be installed at the lake. We come to the lake for the natural beauty. If play equipment is installed, that section of the lake that is already congested will become further congested. The play equipment could be moved to the North of the surf club eventually, but not around the lake foreshore. The money could be better spent providing play equipment up near the Bus Shelter or making the play equipment in town, bigger and better. Ballina Shire Council needs to look at some of the play gyms up the Coast, they are amazing (although I appreciate the cost constraints you are working in).

### Gym Equipment & BBQs & Tables

I like the idea of putting the gym stations around the lake, as this encourages usage to be spread around the lake. I would like to see the installation of gym stations strategically around Lennox to encourage more use. However, if you're looking to cut costs, these could be left out. The inclusion of more seating & bbq areas are more of a priority.

#### The viewing Platform

The installation of the Viewing Platform seems quite pointless. Firstly, on the plan it doesn't appear to be long enough to view anything. However my biggest concern is the safety of the kids. The kids will view this as something to jump from. If you're going to give them something to jump from, bring back the old diving tower. At least that was out in the deeper part of the lake. As we know, the depth of the lake changes from year to year depending on the rainfall. So one year the kids might be able to jump from it without hurting themselves, however the next year it may be too shallow. My other concerns about the platform is the amount of swimming space it's going to take up. If a viewing platform is necessary, why put it in the middle of the swimming area? Another concern is, If the platform is to be built, at what height will be designed, will it be floating to adapt to the changing level of the lake. I think this could be scrapped.

#### Surf Club

I'm not currently involved with the Surf Club however the Club plays a significant role within the community. Therefore the Council should be investing into this Organization to enable to Surf Club to continue the amazing work they do. The Lennox Club has a proud history and reputation and the investment would be true recognition of years of hard work by many residents of the Community. The Club is expanding and it desperately needs to address this issue. Although the Clubhouse is an iconic symbol on the landscape, I believe the time has come for a new club house. But my concern is how long will it take to build, as we know how long it took for Ballina Lighthouse Beach to get their new surf club. Therefore in principle, I support the proposal to Design of the Lennox Head Club House.

#### The Shared Footpath through the middle of the Grass area (near proposed playgroup etc)

A feature of the lake is the natural beauty, sitting on the grass and the open spaces. The footpath through the middle of the grass area would take the natural beauty away. The path would make the area feel sectional. The path along the road is great, as it causes no confusion for pedestrians or motorists, however the path through the middle takes up space that's not needed. A sign for beach access is all that people need. The kids play cricket and soccer, throw balls etc in this area and by putting a path in the middle will be dangerous for the pedestrian & the kids. We love the lake for the open space, lets' not urbanise it too much.

If you need to clarify any of my comments, please don't hesitate to call me on 0458 743 553

Kind Regards  
Tonya Ranyard  
Phone: 0458 743 553  
Email: [tonyar@norco.com.au](mailto:tonyar@norco.com.au)

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 3:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

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**From:** Sharne Wolff [<mailto:wolffies@mac.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 2:28 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

Attention: The General Manager

Dear Sir,

I refer to the 'Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement' community consultation overview and wish to provide feedback on behalf of myself and my family. I have lived on and off Lennox Head since 1979 and have been a constant visitor to Lake Ainsworth for more than fifty years.

First, in regard to the 'big picture' matters, my view is that the title of the project itself is a misnomer. Lake Ainsworth does not require any improvement – except perhaps as regards its water quality and environmental health.

Second, any "Infrastructure Improvements" to Lake Ainsworth will lead to further numbers of visitors. If the Council is intent on improving the health of the lake, so called "improvements" will (logically) cause further degradation of the Lake and have exactly the opposite effect of what is intended ie to improve the overall health of Lake Ainsworth.

It is mystifying that the community have not been provided with a document that includes all the relevant options developed by Complete Urban for the Lake Ainsworth proposals. Option 2 which provided for removal of the eastern road has not been considered in the community consultation overview despite the fact that it was supported by two previous Council Masterplans and that all those concerned with the Holiday Park (including the NSW Department of Lands) were aware of the proposed central road corridor through the Park.

As to the other specific issues set out in the community consultation overview document I will be brief:

### Road layout

In my view it the most appropriate solution to improve the overall health of Lake Ainsworth is close the eastern road to all traffic as per Council's previous Masterplans.

If the road must stay, it should comprise a permeable surface that will bear the reduced traffic but absorb water and be hidden as far as possible from the edges of the Lake.

### Car parking

It is worth noting that if cycleways and walkways to and from the Lake were improved and there was better access and parking for bicycles provided, the community would require less space for cars. In my view we should be encouraging people to ride or to park further away from the Lake

and therefore there is no reason to provide additional numbers of car parking spaces. New car spaces will only encourage people to bring their cars to the Lake.

Any new car parking areas (including all existing areas) should be constructed of permeable material and be appropriately landscaped. Hard surfaces are not only unattractive, they don't allow for drainage and result in increased temperatures both on the ground and in the air.

### Recreational Infrastructure

New amenities such as playground equipment and exercise stations would attract more usage around Lake Ainsworth and would not therefore result in improving the overall health of the Lake. These activities can be met elsewhere in Lennox and are unnecessary to provide on the shores of the Lake. For over a century, the Lake has been its own attraction and there is no reason to imagine that it shouldn't stay that way, especially when we now see child experts speaking about the value of playing in and around nature. The only amenities necessary are small improvements to those we already have. Changes to existing infrastructure (steel seats/unattractive BBQ areas etc) would be more appropriate. By this I mean that the current infrastructure could be replaced with more attractive timber or other natural material versions of the same and the numerous signs could be replaced with one or two well designed and aesthetically pleasing information boards. Note the new furniture, signs and BBQ areas at Wategos Beach, Byron Bay (which has just this week received a worldwide award) or anywhere in Noosaville and Noosa Heads, Queensland as an example of suitable, pleasant, accessible facilities.

### Surf Club

If the surf club is to be relocated, the vacated space should be returned to its natural state and an environmentally sensitive building design be adopted.

### Scope of Works

The current scope of works is very scant on detail. Details of construction materials for furniture and pathways, road bases, vegetations areas, plant varieties, signs and boards in areas surrounding the Lake as equally as important as the overall masterplan. Details of ALL of these should be made available to the community. Lennox Head is full of unattractive, unpleasant, ad hoc, mismatching examples of these so-called "small" details and to everyone concerned about the overall health of Lake Ainsworth, such details are vitally important to the overall vision.

Lastly, in general terms I support the submission put forward by the Lennox Head Residents Association for the Lake Ainsworth Precinct dated November 2014.

Yours faithfully,  
Sharne Wolff

Lennox Head.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 3:21 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Submission re: "Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement" November 2014

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**From:** Jane and Craig [mailto:cleete@bigpond.net.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 3:04 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Cc:** Councillors; Craig Leete  
**Subject:** Submission re: "Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement" November 2014

Dear Council Team and Councillors,

Firstly I would like to state my support for the submission by the Lennox Head Residents Association.

I strongly agree with all points and principles discussed in their submission.

The only area where I differ slightly is that I believe the Eastern Road should be closed to all traffic as per the original Masterplan accepted by council in 2006. We have seen that the Sport and Rec facility can manage for months on end when the Eastern Rd is closed due to flooding. I have discussed the need for retention of access for emergency vehicles such as Fire Service with members of the Lennox Head Rural Fire Service and they had no concerns about access via the western road. If there truly is a requirement for 2 access routes to be available, then it would follow that the Sport and Rec camp and Camp Drewe should be closed during times of flooding of the Eastern Rd.

(Cleaning equipment for the amenities block at the north end of the lake could be stored in a locked cupboard, with the cleaner then able to access the facilities on foot (or via ride on mower with trailer) .

I believe Option 2 should be followed as planned, and as was accepted by the North Coast Accommodation Trust at the time of handover from council in 2010 as Karen Hembrow, Acting Regional Assistant, Dept of Lands North Coast Region stated in her letter to Paul Hickey, General Manager BSC regarding that handover "A fundamental promise of the plan will be the Option 2, central road corridor as provided in the Masterplan". I think the southern road should remain open to the boat access area towards the western edge of the lake to enhance parking, allow boat access and access for those with a disability.

Following option 2, with the maintenance of part of the southern road, will vastly enhance recreational opportunities for our GROWING community as so much more land will be available for picnickers. It will take pressure off the busy SE corner of the lake, and provide the tranquility so important in our busy lives. I do not believe the Sport and Rec Department has the right to pressure maintained access via the Eastern Rd when the cost to the community amenity is so great.

I would like to reiterate the LHRA view that all revised parking areas should be of permeable material - grass, sand or grass pavers. Further asphalt should be avoided as if all parking areas are hard surfaced the built environment will dominate the landscape reducing drastically the amenity of the lake, with the storm water and heat generated from large areas of impermeable surface being counterproductive to the intention of improving the health and amenity of the Lake. I think the option of leaving the additional parking within the original caravan park area as grass should be considered, and certainly further trees need to be planted to soften this space.



I would also like to strongly agree that there is no need, and in fact it would be detrimental, to provide play equipment, gym equipment, "viewing platforms" (the view is visible for all to see and much more beautiful without manmade structures in it) or paths through the grassy areas. I would very much prefer that money saved on this unwanted infrastructure be spent moving the power lines underground.

Once again, I would like to support the LHRA submission below

Kind Regards,

Jane Leete.

## **LHRA Submission Based on Complete Urban Proposals and Ballina Shire Council's Preferred Options for the Lake Ainsworth Precinct November 2014**

### **Preamble to the Submission**

The compilation of this submission has relied on a number of consultative elements which have informed this response and facilitated the articulation of a balanced and objective position. The consultative elements comprise the following:

- Presentation by Council officers of the varying scenarios offered in the Complete Urban Report and the nature of Council's options
- A question and answer session attended by council officers and Councillor Cadwallader where a range of issues were raised. Approximately 50 residents attended this meeting
- An ongoing conversation on the Association's Facebook Page
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- Numerous information pieces published in the local news media

### **Results of Community Information Sessions and Consultation:**

- Keep lake area natural.

- No new attractions such as viewing platforms, playground equipment or exercise stations. Paths should be natural surfaces such as grass pavers rather than concrete.
- Many dog walkers happy to park to the South of the precinct and walk their dogs on a leash to the off leash beach strip; some however unhappy.
- Most strongly wanted the eastern road closed; fewer felt it should be open for everyone; little support for providing sole access to Sport & Rec.
- General support for having restaurant/café facilities at the new surf club.
- Most were satisfied by a 1:1 replacement of lost parking spaces; some concerned the plans wouldn't achieve 1:1. Some Ross St residents concerned about the management of spill over parking in Ross St.
- Eastern foreshore should be used to disperse people entering the water and reduce the concentration of usage in the SE corner.
- Should allow for disabled access to the Lake

**Broad Themes for the Submission:**

-

*At all times our absolute priority is to maximise improvements to the health of the lake!*

-

• **Amenity of Public Space:**

-

Keep the lake and surrounds natural – no new facilities or attractions. Paths through the precinct should only be formally defined at a later date and only if foot traffic is damaging the grass. This way their placement will be determined by usage. Any formally defined paths should have a permeable and natural looking surface. Concrete or asphalt should be confined to the perimeters adjacent to parking areas if needed so run off can be collected by swales.

Public recreational space needs to be the maximum possible – it is a very small area and in the interests of social justice and community amenity a 5m road through the length of the east for one user appears indefensible and lacking in equity.

• **Roads:**

-

Obviously emergency and maintenance access needs to be maintained along the eastern lake foreshore however, in order to maximise benefits to the health of the lake, optimise public amenity, and noting expected increases in traffic movements to and from Sport and Recreation over time, it is our position that access to Sport and Recreation via the eastern road should be closed and the access for emergency and maintenance vehicles be on a narrower, permeable surface that is natural looking and has a sand base to improve the natural outflow of lake waters under the dunes in times of high rainfall. This conforms with the proposals in the Master Plan as posited in the Connell Wagner Report.

We believe that all through traffic to the northern end of the lake and beyond needs to be channelled away from the high pedestrian area and parking in the south eastern lake/surf club area for safety reasons, and for ease of pedestrian access to the lake for members of the public who are required to park away from the immediate Lake precinct as a result of increasing congestion. It is again noted that through traffic to Sport and Recreation can only increase with time.

**Our preferred road option is the Master Plan Option 2 together with the maintenance of vehicle access and parking along the southern lake foreshore – as far west as the boat access area as identified in the Master Plan. The road to be closed from this point on.**

**We do not believe that adoption of Option 2 needs to be contingent on sealing the Western road. There has been no evidence of environmental degradation thus far along this road.**

Since any further increase in traffic would be created by access to Sport and Recreation we maintain that any upgrades required should be funded by this State organisation.

Our preferred option was formally endorsed and committed to by the Crown in writing at the time of the handover of the Caravan Park to the State by Council

If this option is absolutely and definitely rejected by Sport and Recreation then the cost of rebuilding the eastern access road to a satisfactory standard as per Complete Urban's Option 4 should be met by the State.

- **Parking:**

We support the replacement of lost parking spaces on a 1:1 basis as long as all new parking spaces have a permeable surface and are adequately shaded by tree plantings. It is noted that there appear to be anomalies in the maps provided by Complete Urban

- **Access to the Offleash Zone by Dogwalkers:**

Access to the beach needs to be directed along the track at the northern edge of the surf club grassed area to minimise the incidence of dog faeces along the lake foreshore.

- **Power Lines:**

The Climax dune vegetation towards the northern end of the eastern road is approaching maturity. It is critical that funding available from omitting the amenities mentioned above, be made available to move the power lines along the Eastern road underground. This is essential to prevent further threat to this vegetation due to power line maintenance as has unfortunately already occurred along the more southern stretch.

- **Location of the Surf Club:**

We see advantages and disadvantages with both proposed locations in terms of protection of the dunes and providing a healthy lake precinct.

Since finalisation of road and parking layouts largely depend on determining optimum location of the Club, we believe that there needs to be considerably more discussion, consultation and clarity on road and parking positioning, before an effective location for the Club can be ultimately determined. Funding needs to be made available to facilitating this process prior to moving to the design stage.

- **Interpretive Signage:**

We support implementation of the Master Plan in terms of providing Interpretive Signs advising users how to support the health of the lake such as used on the perched dune lakes on Fraser Island but modified in a manner to suit our context including keeping dogs away from the lake foreshores.

## **Conclusion**

An attempt has been made in this submission to develop a balanced and objective report relating to proposals for the Eastern precinct of Lake Ainsworth. The substance of the Submission has been informed by significant community consultation and further directed by reference to the Master Plan, the Connell Wagner Report, the Complete Urban Report and recommendations, Council's options and key correspondence relating to the road layouts at the time of transfer of the Lake from Council to the State.

We appeal to Council to consider the consultative process and the authoritative position adopted by the Lennox Head Residents' Association in compiling this submission

Graham Shaw

President LHRA

**IAN R FORSTER**

**PO BOX 116**

**LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478**

The General Manager

Ballina Shire Council

PO Box 450

Ballina NSW 2478

20/11/14

Dear Sir

Submission re Complete Urban Concept Plan for Lake Ainsworth

I would like to make the following points about the above Plan:

1. The area around the lake should be kept as natural as possible. I do not agree with adding new attractions, such as the viewing platform, playground equipment and exercise stations around the southern end of the lake.
2. I am strongly in favour of closing the eastern road to the Sport and Recreation facility, except for service and emergency vehicles. This road should be reconstructed as per the Concept Plan, preferably in an environmentally friendly way with a sand base and grass pavers.
3. The existing road reserve at the end of Gibbon Street through the caravan park should be used to provide ordinary access for Sport and Recreation Centre staff and users and others going to the beach or Camp Drewe along the western road (Option 2 in the 2005 Master Plan). This would reduce much potential congestion that could occur near the surf club.
4. I support the rebuilding of the surf club in its present location.

Thankyou for considering my views on the future of Lake Ainsworth.

Yours faithfully

Ian R Forster

**SUSAN B WILLIAMS**

**PO BOX 116**

**LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478**

The General Manager

Ballina Shire Council

PO Box 450

Ballina NSW 2478

20/11/14

Dear Sir

Submission re Complete Urban Concept Plan for Lake Ainsworth

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Thankyou for considering my views on the future of Lake Ainsworth.

Yours faithfully

Susan B Williams

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 7:13 AM  
**Subject:** FW: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

-----Original Message-----

From: [phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au) [<mailto:phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>]  
Sent: Thursday, 20 November 2014 9:50 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: New response for survey 'Feedback for Documents on Exhibition'

### GENERAL RESPONSE INFORMATION

Response Start Time: 11/20/2014 9:03:51 PM Response End Time: 11/20/2014 9:49:39 PM IP Address: 101.170.213.66  
Completed Survey: Yes  
Respondent: Anonymous

### SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.  
Lake Ainsworth Report

2. Your name (anonymous submissions may be disregarded by Council):  
Russell Green

3. Phone number (optional):  
0422637138

4. Email (confirmation of your email address is required to provide feedback from Council):  
[ragsg@Hotmail.com](mailto:ragsg@Hotmail.com)

5. Having read the document, is it easy to read and understand?  
Yes

6. Please provide any suggestions for improvement.  
Text on plan is too small

7. Do you support the overall objectives and content of the document?  
No

8. Please provide further comments if you wish.

I object to the loss of the parking area at the northern end of the road on the eastern side and associated access to the beach for dogs and their owners. Walking from the southern end will force mingling of them with other lake users increasing the risk of confrontations with stressed animals, their owners and the typically arrogant & selfish people that abound these days (on both sides). It also ignores lake users with limited mobility by forcing them to walk further. I think the access to the Sport & Recreation should be moved in favour of keeping the road open for lake users. Building a retaining wall between the road and lake would stabilize the lake shoreline by funnelling swimmers through designated access points.

9. If you wish your feedback to remain confidential please provide reasons for this.  
[No Answer Entered]



## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 7:12 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Submission With Respect to the Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct

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**From:** Sue Bathgate [mailto:ksbath@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 November 2014 11:01 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission With Respect to the Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct

K S Bathgate  
8 Carnarvon Court  
Lennox Head  
NSW 2478

Ballina Shire Council  
Cherry Street  
Ballina  
NSW 2478

### ***Submission With Respect to the Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct***

As a resident of Lennox Head for 30 years and a rate payer for 28 years I have concerns about the Complete Urban Proposals for the Lake Ainsworth Development proposal.

I'm not quite sure that a consultancy group from the Gold Coast can have any idea of the needs, wants and wishes of the residence of Lennox Head. The Lake is an integral part of Lennox Head and what it has to offer and is a major tourist attraction which is essential for the economic survival of Lennox Head.

It seems that what is being proposed will result in a decrease in community and visitors accessing the lake. If an elderly resident who has used the lake for therapeutic exercise cannot park nearby they will miss out. For the family with all their aquatic toys, refreshments, towels, chairs and all other things that go with a picnic or just an enjoyable morning at the Lake it will be an enormous effort for them to carry all their belongings from the fringed car parks and ensure the safety of their children (remembering that three busloads of children could be arriving at the Sport and Recreation Centre).

If Council is determined to go ahead with their development I think in the best interest of the Lake and the community that the following should be adopted:

- Keep lake area natural.
- No new attractions such as viewing platforms, playground equipment or exercise stations. Paths should be natural surfaces such as grass pavers rather than concrete.
- That the eastern road, if needs to be changed should be closed rather than giving secluded access to Sport & Rec.

- Eastern foreshore should be used to disperse people entering the water and reduce the concentration of usage in the SE corner. However to facilitate this I think more parking needs to be provided closer to the lake.

I would just like to draw attention to the fact that people seem to think that excess use of the lake results in the blue green algae. It should be noted that last Christmas holidays the lake was at its lowest that I have seen in many years, there were the usual influx of tourists and lake users, there was very little rain and a fire on the western outskirts of the lake, yet the lake had no outbreak of blue green algae till just after the Easter holidays.

My other concern is the proposed number of car parks will be less than what we have today which seems strange when the population of Lennox Head and surrounds is set to increase. Also what happens in peak periods when the caravan park people who bring 2 cars with them fill up the parking spaces that are provided as has happened in the past. The parking spaces provided near the park is basically full all Christmas with campers. I don't think these factors have been taken into account by the consultants as they would be unaware of the factors as they do not reside in the area.

In conclusion I think that nothing should be done to the lake development or the surrounds as I feel the money required will be way above what has been allocated and council could use that money for more important issues. We had a financial blow out with the community centre and too many a structure that doesn't blend with the environment of Lennox Head so let's not repeat the same mistake with the lake. In addition I think that a lot more consultation needs to be done on the proposed new surf club. The club is for members and the patrolling of the beach and keeping our beaches safe and I have concerns over the limited area the club would have to store patrol equipment and the lack of space for members to store their boards and skis which is an integral part of the function of the surf club. Without members we don't have the volunteer patrols on weekends and public holidays to keep our beaches safe.

Yours faithfully  
K S Bathgate

**Submission to  
Ballina Council  
concerning  
Lake Ainsworth Improvements  
FROM  
Lennox Head Women's Group**

20 November 2014

Residents and visitors to Lennox Head value Lake Ainsworth as a natural feature with its unique atmosphere, environmental value, Indigenous cultural heritage and social history. In fact to many people the Lake is the jewel in the crown of Lennox Head not only complementing Seven Mile Beach but also providing an ever-popular recreational facility.

Therefore it is behoven on Council to do everything possible to protect the Lake and to facilitate sustainability for both the present and the future. Council should be aware that provision of public facilities carry environmental, health and safety, social justice, planning and human rights responsibilities, and that these are reflected in state and federal legislation.

The Lennox Head Women's Group requests Council to note our concerns and to act accordingly.

- (1) **Lake Ainsworth as a natural feature: this dunal lake today is the result of thousands, nay hundreds of thousands of years' natural formation. No man-made structure could match it. Residents, Council, visitors and governments all share responsibility to preserve it and to use it carefully.**
- (2) **Various forms of recreational use:** awareness of both passive and active recreational pursuits should be considered in planning for the Lake improvements. It is a common misconception that sport and highly physical recreation is the prime demand for public open space. While there are both the beach and sports fields in Lennox Head public facilities for passive recreation are only available through the Library and the Lake. Reading, meditating, bird-watching and painting are valuable pursuits just as much as throwing a frisbee, swimming and chasing kids.
- (3) **Provision for elderly and/or frail people:** Council should be aware that increasing numbers of elderly and/or frail people come to enjoy the Lake and its environs, and this will continue with a growing proportion of aged people in our population.
- (4) **Access for people with disabilities:** appropriate expert advice should be obtained and designated access points established. Absent such provisions Council risks a legal liability problem.
- (5) **Provision of more childrens' swings etc.:** the Lake is for use by all age groups and further installation of these is unwise in the interests of ecological preservation. There are other areas with playground equipment in Lennox Head and in the fairly limited area around the Lake there must be equitable provisions made for differing needs, age groups and abilities.

- (6) **Residences of Lake visitors in reference to Council expenditure:** while many Lennox Head residents regularly enjoy the Lake it is well known that many residents from other parts of the Shire (and indeed further afield in the Northern Rivers) are frequent visitors, naming it their favourite picnic and swim place. Therefore Council should not consider the funding for these improvements as being for Lennox Head alone but for all the Shire and indeed to enhance our attractiveness as a holiday destination.
- (7) **Road on eastern shore of Lake:** it is essential that this be removed and replaced with a suitable walking path, to stop further degradation of the water, foreshores and environs. Upgrading of the road on the western side is imperative and this should include a suitable pedestrian path.
- (8) **Parking should be spread further than the south-eastern corner:** this present concentration puts extra environmental and social stress on that corner. Parking should be spread to the south-western corner and the western road.
- (9) **Picnic facilities:** more **seats and tables** are required and these should be spread further past the present locations like the southern and eastern foreshores and the south-western corner.
- (10) **Landscaping and re-vegetation:** priority must be given to use of local native species, landscaping that is natural rather than built up and that compliments the natural environment with low impact on the shores and waters of the Lake. To this end use of soft surfaces for paths rather than asphalt or concrete is required.
- (11) **Health of the Lake:** this is already compromised by run off, human waste and rubbish. Council should re-asses all plans with view to controlling these risk factors.
- (12) **Erosion problems:** poorly designed drains or absent drains have caused erosion and wash-out problems around structures in the vicinity of the Lake (eg. fence posts, tables), therefore consideration must be given to relevant factors such as heavy coastal rain and winds, sand base, areas of high foot traffic, lack of topsoil.
- (13) **Protection of trees and vegetation:** rope or other forms of swings from trees should be discouraged as damage has been caused, also exposed tree roots and other vegetation have suffered through ill-considered activities. Council should explore ways of educating the public as to the benefits of respecting and protecting the fragile natural environment.
- (14) **Public information:** provision of information concerning the vegetation, geology and other aspects of the natural environment through signage is encouraged. It is a well known fact that where people are informed, especially if provided through interesting presentations, they are more likely to value and care for the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

**Kate Lavender**

Convenor

Lennox Head Women's Group

PO Box 184

Lennox Head NSW 2478

P: 0448 876 536

E/m: [lavender75@bigpond.com](mailto:lavender75@bigpond.com)

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Lachlan Frick

20 Kolora way  
North Ocean Shores  
NSW 2483

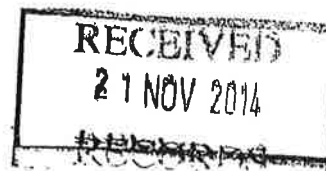
18 November 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am 14 years old and have been going to the lake my whole life. My mum told me about the plans to add a park at the main section. I now live in ocean shores and visit lennox to go to the lake. If there was a park and pier there we wouldn't go as often, it will make the place feel more like the gold coast rather than a small beach town. The idea to fix the car park is great though, we bumped into a car once reversing because they were parked in the wrong spot and we couldn't see. I hope you consider what I have to say.

Thanks

Lachlan Frick



Jenevieve Frick

20 Kolora Way  
North Ocean Shores  
NSW 2487

18 November 2014

The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
BALLINA NSW 2478

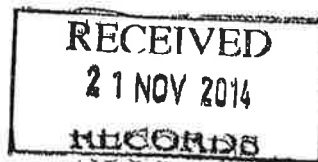
To whom it may concern,

I would like to put forward my opinion regarding to the future plans of Lake Ainsworth. As a mother of two teenage boys and former resident of Lennox head I feel that my voice should be heard.

We appreciate the need for better parking and a drainage system, but the extra recreational facilities are a waste of money. The lake is already a recreational area where people are happy to sit by the water with their families. Improving the BBQ area, sure, but adding a children playground may lead to a cheap facade and money that could be spent on other areas. It is our responsibility to teach our children to appreciate environment.

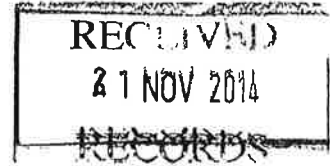
Yours sincerely,

Jenevieve Frick



1/69 Stewart Street  
Lennox Head NSW 2478  
Phone: 6687 7221  
E-mail: [marellelee@gmail.com](mailto:marellelee@gmail.com)  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Mr Paul Hickey  
The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
P.O. Box 450  
Ballina. NSW 2785



Dear Mr Hickey **Re: LAKE AINSWORTH INFRASTRUCTURE ..  
COMPLETE URBAN REPORT**

I congratulate Ballina Shire Council on its community consultation as a result of the Complete Urban report; you for attending the Saturday morning public consultation at Lennox Head CBD, arranged by Lennox Head Residents Association; and Mr John Truman and other officers for speaking to LHRA meetings.

Basically I continue to hold concerns which I expressed in an Opinion letter to *The Ballina Advocate* of 9<sup>th</sup> July last, so I have enclosed a copy. Since that letter was published, many people have expressed diverging views to me. All are concerned about the decline in water quality of Lake Ainsworth, and longer lasting blue/green algal infestations.. Many want to see vehicles kept at a distance from the lake. Dozens of cars crowd every space at weekends. Not all users treat the lake with respect. Dogs still swim there.

I am among those opposed to construction of boardwalks because the lake water heights vary dramatically with rain. This could mean dangers especially to young children, who might not be able to gauge the depth of the water.

Council objectives:

1. I agree with improving stormwater and drainage infrastructure ... and broadly to restricting the eastern road access only to vehicles travelling to and from the Department of Sport and Recreation. I do not agree with digging up the present bitumen road surface and replacing it with a narrower porous surface because I cannot see how that could be done without damaging about a dozen locally indigenous trees.

2. I oppose exercise stations, more playground equipment and BBQ and picnic shelters. Such would attract more people. At present fewer people would mean less pollution and foreshore damage. More formed pedestrian pathways, in certain locations, might be helpful.

3, I agree. As long as vehicles are kept well away from the foreshore.

4. A new Lennox Surf Club is needed. Immediately south of the present building, while the present clubhouse keeps operating, seems suitable. Some people consider the Rural Fire Service, which also needs a new building, could be built nearby.

5 Too vague for comment.



## LAKE AINSWORTH-2

My parents, Keith and Una McPhee, o Casino and Bonalbo, built a holiday cottage on Pacific Parade in the 1950s, which we used for more than 20 years. I moved to Lennox Head 20 years ago.

Also I was assigned to write frequent stories about Lennox Head by *The Northern Star*, including that sea water was washing into Lake Ainsworth (which a photographer recorded,) which led to the building of the Ti Tree Fence in 1967.

My family roared with laughter when I told them of Cr Susan Meehan's remark at a Council meeting, that only about 15 people used the lake in the 1970s. (Possibly Cr Meehan meant during the week) At weekends and peak holiday times many hundreds of people used the lake, as *The Northern Star* files could prove.

Long-term residents have noted the removal of blue water lilies, *Nymphaea violacea*, which are not toxic, from the sides of the lake, which they believe mitigated against blue/green algal growth. It would be helpful to have such vegetation re-planted. The yellow waterlilies, *Mexicana* are toxic, according to Malcolm Milner.

I was told that Ballina Council removed large amounts of aquatic vegetation from the southern side of the lake. The large quantity of 'imported' sand which Ballina Council piles on the south eastern lake foreshore soon washed into the lake, causing the water level to be much shallower.

I read where Southern Cross University experimented by introducing 'foreign' fish into lake waters years ago. I am opposed to such experiments. Decades ago Gambesie fish (from South America?) were introduced to try to keep mosquito populations down, and those fish became a menace..

Local people have complained to me about the use of plastic pathway bricks. They claim those bricks become slippery when wet, and elderly people have been falling as a result.

While I realise it is too late to act on my main complaint about the lake infrastructure is that the \$1.3million funding was provided by the sale of former public recreation land between Ross Street and the southern foreshore, which should never have happened. Despite strong public protests, the council, after a deadlocked vote, decided to sell that land. The beauty and amenity of the southern foreshore consequently has been ruined.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please seek more comment before final decision-making.

Yours sincerely

  
Marelle Lee.



9/7/2014

where CU and council officers can carefully and transparently explain proposals to the public at large.

Some 2005 and 2014 proposals seem contradictory, and difficult to follow.

Questions which could be asked include:

■ Why are boardwalks needed around the lake edges, claimed to channel users' entry to the water? With changing lake water levels, could boardwalks be dangerous?

■ Why should the present access road along the eastern side of the lake, between the Lennox surf clubhouse, and the NSW Government's Sport and Recreation Centre, be removed? Suitable edgings could stop toxic material on the road from entering lake waters. Native trees line the eastern access road. If that road is re-aligned, would any of that native flora lining be damaged or destroyed?

■ Why should the two public walking paths between lake and beach be closed?

■ Why couldn't large areas of blue water lilies and reeds, which used to grow around the lake, be replaced? Wouldn't such vegetation help counter blue/green algal infestations?

What is straight forward

is that the much-needed Lennox surf clubhouse will be rebuilt to the south of the present structure, when funds are available.

In the 1922 Lennox Head Estate Plan, the then open area from Ross St to the southern edge of the lake was to be retained for public recreation, in perpetuity, we thought.

Now it has been largely taken over by the NSW Government's Lake Ainsworth Holiday Park - a money-making venture.

Was Ballina council permission obtained for the profusion of signs at the holiday park?

Ballina council has a signage policy.

The NSW Government should set an example to all by following it.

Local people keep counting the signs.

Former Lennox resident, Don Apps, now of Ballina, voluntarily worked full-time around the lake for an amazing 12 years, removing weeds and rubbish, and planting locally indigenous flora, to beautify the area, and help save lake waters from pollution.

I was only able to help him one day a week for five years.

I carefully weeded around native orchids and ground covers near one path, and enjoyed watching native fauna there.

Those areas are now

covered by vehicle parking.

Those plants were killed. That is not aiding the natural environment.

I fear the eastern side of the lake could become as congested as the South Eastern Precinct.

Marelle Lee,  
Lennox Head

### Lake plan issues

RADICAL and contentious changes are in the wind for the once beautiful South Eastern Precinct of Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head.

Commendably, Ballina Shire Council has met with interest group representatives and discussed follow-ups to the 2005 Masterplan for the area.

But the council should not just exhibit proposals by its latest consultants on the South Eastern Precinct, Complete Urban (CU).

It should convene a well-publicised meeting

**Lennox Head Landcare Inc.**  
**lennoxheadlandcare@gmail.com**

**General Manager**  
**Ballina Shire Council**  
**Ballina.nsw.gov.au**

**Submission re Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement**

Lake Ainsworth is a very special asset for the shire and, as such, attracts heavy use yet it is a very fragile system. We are extremely supportive of all efforts to improve the quality of water entering Lake Ainsworth and to preserve and improve the stability of the dune system separating it from the ocean. With that in mind we appreciate the commitment made, by Council, to dedicate the proceeds from the sale of the site on the corner of Ross St and Pacific Parade towards improvements to the Lake Ainsworth precinct.

It is crucial that the available funds are used to achieve maximum improvements to managing the fine balance between improving water quality, maintaining dune stability and continuing to support recreational access to the lake and it's surrounds.

With this in mind we make the following comments re the concept plan submitted by Complete Urban and also re the suggested expenditure of the available \$1.3m.

**General amenity of the area:**

The lake and surrounds are loved (or even overloved) for the activities they already provide. It makes no sense to spend money adding facilities such as playground equipment, viewing platforms or exercise stations which would bring in additional users. Such facilities are better made available in other locations to spread recreational use of the Lennox Head area more evenly.

We are not convinced that there is a need for formally defined paths through the open spaces. The grass currently used in the BBQ area in the southeastern corner of the lake foreshore is couch which is neither durable to heavy foot traffic nor drought resistant. A better choice of grass for this purpose, perhaps recommended by someone with expertise in the area, could well achieve a durable cover. For both aesthetic and water quality purposes however any formally defined paths should have a permeable and natural looking surface. This is especially true for any paths to the north of the swale drain along the southern road. Access, by dogwalkers, to the beach needs to be directed along the track immediately north of the surf club precinct. They should be kept out of the eastern and southern foreshores of the lake altogether to minimise the incidence of faeces.

People need to continue to be encouraged to spread around the foreshores. Any concentration of use to a smaller area will exacerbate the existing problems of erosion

around the lake edge and deterioration of the grass surface, hence contributing to sediment load entering the lake.

**Roads and traffic:**

The redesigned drainage systems around the lake, as presented by Complete Urban, appear to be appropriate though lack of design detail makes it impossible to assess whether the end result will prevent all water from entering the lake unfiltered, even in our more extreme peak rainfall events. We are all aware of past projects around the Shire which have failed to cope with these conditions.

The road along the eastern foreshore should be closed to all traffic accessing the Department of Sport and Recreation site. This traffic should be redirected away from the lake, as well as the surf club and it's users, along the route recommended as Option 2 in the 2005 Master Plan (NOT the version presented as Option 2 by Complete Urban).

The access along the eastern foreshore should be for Council and emergency use only, public access should be restricted to foot traffic. The road surface and underlying road base should be replaced with a 3m wide, permeable surface on a sand base in order to maximise absorption of rainfall and also facilitate the natural outflow of water from the lake beneath the dunes., especially during periods of high rainfall when the level of the lake naturally rises.

All new parking spaces also need to have a permeable surface to maximise absorption in peak rainfall events and need to be adequately shaded by appropriate tree plantings of endemic species.

**Public education re maintaining the health of the lake:**

In the long term a crucial tool to maintain public awareness of, and support for, the measures taken will be educational signage. Council already provides this at the boat ramp near the sailing club on the Richmond River foreshore. The message needs to be keep simple and clear yet remain informative. The signs also need to be designed to attract attention or they achieve nothing. This has been done well around the perched dune lakes on Fraser Island which are similar in most aspects to Lake Ainsworth although they do not have the same issue with dogs in and around the lake.

**Maintaining dune stability:**

The overhead power lines along the eastern road remain a threat to dune vegetation . As the climax community nears maturity many trees threaten these lines and require severe trimming by the utility teams. The severity of this trimming is threatening the viability of these mature trees. As well, it is changing the microclimates under the trees, admitting increased light levels and decreasing moisture content of the soil. This has a deleterious impact on the undercanopy vegetation and increases weed penetration. In all, these impacts potentially reduce the stability of the dune and increase erosion as acknowledged in the Lake Ainsworth Management Plan 2002 which recommends that the placement of powerlines underground be a high priority. Funds for this could possibly, at least partly, be covered by not installing any new recreational facilities around the lake.

Should the surf club be moved to the southern location then a new disruption to the important backdune will be created. This could be compensated for by using the removed material to create a back dune over the footpad of the old clubhouse and joining it to the

existing backdune to the north of the club precinct thus enhancing protection of the lake in extreme weather events. Lennox Head Landcare would be willing to facilitate the stabilisation of the newly created dune and nurture creation of an appropriate vegetation cover under the guidelines of the relevant Council Vegetation Management Plan. We could utilise our own members and engage the broader community. All we would need would be access to the usual Council resources.

Yours sincerely,  
Shaun Eastment  
President  
Lennox Head Landcare inc.

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**Ballina Environment Society Inc**  
**PO Box 166 Ballina**  
**NSW 2478 Australia**  
**Email: BES2478@gmail.com**  
**Ph: 0421-551-768**



Submission re Complete Urban Provision For Design Of Lennox Head Surf Club & Surrounding Precinct and Ballina Shire Council's Preferred Option arising from same. November 2014

**Executive summary**

1. Concern about the inadequacy of the Complete Urban (CU) report and BSC Staff reports.
2. Accept the Connell Wagner Masterplan Report recommendations re removal of eastern road and establishing a shared path including maintenance and emergency vehicles
3. Supports Masterplan Op 2 for main access road north
4. Reject the Masterplan recommendation tying closure of the eastern road to sealing the western road.
5. There is no need for new facilities/amenities but there is a desperate need to upgrade existing hard surfaces, tap water runoff and vegetation maintenance
6. Off leash dog walking access needs to be away from lake surrounds
7. Interpretive signs include how to behave around the lake
8. Financial commitments for new road improvements should not fall on the residents of Ballina Shire, except for the south road

**BES has used the Lennox Head Residents Association submission as a basis from which to make its own submission. We contributed to that submission. The Society thanks LHRA for its excellent work including its public consultation.**

*At all times the absolute priority of this Society is to maximise improvements to the health of the lake!*

1. BES cannot make a submission without comment on our deep concern with the poor quality of the information provided in the Complete Urban report and the information provided to Councillors and the public via various staff report and emails. (see Attachment)
  - 1.1 BES deplors the lack of public/stakeholder consultation by Complete Urban. Had the report simply been according to the Council brief to review, understand and plan implementation of the Management Plan's wide consultation before a report was made, whilst still desirable, may not have been of prime importance. However, to throw out all options in the Connell Wagner Masterplan Report and produce a concept plan at odds with it requires serious stakeholder consultation before public exhibition.
  - 1.2 .The Council's preferred option is the option proposed by Sport and Recreation Centre using arguments not accepted by the Masterplan consultants when very similar options were addressed.
  - 1.3 BES requests Council considers the maximum benefits for Lake Ainsworth's Environment and the NSW community in the precious tiny eastern strip of public

For a shared path.

recreational land, rather than prioritise the State owned complexes to the North and South of it.

2. We support the Masterplan's conclusion that the east road should be removed and the riparian zone repaired. The shared path proposal in the MP is supported as long as its construction is of porous, nonhazardous materials .
  - 2.1 The case for retaining the east road has not been proved. CU relied upon false information and special pleading from one stakeholder at the expense of public amenity.(see Attachment)
  - 2.2 The Department of Water Guidelines for roads adjacent sensitive waterways is 40m.
  - 2.3 The removal of the road altogether will maximize a decrease in overcrowding. The impact of the preferred CU option being a 5m exclusive access road may in fact increase if the road limits access to the treed area against the dunes by being placed too close to them.
  - 2.4 BES opposes the removal of any of the large old Paperbarks east of the existing road.
  - 2.4 There is an equity issue with only Council to defend the recreational opportunities of the community against the large state operated complexes to the North and south should that be needed.
  - 2.5 Removing the east road will maximise benefits to the lake
  
3. BES supports the Masterplan Option 2 for the road to the north to access Sport and Rec and Camp Drew.
  - 3.1 The congestion at the south east corner would be eased by having no through traffic. This is the safest northern route.
  - 3.2 The existing road reserve through the Caravan Park of Gibbon Steet is the most direct route to the north
  - 3.3 It is formally supported by the Crown in a written agreement
  - 3.4 It prepares for future growth whereas the south east corner is already overused.
  - 3.5 It is environmentally sound as no further disruption to the surrounding area is required.
  - 3.6 It provides a guarantee for the important amenity of a pedestrian route to the south western beach for people forced to park in the village streets at peak usage times and for local residents. This path is already frequently used. Its loss would be sorely felt.
  - 3.7 Crown Holiday Park Trust received the caravan park on condition that Op 2 is part of the deal. It is understandable if CHPT would like otherwise as with S&R there will be inconveniences and costs. No case for change has been made by it in the public arena at least. If there is one why did it not become either part of a staff report or CU report?
  - 3.8 It is the safest and in many circumstances the quickest alternative route for heathland fire evacuation and fire fighting. Op1 winds into the thick bush and is longer. The east road is only shorter for fires in actual vicinity of southern buildings of S&R. Otherwise the North road gives immediate access to the heathland without having to wind through S&R buildings.
  - 3.9 We are concerned that the western lake precinct not become developed but is used only for the purposes of access to the beach and parking for that, S&R and Camp

For a shared path.

Drew. The lake Processes Study warns clearly of the impact on the lake of developing amenities here and especially in the south western part.

4. The western road does not need to be sealed as a requirement of closing the eastern road.
  - 4.1 there is no evidence of environmental damage from it at this time despite increase in vehicle traffic. The unsealed road is porous and the sides vegetation is in good shape.
  - 4.2 the expected increase in vehicle usage at the time of the MP from the recommended – now implemented - closure of the 4WD track to the beach has not affected the environmental surrounds or the usefulness of the road.
  
5. There is no need for new so called amenities in the lake surrounds.
  - 5.1 The naturalness of the surrounds of the lake is important as continually raised by the public over the years (and see LHRA community consultation about this still being the case) It is the attraction.
  - 5.2 the “amenities” will also exacerbate overcrowding by attracting people whose primary interest is not the lake.
  - 5.3 this Society agrees with the LHRA that paths should only be made where demonstrated need indicates, that is where there is obvious wear on the grass. They should be porous, narrower than 2.5m and only where common usage dictates.
  - 5.4 The walking path through the south east corner is not supported.
  - 5.5 New amenities will decrease the public space. The public space needs to be increased to its maximum.
  - 5.6 The peers protruding into the lake will create a risk when water levels are low and when there is a high number of users.
  - 5.6 The need is to improve the existing amenities to soften or remove the hard surfaces around structures, provide drainage for the washing taps on the barbecue shelters and conduct maintenance on the existing vegetation including urgent and ongoing mulching of the ti-trees in high use areas
  
6. Access to the offleash area by dogs should be by the track on the northern boundary of the surf club grounds
  - 6.1 No dogs should be permitted in the lake surrounds to avoid faecal pollution.
  - 6.2 if the surf club building is moved south from its present position Council could consider also extending the offleash area further south.
  - 6.3 BES questions why leash free areas are declared in high conservation areas?
  
7. We support implementation of the Master Plan in terms of providing Interpretive Signs advising users how to support the health of the lake such as used on the perched dune lakes on Fraser Island but modified in a manner to suit our context including keeping dogs away from the lake foreshores.
  
8. Financial commitments should unfairly fall to Ballina Shire residents.
  - 8.1 Bes firmly supports the proposition that should the state insist upon an east road access the state should pay for it.
  - 8.2 If sealing the east road is required by Sport and Rec then the State should pay for it.

For a shared path.

- 8.3 The Ross St land was sold and Council committed to using the proceeds for Surf Club planning and the restoration of the eastern foreshores of the lake to the betterment of the health of the lake. BES is firmly committed to that use of the money. It should not be dissipated on amenities not required for that purpose.
- 8.4 Given that runoff from the caravan park, the new parking area and the south road our approval of spending needs to include swales to deal with that runoff.
- 8.5 Given the highest priority for putting the power lines along the east road underground in the management plan we support that as a priority.

#### Conclusion

BES supports road alignment proposed by Connell Wagner Masterplan Report Option 2 as the best way to maximize the health of the lake. This includes full closure of the eastern road and use of the road reserve through the caravan park for the main access to Sport and Recreation facility. –but does not include tying the closure of the eastern road to sealing the western one. The original brief for Complete Urban was commendable. Unfortunately the resulting report was disappointing.



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**Ballina Environment Society Inc**  
**PO Box 166 Ballina**  
**NSW 2478 Australia**  
**Email: BES2478@gmail.com**  
**Ph: 0421-551-768**



Submission re Complete Urban Provision For Design Of Lennox Head Surf Club & Surrounding Precinct and Ballina Shire Council's Preferred Option arising from same. November 2014

## ATTACHMENT 1

1. FOUR PROBLEMS WITH COMPLETE URBAN REPORT AND COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTION
2. ALL THREE MAPS PERPORTING TO SHOW ROAD OPTIONS FROM THE MASTER PLAN ARE INACCURATELY DRAWN
3. THE ARGUMENT FOR CHANGE TO MP ROAD OPTION 2 RESTS ENTIRELY ON THE UNSUSTAINABLE CLAIM THAT CROWN LANDS DID NOT SUPPORT OP 2 AT THE TIME OF THE HANDOVER OF THE CARAVAN PAR
4. COMPLETE URBAN CONSULTED ONLY WITH SPORT AND RECREATION ABOUT THE REHABILITATION OF THE EASTERN SIDE OF LAKE AINSWORTH
5. CU REPORT IS DEFICIENT IN SIGNIFICANT OTHER WAYS

**1. MP MAPS INACCURATELY DRAWN in CU REPORT**



Masterplan – Road Option 3 from CU map



Comparison  
CU copy of MP Op3  
MP copy of its Op3



Masterplan Op3





COMPARISON of CU representation of Op1 & MP of Op1





COMPARISON of CU representation of Op2 & MP of Op 2

## **2. CLAIM THAT CROWN DID NOT SUPPORT OP2 AT THE TIME OF HANDOVER OF CARAVAN PARK**

### **CLAIM: 4.1 Staff Report : Agenda. Facilities Committee 18/6/2014 page 2 says**

*This review is intended to advance the concepts established in the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Masterplan (hereafter the masterplan). This masterplan was adopted by Council in 2005, albeit that it was not adopted by the State Government, primarily as they did not support the preferred road layout options identified in the plan.*

### **Here is what CROWN wrote:**

#### **SOURCE 1 Ref GF 80 R46 Baumann 30/10/2006**

Further to our letter of 10 July 2009 I wish to emphasise the Department's stated position that Option 1 of the Master Plan is the Department's preferred option as it is considered as being in the best interest of both the overall reserve and the caravan park. We do not support Option 3 as the basis of the Master Plan. We acknowledge that Option 2 reflects the existing public road network and therefore could be considered as an alternative possible option.

#### **SOURCE 2 David McPherson**

*Team Leader Environment*

*North Coast (my copy undated)*

Regarding the proposed options for road access:

- The Department strongly supports Option 1 that relocates the road between the back of Barrett Drive and the Caravan Park. Further, the Department would be willing to concur to the acquisition of land to allow the opening of a public road in that location. The existing public road reserve could then be closed and added to the Reserve.

Should Option ;2 be selected by the Trust, it is important that provision of the other benefits provided by Option 1 outlined above be included and addressed in the implementation.

The Department does not support Option 3 for relocation of the road and would not concur to the acquisition of land to allow for the opening of a public road in that location through the Crown Reserve.

(Historical Note :

Op3 Adopted 2005 by Council

Op2 Adopted by Council 2006

Op2 approved by Crown 2007; Becomes the Masterplan 2007

#### **SOURCE 3 Email to LW from GM 24/6/2014**

It is correct that Council has had varying correspondence from Crown Lands in respect to option two with correspondence from the Department of Lands dated 22 January 2007 confirming' that option two was an acceptable alternative to the previously adopted option three.

## **2. CLAIM THAT CROWN DID NOT SUPPORT OP2 AT THE TIME OF HANDOVER OF CARAVAN PARK**

SOURCE Complete Urban REport Claims based on COUNCIL ADVICE

Quote: 2.1 As part of our tender submission to Ballina Shire Council, COMPLETE undertook a review of the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Masterplan (14th October 2005) and specifically the Option 2 \_Road access through the middle of the Caravan Park. Following the confirmation from Council that this option was not supported .b the Crown the Crown when they took over management of the caravan park COMPLETE has reviewed the masterplan road options again as part of this report. (pp 8 Complete Urban Stage 1 report Oct 2014)

AND

This option was not supported by the Crown when they took over the management of the caravan park. · (CU re MP Op 2.pp 11)

### **Here is what the CROWN actually negotiated**

SOURCE Karen Hembrow

It is proposed that on transfer, the area for the car park at Lake Ainsworth be made available as soon as required to facilitate its construction and that a Plan of Management under the Crown Lands be prepared in consultation with Council and the community to guide the development of the Holiday Park. A fundamental premise of the plan will be the option 2, central road corridor as provided in the Masterplan.

A consequence of this process will be a reduction in the availability of approximately 20 tourist sites and it is requested that Council consider a 2 year lease of its land on the corner of Ross St at a peppercorn rental to enable Holiday Park planning to be completed together with minimising the impact on available Tourism Sites.

LPMA is willing to facilitate the transfer as soon as possible as soon as confirmation of acceptance of the above terms is received.

Yours sincerely,  
Karen Hembrow  
Acting Regional Assistant  
NORTH COAST  
26 February 2010

### 3. COMPLETE URBAN CONSULTED ONLY WITH SPORT & REC Centre

SOURCE2.2 (*P9 Stage1 Report 2014*) *Complete Urban*

#### ROAD CONFIGURATION

Three options for a new road network to provide access were identified in the lake Ainsworth Crown Masterplan report.

In order to deal with these issues, each option proposed that the eastern road be closed thereby removing the access along the east side of the lake to the Department of Sport and Recreation facility at the north end of the lake.

COMPLETE have consulted with the Department of Sport and Recreation (David Taylor, former Centre Manager and Jason Dwyer, current Centre Manager) to establish the implications of closure of the Eastern Road on their operations.

Access to the Department of Sport and Recreation is currently provided from the south using the Eastern Road. The operational layout of the facility is based on access from the south. If an alternative access from the north were to be provided it would impact the Department's operations in the following ways:

- Longer route for service vehicles and entering at the wrong end of the site
- Longer route for emergency vehicles
  - Carpark is located at the south end of the facility
- Main functions located at the south end of the facility
- Western Road unsealed and poorly lit
  - Internal infrastructure including buildings, services, landscape are all established from the south end of the site
- Insufficient access within the site for large vehicles to approach from the north
- 2 access points are preferable for fire purposes
  - Increased security concerns if south end of site is closed
- There is no power at north end of site

There is a gate at the north end of the turnaround carpark that provides entry to the Department of Sport and Recreation for short and long term visitors, emergency vehicles and service vehicles. This gate is left open during normal times but electronically controlled from the administration of the centre. All parking requirements for the centre are catered for in the centre grounds. During peak times the gate has been closed to prevent unauthorised parking within the centre.

SOURCE COMMENTARY OF OTHER CLAIMS *From the records of Lyn Walker*

**Claims of stakeholder consultation at the Oct 2013 meeting are not true.** Only presentation and questions arising about requirements for the design of the surf club were permitted and therefore only surf club representatives could be said to have been consulted. **An attempt to ask about the eastern precinct was deflected by a commitment from the Chair (David Spencer) to discuss this at**



the next meeting despite at least half of those present being there because of the east precinct. That next meeting did not occur.

The meeting of 3rd June 2014 held at the request of Council is more correctly called a presentation. Questions asked were for clarification not opinions about it or analyses of it as assumed in the subsequent staff report. There certainly was interest in the road options. But none were in a position to have studied it enough to give any opinion at the time. This meeting could not be reasonably said to be consultation.

Thus the change to the master plan recommendation is based on consultation with one stakeholder; hardly a reasonable basis for overturning the MP recommendation. The original MP was based on three separate consultations with 19 stakeholder groups representing local and statutory government bodies, business and industry, residents and ratepayers, caravan park users, community associations, environment groups and sporting and recreation groups

**Complete consulted only with SR. As a result it is not noted in CU that Master Plan Report and Council preferred options to close the east road did not accept similar argument from SR as discussed below. (Security gates not installed then)**

SOURCE No Case for closing east road by Lyn Walker

No adequate case is made against closing the east road of Lake Ainsworth. The arguments for an exclusive access road to the Sport and Recreation Centre(SR) made in the Complete Urban(CU) report either show no understanding of the existing Master Plan(MP) or are problems that S&R should solve themselves. I refute below (in bold) the arguments given by SR.

- **Facilities and car parking are in the south.** It would be a dangerous precedent for Council to take responsibility for the internal arrangements of SR particularly because neither Council nor the public have been consulted about them. SR were consulted for the MP.
- **Longer route for emergencies.** Not valid. MP allows emergency access along the eastern side via its 3m wide shared path proposal.
- **Western Rd unsealed and poorly lit.** MP proposes sealing the road. However, the road handles an increasing volume of traffic that has not adversely affected the environment. If Sport and Rec require it to be upgraded then S&R should pay for it.
- **Insufficient access from the site for larger vehicles to approach from the North.** When the east road is closed for long periods of time due to flooding there is no evidence that SR did not cope.
- **Two access points preferred for fire.** Not valid. Two access points are proposed in MP- the eastern shared path and the western road.
- **Increased security concern if south end is Closed.** Doesn't make sense as there is the possibility of electronic gate surveillance north and south.
- **There is no power at the north end.** It is S&P responsibility to put electricity there. What is available to the rental cottages on the north of the grounds?

On the facts SR will have costs and inconvenience from closing the east road access as will we all. MP reports argues the positives to come from east road closure. They are not repeated here.



#### **4. CU REPORT DEFICIENT IN OTHER WAYS**

SOURCE Lyn Walker

Eg. No maintenance VEHICLE access to dog track toilet block (with turn around)

No landscaping on east side to show how much useful public land available, eg any under the trees on east side of proposed road?

No disabled access to lake waters

Huge congestion at with east corner if all surf club and north heading traffic goes there as well as Lake users.

NOTE: of all the Council documents written after 2010 handover that I have read none ever mention that 2010 agreement (contract even) by Crown Lands for Op2 to be included.

CHPT have control of Lake Ainsworth Park in part because of that agreement

Lyn Walker

**Mrs K Saunderson  
18 Warrawee Drive  
Lennox Head, NSW 2478**

**November 21 2014**

**General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council**

**Submission re Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement**

Please consider the following as my opinion on the key issues relating to the current Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement plans.

**Your preferred road layout – should we maintain the eastern road access to Department of Sport and Recreation or close that access?**

The eastern road should be closed to all traffic, except emergency and maintenance vehicles. In my opinion, closing the eastern road would;

- i. assist in stormwater management,
- ii. increase the area of recreational space on the eastern side of the Lake,
- iii. greatly improve the amenity of the area, and
- iv. significantly improve safety for users of the eastern side of the Lake, especially for small children

My preferred option for the road layout is option 2 from the Lake Ainsworth Masterplan (2006).

Also, the surface of the eastern road, whether it remains open or not, should be in keeping with the natural amenity, grass pavers could be a suitable option.

**Car parking – do you feel the car parking options proposed are satisfactory and if not what changes do you suggest?**

Any new parking should be created with a permeable surface to assist in managing stormwater runoff.

**Is the range of recreational infrastructure such as the playground, viewing platform and pathways adequate and if not, what additions would you make?**

At this stage I would prefer that funds spent around Lake Ainsworth are directed primarily towards works with the purpose of improving the overall health of the Lake. A healthy Lake to swim is of far greater value to our town than recreational infrastructure. Therefore, I am not inclined to suggest

any additional recreational infrastructure, and would suggest the removal of some of it from the plan in order to carry out more works to improve the Lakes health.

I am particularly concerned about the infrastructure planned for the south eastern corner of the Lakes foreshore. This area is currently a social hub and gets very busy and crowded. A playground in this area would compete with the already limited social space. A playground would be of value further away from this area, perhaps over near the surfclub. Furthermore, I believe a boardwalk dissecting this area would also have an impact on the social space. I believe a better place to put a boardwalk or other type of walking track would be along the outer edge of the social space rather than through the middle of it.

**Are there any other items you would like to see included in the scope of works?**

How about the design and installation of some educational signs? The signs could detail the ecological processes of the Lake and provide information to users about ways to use the Lake responsibly. This could have the benefits of;

- i. decreased nutrient and pollution loads entering the Lakes waters, and
- ii. provide an enriched experience for Lake users, by encouraging a deeper understanding of the Lakes ecological values.

As a general comment, I would much prefer to see the majority of the funds allocated in this project, spent on works which will improve the water quality and ensure the future health of Lake Ainsworth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these plans.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K Saunderson

Derek Audus  
33 Alison Ave  
Lennox Head  
Ph 0418971902  
Email [dnlaudus@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dnlaudus@bigpond.net.au)  
20 November 2014

To: Ballina Council

This submission is against the proposal currently being displayed by Ballina Council, for the re-development of the access road to The Lennox Head Sport and Recreation Facility, located next to Lake Ainsworth.

I speak as a local resident of Lennox Head and active community member. For the last four and a half years I have been living 500 metres from Lake Ainsworth and enjoy the natural beauty that the lake has to offer for local residents and visitors alike.

I am an active member of the Lennox Head Lions Club and through this am involved in various community projects on a regular basis. I have supported efforts to re-establish the Lennox Head Bowls Club as a community run organisation (Club Lennox), participated in fund raising activities to help re-establish this community facility and frequently visit Club Lennox. I am also a user of the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Rec facility where I play tennis a couple of times per week.

I have no commercial interest in this particular area and I do not speak on behalf of the abovementioned organisations, but as a local home owner I am keen to maximise the benefits of the Lake and also am pleased to see Lennox Head develop as a popular tourist destination. I'm not in favour of major developments in this area and believe it should not be over commercialised like the Gold Coast or Byron Bay.

I am in favour of retaining the Eastern road in a similar format to the existing road however; I do believe that more could be done to improve the lake embankments in order to assist with any adverse run off from motor vehicles.

It appears to me that the current proposal by Ballina Council for re-development of Lake Ainsworth would require the roadway to be moved further to the East. I suspect this will result in a requirement to remove or chop down larger trees along the road in order to maintain access for buses, garbage trucks and other large vehicles necessary to access to the Sport and Rec centre. The trees have already been extensively 'pruned' into irregular shapes to accommodate overhead wires. Money may be better spent placing the power cables underground than disfiguring the trees.

I would like to draw your attention to the section of the council report that categorises traffic flow to the Sport and Rec facility as "minimal" however, I am not aware of any numerical data provided through a traffic study to support this. On several occasions during last summer I counted the number of vehicles parked at the Sport and Rec facility and this exceeded 150 vehicles at the time of counting. Given the amount of traffic to the Sport and Rec facility I believe access should be moved to the western road to reduce traffic on the eastern road rather than closing the eastern road to the users of the lake, the picnic facilities and the dog exercise beach. As a regular user of the Sport and

Rec facility, I would be prepared to access it via the Western Road if adequate measures were taken, to upgrade this road. If Council wishes to close the Eastern Road to the general public then please fix the Western Road and close the road also to the Sport and Rec facility.

I have looked at the proposed plans and have been advised by council that the total parking spaces in the vicinity of the Surf Club will be equivalent to the number currently available on the Western access road. Whilst this may be true in the case of current "approved" parking spaces, I am concerned that in reality the number of spaces will not be close enough to what is required. That being the case, has there been any consideration given to where the overflow will go? I currently live in Alison Ave and would not like to see overflow parking on the quiet residential streets including Ian Ave and other Streets in the Barrett Estate where local children can currently safely play, ride pushbikes and access the park at the end of the road in relative safety

Lennox Head residents currently have excellent access to the off leash area for dogs on the beach, and owners can drive their dogs to a car park close to beach access point, exit the car and then have a short 50 metres walk to this specially designated area. The current benefits of bypassing the many children and families that are accessing the surf club and regular lifesaver patrolled areas cannot be underestimated. Under the proposed arrangements, I assume that dog walkers will be required to take their pets closer to Lake Ainsworth as the proposed footpath will track alongside the existing road. This will undoubtedly cause greater opportunity for lake pollution as there will be even more incidences of dogs swimming in the lake which I think is undesirable given the amount of families and children that currently utilise the lake. No doubt some dogs will need to urinate and defecate on the walk past Lake Ainsworth from the car to the beach thus potentially introducing more offensive matter into the lake.

I understand that council have a goal of reducing pollution and maintaining the environmental integrity of the lake however I'm not sure that the real causes are being addressed. Some suggestions I could make to improve the health of the lake would be:

- Policing of dogs swimming in the lake
- Installation of showers for the general public who use the lake with signage to require people to shower before entry to the water
- An environment assessment of ducks and other water birds that currently inhabit the lake environment

It concerns me that the proposed plan by Ballina Council for Lake Ainsworth, does not adequately address the issues of the lake health. Furthermore, it appears to be an interim solution which will not fix the overall issues of:

- the provision of a surf club building and adequate community access to it
- the loss of facility for locals and tourists to the Lake Ainsworth area
- access to the surf club until the new building is erected. In particular emergency vehicles, access for surf craft and delivery of supplies
- a decrease in quality and popularity of the Lennox Head Markets

I would like to bring attention to the decision to relocate the Lennox Head Markets to the Lennox Head Community Centre. This decision was made on the basis of environmental concerns for Lake

Ainsworth without adequately considering the results of the community consultation that took place. The relocation of the Lennox Head Markets has only resulted in a poor quality market with reduced atmosphere and increased sun exposure for attendees due to a lack of shade. It would be a great shame for a similar decision to be made again without an appropriate environmental impact study and community consultation to be undertaken.

It is my considered opinion that concerns for the environmental health of Lake Ainsworth have been allowed to dominate a planning approach that should seek to provide a balance for community usage and sustainability; this is surely the most appropriate response.

In response to the specific questions raised by Council in the Lake Ainsworth infrastructure improvement community consultation overview my comments follow:

Your preferred road layout – should we maintain the eastern road access to Department of Sport and Recreation or close that access?

**Comment:** Retain Eastern Roadway – do not close it to the general public but retain it for access to Sport and Rec

Car parking – do you feel the car parking options proposed are satisfactory and if not what changes do you suggest?

**Comment:** Do not close the eastern road. Retain existing parking plus develop new parking spaces as per report.

Is the range of recreational infrastructure such as the playground, viewing platform and pathways adequate and if not, what additions would you make?

**Comment:** You cannot have too much of this but I recognise it is limited by cost. I would prefer to see a more 'manicured' solution to the park areas to smarten up the area.

Should Council be expending monies on confirming the design of the new surf club and then obtaining planning consent?

**Comment:** As previously suggested it seems to me that a piecemeal approach is a poor way to solve the problem and has can be seen from previous work in this area very little has been achieved in the last decade.

What are your thoughts on the evaluation undertaken by Complete Urban Pty Ltd in their analysis of refurbishing the existing surf club as compared to building a new one? (their preferred option is a new facility)

**Comment:** The existing surf club is an eyesore and needs to be replaced. I am sure this could be done at a reasonable cost and earn money if developed appropriately whilst providing a great facility for locals and tourists. I have seen and heard glowing reports of the surf club at Bonnie Hills which was apparently built at reasonable cost and appears to be a real asset to the town.

Are there any other items you would like to see included in the scope of works?

**Comment:** A total plan including park infrastructure, parking, road access and the new surf club all combined along with costing and time estimates for each phase.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Derek and Lyn Audus <dnlaudus@bigpond.net.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 26 November 2014 10:32 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Ainsworth Community Consultation

Hi

I understand that the submission date has expired however I would like to share with you my observations from last Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November when there was a surf event at Lennox head.

I did a quick survey of parking around the surf club at around mid day and recorded the following numbers of vehicles. As I stated in my formal submission I am concerned that council is severely underestimating car parking requirements.

Car park near caravan park	70
Western Road	170
Eastern Road	158
Surf Club area pacific parade and beach car park	47
Pacific Parade up to "Foam"	69
Ian Ave	50
Nothern end of Stewart St	40
William St	20
	624
Event - Northern rivers surf nippers	

Thank you for your attention.

Regards

Derek Audus

---

**From:** Diana McNabb [<mailto:dianam@ballina.nsw.gov.au>] **On Behalf Of** Civil Secretary Mail  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 2:46 PM  
**To:** [dnlaudus@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dnlaudus@bigpond.net.au)  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Community Consultation

Thank you for your submission on the Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for the South Eastern Precinct.

Following the closure of submissions on 21 November 2014, all feedback received will be reported to the December 2014 Ordinary Meeting of Council where the elected Councillors will make a decision based on the feedback as to their preferred option.

In the meantime if you require any further information please contact Jamie Fleeting on 6686 4444.

Regards  
John Truman  
Group Manager



NSW CROWN HOLIDAY PARKS  
— TRUST —

PO Box 245, Warners Bay NSW 2282

PHONE 02 4967 2233

EMAIL [steve@nswchpt.com.au](mailto:steve@nswchpt.com.au)

21 November 2014

The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
BY EMAIL: [council@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@ballina.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hickey

**Re: Lake Ainsworth Review and Consultation Report for South Eastern Precinct**

The NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust (NSWCHPT) provides the following submission on the exhibited documents for the Southern Precinct of Lake Ainsworth.

1. NSWCHPT supports the preferred option of Council in retaining the eastern road to enable access to the NSW Sport and Recreation facility.
2. NSWCHPT confirms that it will not support any option which includes opening the road through the middle of the caravan park as endorsed by Council in its 2006 Master Plan.
3. NSWCHPT supports the realignment of the southern road on the basis that this option does not intrude within existing caravan park boundaries.
4. NSWCHPT supports the embellishment of the recreation areas with boardwalks, paving, furniture and fittings and playground equipment
5. NSWCHPT would welcome the opportunity to work with Council in providing a landscaped caravan park boundary on the Southern side of the lake where landscaping is proposed in the exhibited plan.
6. NSWCHPT supports the relocation and construction of a new surf club.

The Trust looks forward to the implementation of the proposed plan and remains available to work with Council where the capacity for caravan park and community outcomes are available.

Yours sincerely

Jim Bolger



To whom it may concern,

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Northern NSW has prepared this submission on behalf of people in our community with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities.

We request that proposed improvements to the Lake Ainsworth vicinity in Lennox Head make Community Inclusion a priority, in keeping with the Australian Government Disability Discrimination Act cited on the Ballina Shire Council Website.

Our neighbours in the Tweed Shire Council recently undertook a needs analysis that revealed:

*An accessible and inclusive community means creating possibilities. It enables people to live their lives according to their individual interests, needs and aspirations, no matter who they are or their circumstances. It means being able to physically move around the community and feel included as a member of the community. It involves access to buildings, festivals, events and open space such as streetscapes and parks, and inclusion in arts and culture, leisure, sports, education, employment and social life.*

*Tweed Shire Council*

We request the following inclusion measures be incorporated into all plans for improvement of the recreational infrastructure at the Lake Ainsworth site:

- Ensure all walkways are accessible by ramp and able to be enjoyed by every member of the community.
- Ensure the viewing platform is accessible by ramp and able to be enjoyed by every member of the community.
- Ensure a ramp into the water is provided to allow wheelchair swimming access.

- The proposed play space be a fenced, inclusive play space that caters for vision, hearing and mobility impairments as well as spectrum disorders (*see Appendix 1*).
- Refurbishment of the Lennox Head Surf Life Saving Club must guarantee inclusive access to all areas of the building to ensure Surf Life Saving Club activities can be enjoyed by every single member of our community. The current building has restrictive stair-only access to the top level.

We are always happy to provide further recommendations or consultation on Community Inclusion.

On behalf of the Ballina Shire community, thank you for considering our submission.

Kind Regards,

**Jodi Rodgers Manager – Northern NSW**

23 Commercial Road  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
T (02) 6628 3660 M 0400 987 608  
[www.autismspectrum.org.au](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au)

**Taya Prescott Community Inclusion – Northern NSW**

23 Commercial Road  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
T (02) 6628 3660  
[www.autismspectrum.org.au](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au)

## Appendix 1: Fenced, inclusive playgrounds –

### Excerpt from *touchedbyolivia.com.au*

A number of international and national reports point to the need for more inclusive play spaces:

- Children have the fundamental right to play, and that regardless of ability, all children have the right to access the same services - UN Committee for the Rights of a Child
- Provide more opportunities for people with a disability to participate in and enjoy Australia's economic and social life - Australian Social Inclusion Policy
- Childhood obesity has increased 40% between 1995-2005, and over 25% of Australian children are obese or overweight - Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing 2010 Report
- Children in Australia are playing less and have fewer community-based areas that facilitate play. As a result, obesity is on the increase. This issue is compounded by the fact that more than 8% of the most vulnerable children in Australia are excluded from play.
- 42% of kids are not involved in sport
- 630,000 children spend 40+ hours of screen time per fortnight
- Kids playing in their local neighbourhoods has decreased from 71% to 21% within the last generation
- 65% of families have both parents working
- 8% of our youth have a disability. 50% of these are either severe or profound with 75% of these disabilities being neurological, and not physical

21 November 2014

General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Sir,

#### Northern Rivers Design Advisory Panel submission on Lake Ainsworth precinct upgrade

The Design Advisory Panel (DAP) is a not for profit collective of design professionals who live and work in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW. DAP provides independent, pro bono, expert design advice to the communities of the Northern Rivers Region in NSW with the intention of improving the quality of and awareness of design in the built environment.

DAP welcomes the renewed focus on this important natural asset, the significant funding available for the proposed works, and the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

However, DAP is concerned that the proposal includes the eastern road as a means of access to the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre (LASARC). The removal of this road was a key element of the Masterplan adopted by Council in 2006. Council and the community have already decided that this is not viable with respect to maintaining or improving the water quality of the lake, and it is unclear how Council can justify its reintroduction without any new supporting evidence. Curiously the proposal can only draw on the preference of the LASARC for doing so, which is entirely beside the point.

In light of this significant reversal, DAP requests that there be a further round of consultation, preferably public, but at the very least with those members of the community who have made a submission as part of the current round of consultation.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

- The proposal is a significant improvement on the previously exhibited design proposals in that it includes fewer 'hard' landscape interventions – DAP is of the opinion that "less is more" in this regard for Lake Ainsworth.
- The lake precinct is a unique asset. It is a simple, undeveloped, relatively natural feature with very high social, environmental and recreational amenity, all in close proximity to the services of a small town. Preserving this low-key undeveloped character and key point of differentiation is essential to maintaining the value of this community asset and its position as an economic draw card for the town.
- Shade trees should be incorporated wherever possible in parks, streets and car parking areas – there does not appear to be much emphasis on this in the proposal.

## WATER QUALITY

- Water quality, and by extension, the general ecological health of the lake, should be the key design criterion for the proposal. There may be implicit benefits on water quality in some elements, but without the articulation of improving / protecting water quality as they key driver, there appears to have been a shift towards landscape design simply for recreational and aesthetic purposes. DAP proposes that recreational and aesthetic outcomes will flow from a healthy lake. The proposal would benefit from clear articulation of how each element contributes to improving water quality and the ecological health of the lake, and if it does not, how it is otherwise justified.
- The proposal does not include any elements that would solely be for water quality improvement such as
  - planting/management of macrophytes
  - managing inappropriate shoreline access
  - increased measures for destratification of the lake waters
  - directing research into further actions for water quality improvement

This reinforces the apparent lack of focus on water quality in the plan, and should be rectified.

## EASTERN ACCESS ROAD

DAP's preferred option is for the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre (LASARC) to be accessed via the western road, with the eastern access road being pedestrianised and/or turned over to recreational open space, and used by vehicles for emergency access only. In support of this position DAP makes the following comments.

- Council adopted a Masterplan for the lake in 2006 that proposed the closure of the eastern road and the sealing of the western road for access to the LASARC. The proposal fails to put forward any clear or persuasive evidence as to why this position should be reversed.
- The convenience or preference of the LASARC, or suggesting the community continues to accept the legacy of poorly planned entrance administration facilities of the LASARC (apparent now in hindsight), are inadequate and inappropriate reasons for reversing the position of the adopted 2006 Masterplan. Nor are they criteria on which to base the design of an element of the proposal that has a critical bearing on the health of the lake.
- The LASARC will be one of the largest beneficiaries of improved outcomes for the lake, thus optimal management of the eastern shoreline is distinctly in their interest, and ultimately of much greater importance than their immediate convenience in welcoming cars to the site.
- Furthermore, combined with some vision and effort from the LASARC, leverage of state policies for the protection of unique natural assets such as the lake would very likely justify State Government investment in relocating their access to the western road and providing new entrance administration facilities.
- Access to the beach for dog walkers should be relocated north and combined with the horse access point. Conflicts between horses and dogs does not appear to be an issue as the off-leash dog exercise and the horse riding areas currently overlap considerably. This access point should include a basic toilet facility.

In the unfortunate event that access is maintained along the eastern foreshore of the lake DAP makes the following comments

- *There is critical lack of necessary detail in the plans to make accurate and informed comments about this part of the proposal.*
- While it is a public facility, and thus may seek to use this critical strip of public land for its convenience, the LASARC makes a negligible effort to promote itself broadly to the local community. Thus the LASARC must not be allowed to appropriate Council funds to upgrade / manage an access facility that it simply prefers or finds convenient but is to the detriment of the health of the lake.
- The plans do not clearly show how the treatment of the eastern road will occur under the current proposal. In particular the following critical questions cannot be answered by inspection of the plans
  - Is the road being moved further eastward off the existing alignment? If so, by how much and where?
  - What will be the extent of clearing of existing vegetation, especially the large melaleucas, to facilitate any realignment?
  - How much is the road being raised?
  - How will drainage on the eastern side of the road be managed to prevent ponding, especially during times when the water level in the lake is very high?
  - Will the land on the western side of the road be accessible by the public, or closed and regenerated?
- The proposal makes no consideration of parking at the dog walking access point to the beach. The proposal must include some consideration of how this facility will be provided.

#### SURF CLUB PRECINCT

- The critical vulnerability of the SLSC to coastal erosion threat is not mentioned in the proposal. This is a serious oversight. The proposal should include conceptual integration of design elements to show how a "protect" or "retreat" option will be implemented.
- DAP supports moving the surf club (SLSC) southward. This will create a good visual connection between the lake and ocean and make provision for a large open space area to the north of the club which will be very popular. This area should include large shade trees or clusters of smaller shade trees, and may offer space for car parking along its southern edges.
- The large paved area immediately west of the SLSC should 'softened' with shade trees.
- The 'gate' for the eastern access road (should this access arrangement remain) should be moved further north to allow for incorporation of car parking in the area north of the new surf club.
- The design plans show a surf club which is of a similar plan footprint size to the present club. It has been determined in the past that the present club is inadequate in size. Thus, is the footprint shown in the current plans truly representative of what the new club will require, since it will also include public amenities?

## LAKE FRONT

- The lake front precinct west of the existing surf club is extremely popular, and more people are likely to use this area if vehicle access to the eastern side of the lake is restricted, thus management of this area is critical.
- The playground should not be close to the lake. The lake itself is a natural playground and this facility would simply detract from the low-key undeveloped nature of the lake and surrounds. A playground would be better placed in the open space area on the beachfront immediately north of the new surf club.
- There is no need for a pathway to dissect the lake front parkland. This consumes valuable lake front recreation space. People are able to, and indeed enjoy to, walk on the grass. There is no evidence of 'tracking' in these areas to suggest a pathway is required, especially when there is another one proposed along the road edge.
- The viewing platform is entirely unnecessary and will simply detract from the natural undeveloped shoreline. Good views are readily available from many vantage points, including a number that will be accessible to the mobility impaired.
- A small timber decked pontoon around 20 m offshore would be a considerably better use of resources than the viewing platform. It would have significant historical reference and would add 'depth' to the recreational opportunities along the shoreline, for example it would offer a
  - A swimming/paddling destination
  - A vantage point for views back to the shore
  - A gathering place
  - A low and safe diving platform
  - A clearly identifiable demarcation of the swimming/boating zones (although it should be wholly within the swimming zone).
- In addition to a pontoon, it is important to visually reinforce the demarcation between boating areas and swimming areas. Signage should be improved in this regard, and possibly the use of a string of small buoys.

## BOARDWALK TO THE WEST

- There should not be a continuous boardwalk through the vegetate areas on the southern and south-western foreshores. Again, the natural undeveloped surroundings of the lake make it the unique drawcard that it is. The informal path that is there currently makes for exciting 'exploring' opportunities for younger visitors, and a pleasant easy stroll for older ones.
- DAP recognises the importance of providing access to natural areas for a wide cross section of the community, including the mobility impaired. However, this should not extend to despoiling natural areas with unwarranted 'hard' landscape interventions. Provision of quiet vantage points in more remote parts of the lake could easily be provided by one or two small "branch" paths off the western road.

## SOUTHERN ACCESS ROAD

- The plans do not clearly show the spatial relationship between the existing road alignment and the proposed road alignment and treatment. The proposed footpath/road/parking combination along this edge should not consume any of the current lake front grass open space.
- There are benefits to maintaining the car parking along the northern edge of the Southern access road. These include:
  - Users are parked on the same side of the road as their destination which means that they do not have to cross this busy road
  - Parking spaces are less likely to be used by campers for long term parking
  - The vehicles form an informal barrier to children running on to the road, and a clear reminder that they are entering a "car area"
  - The vehicles form a visual and noise barrier to moving traffic
- DAP supports in principle the use of car parking on both sides of the southern road. However, without a clear indication of the proposed alignment or cross sections, it remains uncertain as to how the surface will be graded to have surface flows partly directed south, and once collected, where and how the stormwater will be managed.
- The use of grass-pavers in-filled with soil and grass in parking areas is a good option for stormwater management.
- Low vehicle speeds along the lake shore front should be strongly encouraged by a combination of traffic calming measures such as signage, different surface finish, speed bumps and vegetated islands to artificially narrow the roadway to a single car width.
- Any car park expansion should include provision of large shade trees or where environmental conditions make provision of single trees difficult, clusters of trees should be provided for wind protection and shade.

## PARKING

- In calculating the existing parking provision, the consultants do not appear to have fully accounted for informal overflow parking that occurs regularly, even in the absence of events such as Nippers carnivals etc. Cars are parked not only along both sides of the entire lengths of the southern road but also within the grassed areas north of the new car parking area opposite the surf club and often down Ross Street and southward along Pacific Parade for some distance under the trees.
- A local community member counted 247 cars parked outside of formal parking spaces north of Ross Street on Sunday 16 November (in the absence of school holidays or a special local event). At a glance, Figure 5 of the proposal fails to account for the 20-30 informal parking spaces that are regularly used immediately north of the '2009 car park' on the western side of Pacific Parade. Suggesting there are 162 informal spaces appears to be a somewhat convenient underestimate.
- However, having said that, DAP does not support any significant increase in car parking beyond that shown in Figure 6 of the proposal.



DAP would welcome the opportunity to comment further should you wish, and reiterates its request that there be a second round of consultation in light of the significant reversal of key parts of the 2006 Masterplan, in particular the reinstatement of the eastern road as a means of general access to the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre.

Sincerely



Charlie Hewitt  
Secretary

1/8 Mayo Court  
Skennars Head 2478

General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450 Ballina 2478

### **Lake Ainsworth infrastructure improvement**

Dear Sir

With regard to the above please note the issues below as our submission.

#### **Keep lake area natural**

No need for new attractions such as viewing platforms, playground equipment and exercise equipment in this location. Paths should be natural surfaces such as grass rather than concrete.

#### **Strongly want the eastern road closed**

Eastern foreshore should be used entirely for the people and not exclusively for Sport and Recreation Centre. It needs to become a pedestrian area with a shared path for maintenance and emergency vehicles only. It will disperse people and reduce the concentration of usage in the SE corner and it will allow for disabled access to lake.

#### **Recreational Space**

Recreational space needs to be the maximum possible – it is a very small area and in the interests of social justice a 5m road through the whole length of the east for one user is not defensible.

#### **Parking and vehicle use concentration too dense**

Parking is very concentrated in south east corner. Road Option 2 through the caravan park on the road reserve will keep all through traffic away and therefore ease pressure on the south east corner.

#### **Interpretive Signage**

We support the implementation of the MP in terms of providing interpretive signs advising users how to support the health of the lake such as used on the perched dune lakes on Fraser Island but modified to suit the context of Lake Ainsworth (including keeping dogs away).

It is essential that the health of the lake should be a priority above all else as it is the jewel in the crown of Ballina Shire.

Yours faithfully

Margaret Duncan

Graham Duncan  
21 November 2014



**LENNOX HEAD-ALSTONVILLE**  
**SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INCORPORATED**  
ABN 31 083 456 700  
PO Box 115, LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478  
Telephone :( 02) 6687 7380  
Fax :( 02) 6687 6043  
E-mail: [lennoxsurfclub@bigpond.com](mailto:lennoxsurfclub@bigpond.com)  
Web [www.lennoxsurfclub](http://www.lennoxsurfclub)

20 November 2014

The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Paul,

**Re: Correspondence Regarding Lennox Head Surf Club Redevelopment**

Thank you for your letter (dated: 14 October 2014) outlining the consultation process with respect to the *Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement* project and request for the Lennox Head – Alstonville SLSC to provide feedback to the Complete Urban Report.

Your letter was tabled at the Club's monthly Management Committee meeting held on Monday 27 October 2014. At that meeting, consisting of 6-7 members that make up the Management Committee, it was resolved to respond in writing to your request and to note the fact that, due to the short time-frame and monthly meetings, the wishes and intentions of the general Surf Club membership have not yet been fully realised.

Notwithstanding, as previously noted, there is almost unanimous agreement in the community and within the Surf Club membership for the development of a new Surf Club building, and the Club thanks Council for its commitment to the process of obtaining a new building.

With respect to the entire Complete Urban report, we note that the re-development of the Clubhouse forms only a small part of the report, with the majority being concentrated on the south-eastern public reserve precinct of the lake and the eastern road through to the Sport & Recreation Camp.

Concern from the Club's Management Committee here is that our 500+ membership are likely to have a wide variety of views regarding different aspects of the surrounding elements of the report and as such we have declined to attempt to force the membership into one democratically decided stance on the proposal – rather, to suggest to members the lodgement of individual submissions with respect to the report in its entirety.



**LENNOX HEAD-ALSTONVILLE**  
**SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INCORPORATED**  
ABN 31 083 456 700  
PO Box 115, LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478  
Telephone :( 02) 6687 7380  
Fax :( 02) 6687 6043  
E-mail: [lennoxsurfclub@bigpond.com](mailto:lennoxsurfclub@bigpond.com)  
Web [www.lennoxsurfclub](http://www.lennoxsurfclub)

It is envisaged that a very large majority of submissions received to Council will advocate the construction of a new Surf Club, irrespective of opinion regarding the other ancillary elements of the report.

The Surf Club notes your request for the Club to acknowledge Council's preferred management model for a new surf club building. Again, due to time constraints and the variety of views likely to emanate from a 500+ strong volunteer organisation, through the Management Committee the Club respectfully declines from offering a single, stand-alone acceptance of this management model – preferring to continue dialogue with both Council and Club members with respect to this.

In summary, through its Management Committee, the Lennox Head SLSC is:

- Committed to continuing to canvass its individual members for their opinion regarding the possible re-development to a new Surf Club building
- Working with Council's designated Professional consultants to provide data on the fundamental requirements of Surf Life Saving with respect to building design, location, breakdown of area usage, functionality, etc.
- Engaging with Council staff with respect to providing positive feedback on the varied detailed components of the Lake Ainsworth Precinct as a whole

We take this opportunity to again thank Council for engaging the Surf Club and seeking our input on these matters of high importance for the continued successful operation of the Lennox Head – Alstonville Surf Life Saving Club.

Please contact me if you require further assistance.

Geoff Harris  
2014.15 President  
Lennox Head – Alstonville SLSC

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 December 2014 11:40 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Memo To GM re Eastern Lake Ainsworth plan of works  
**Attachments:** ATTACHMENT parts 2,3&4.docx

Hello Di, are you able to register and acknowledge

Thanks  
Sandra

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lyn Walker [<mailto:lynwalker@westnet.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 December 2014 10:55 AM  
**To:** Sandra Bailey  
**Subject:** Memo To GM re Eastern Lake Ainsworth plan of works

Memo to: Paul Hickey, General Manager

Dear Paul,

Please find attached part of the Attachment to the BES submission on the Council Preferred Option for the eastern side of Lake Ainsworth (the maps are too bulky to send by email, however Mr Truman and the Mayor received an almost identical copy at the B Ward meeting on 17th Nov and they are part of the BES submission attachment.).

The Attachment describes some of the problems with the Complete Urban Report and the Staff Reports to Ordinary meetings of Council.

I think that there are serious implications especially given that the whole rationale of the Complete Urban report Option 4 is based upon false information which the Report claims came from Council. As I know that Council received my evidence regarding the false statement it is hard to believe that the Report went to the public exhibition with it still there.

The Council meeting on 11th Dec is the last opportunity for staff to impart the information that will allow Councillors to make a decision based free of implications that maybe untrue.

Sincerely  
Lyn Walker  
Secretary, BES

## ATTACHMENT 1

### FOUR PROBLEMS WITH COMPLETE URBAN REPORT AND COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTION

1. ALL THREE MAPS PERPORTING TO SHOW ROAD OPTIONS FROM THE MASTER PLAN ARE INACCURATELY DRAWN
2. THE ARGUMENT FOR CHANGE TO MP ROAD OPTION 2 RESTS ENTIRELY ON THE UNSUSTAINABLE CLAIM THAT CROWN LANDS DID NOT SUPPORT OP 2 AT THE TIME OF THE HANDOVER OF THE CARAVAN PAR
3. COMPLETE URBAN CONSULTED ONLY WITH SPORT AND RECREATION ABOUT THE REHABILITATION OF THE EASTERN SIDE OF LAKE AINSWORTH
4. CU REPORT IS DEFICIENT IN SIGNIFICANT OTHER WAYS

### 2. CLAIM THAT CROWN DID NOT SUPPORT OP2 AT THE TIME OF HANDOVER OF CARAVAN PARK

#### CLAIM: 4.1 Staff Report : Agenda. Facilities Committee 18/6/2014 page 2 says

*This review is intended to advance the concepts established in the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Masterplan (hereafter the masterplan). This masterplan was adopted by Council in 2005, albeit that it was not adopted by the State Government, primarily as they did not support the preferred road layout options identified in the plan.*

#### Here is what CROWN wrote:

SOURCE 1 Ref GF 80 R 46 Baumann 30/10/2006

Further to our letter of 10 July 2009 I wish to emphasise the Department's stated position that Option 1 of the Master Plan is the Department's preferred option as it is considered as being in the best interest of both the overall reserve and the caravan park. We do not support Option 3 as the basis of the Master Plan. We acknowledge that Option 2 reflects the existing public road network and therefore could be considered as an alternative possible option.

SOURCE 2 David McPherson

Team Leader Environment

North Coast (my copy undated)

Regarding the proposed options for road access:

- The Department strongly supports Option 1 that relocates the road between the back of Barrett Drive and the Caravan Park. Further, the Department would be willing to concur to the acquisition of land to allow the opening of a public road in that location. The existing public road reserve could then be closed and added to the Reserve.

Should Option ;2 be selected by the Trust, it is important that provision of the other benefits provided by Option 1 outlined above be included and addressed in the implementation.

The Department does not support Option 3 for relocation of the road and would not concur to the acquisition of land to allow for the opening of a public road in that location through the Crown Reserve.

(Historical Note :

Op3 Adopted 2005 by Council

Op2 Adopted by Council 2006

Op2 approved by Crown 2007; Becomes the Masterplan 2007)

SOURCE 3 Email to LW from GM 24/6/2014

It is correct that Council has had varying correspondence from Crown Lands in respect to option two with correspondence from the Department of Lands dated 22 January 2007 confirming' that option two was an acceptable alternative to the previously adopted option three.

## **2. CLAIM THAT CROWN DID NOT SUPPORT OP2 AT THE TIME OF HANDOVER OF CARAVAN PARK CONTINUED**

SOURCE **Complete Urban Report Claims based on COUNCIL ADVICE**

Quote: 2.1 As part of our tender submission to Ballina Shire Council, COMPLETE undertook a review of the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Masterplan (14th October 2005) and specifically the Option 2 \_Road access through the middle of the Caravan Park. Following the confirmation from Council that this option was not supported by the Crown when they took over management of the caravan park COMPLETE has reviewed the masterplan road options again as part of this report. (pp 8 Complete Urban Stage 1 report Oct 2014)

AND

This option was not supported by the Crown when they took over the management of the caravan park. · (CU re MP Op 2.pp 11)

### **Here is what the CROWN actually negotiated**

SOURCE Karen Hembrow

It is proposed that on transfer, the area for the car park at Lake Ainsworth be made available as soon as required to facilitate its construction and that a Plan of Management under the Crown Lands be prepared in consultation with Council and the community to guide the development of the Holiday Park. A fundamental premise of the plan will be the option 2, central road corridor as provided in the Masterplan.

A consequence of this process will be a reduction in the availability of approximately 20 tourist sites and it is requested that Council consider a 2 year lease of its land on the corner of Ross St at a peppercorn rental to enable Holiday Park planning to be completed together with minimising the impact on available Tourism Sites.

LPMA is willing to facilitate the transfer as soon as possible as soon as confirmation of acceptance of the above terms is received.

Yours sincerely,  
Karen Hembrow  
Acting Regional Assistant  
NORTH COAST  
26 February 2010

### 3. COMPLETE URBAN CONSULTED ONLY WITH SPORT & REC Centre

#### SOURCE 2.2 (*P9 Stage 1 Report 2014*) *Complete Urban*

##### ROAD CONFIGURATION

Three options for a new road network to provide access were identified in the lake Ainsworth Crown Masterplan report.

In order to deal with these issues, each option proposed that the eastern road be closed thereby removing the access along the east side of the lake to the Department of Sport and Recreation facility at the north end of the lake.

COMPLETE have consulted with the Department of Sport and Recreation (David Taylor, former Centre Manager and Jason Dwyer, current Centre Manager) to establish the implications of closure of the Eastern Road on their operations.

Access to the Department of Sport and Recreation is currently provided from the south using the Eastern Road. The operational layout of the facility is based on access from the south. If an alternative access from the north were to be provided it would impact the Department's operations in the following ways:

- Longer route for service vehicles and entering at the wrong end of the site
- Longer route for emergency vehicles
  - Carpark is located at the south end of the facility
- Main functions located at the south end of the facility
- Western Road unsealed and poorly lit
  - Internal infrastructure including buildings, services, landscape are all established from the south end of the site
- Insufficient access within the site for large vehicles to approach from the north
- 2 access points are preferable for fire purposes
  - Increased security concerns if south end of site is closed
- There is no power at north end of site

There is a gate at the north end of the turnaround carpark that provides entry to the Department of Sport and Recreation for short and long term visitors, emergency vehicles and service vehicles. This gate is left open during normal times but electronically controlled from the administration of the centre. All parking requirements for the centre are catered for in the centre grounds. During peak times the gate has been closed to prevent unauthorised parking within the centre.

#### SOURCE COMMENTARY OF OTHER CLAIMS *From the records of Lyn Walker*

Claims of stakeholder consultation at the Oct 2013 meeting are not true. Only presentation and questions arising about requirements for the design of the surf club were permitted and therefore only surf club representatives could be said to have been consulted. An attempt to ask about the eastern precinct was deflected by a commitment from the Chair (David Spencer) to discuss this at the next meeting despite at least half of those present being there because of the east precinct. That next meeting did not occur. About half of the attendees at the meeting were there to discuss the eastern precinct thus it is true that we attended but also true we were not consulted.

The meeting of 3rd June 2014 held at the request of Council is more correctly called a presentation. Questions asked were for clarification not opinions about it or analyses of it as assumed in the subsequent staff report. There certainly was interest in the road options. But none were in a position to have studied it enough to give any opinion at the time. This meeting could not be reasonably said to be consultation.



Thus the change to the master plan recommendation is based on consultation with one stakeholder; hardly a reasonable basis for overturning the MP recommendation. The original MP was based on three separate consultations with 19 stakeholder groups representing local and statutory government bodies, business and industry, residents and ratepayers, caravan park users, community associations, environment groups and sporting and recreation groups

**Complete consulted only with SR. As a result it is not noted in CU that Master Plan Report and Council preferred options to close the east road did not accept similar argument from SR as discussed below. (Security gates not installed then)**

*SOURCE No Case for closing east road by Lyn Walker*

No adequate case is made against closing the east road of Lake Ainsworth. The arguments for an exclusive access road to the Sport and Recreation Centre(SR) made in the Complete Urban(CU) report either show no understanding of the existing Master Plan(MP) or are problems that S&R should solve themselves. I refute below (in bold) the arguments given by SR.

- **Facilities and car parking are in the south.** It would be a dangerous precedent for Council to take responsibility for the internal arrangements of SR particularly because neither Council nor the public have been consulted about them. SR were consulted for the MP.
- **Longer route for emergencies.** Not valid. MP allows emergency access along the eastern side via its 3m wide shared path proposal.
- **Western Rd unsealed and poorly lit.** MP proposes sealing the road. However, the road handles an increasing volume of traffic that has not adversely affected the environment. If Sport and Rec require it to be upgraded then S&R should pay for it.
- **Insufficient access from the site for larger vehicles to approach from the North.** When the east road is closed for long periods of time due to flooding there is no evidence that SR did not cope.
- **Two access points preferred for fire.** Not valid. Two access points are proposed in MP- the eastern shared path and the western road.
- **Increased security concern if south end is Closed.** Doesn't make sense as there is the possibility of electronic gate surveillance north and south.
- **There is no power at the north end.** It is S&P responsibility to put electricity there. What is available to the rental cottages on the north of the grounds?

On the facts SR will have costs and inconvenience from closing the east road access as will we all. MP reports argues the positives to come from east road closure. They are not repeated here.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Public Consultation - Lake Ainsworth  
**Attachments:** Bollards\_LookingEast.jpg; Bollards\_LookingWest.jpg; TreatedTimber.jpg  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Simon Jones [mailto:simon@financialsense.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:09 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Public Consultation - Lake Ainsworth  
**Importance:** High

With regard to Councils request for public feedback please see your “Key Issues” addressed below

- **Preferred road layout – should we maintain the eastern road access to Department of Sport and Recreation or close that access?**

### Feedback

The eastern access road should be maintain indefinitely. This road provides excellent access to the Lake for local residents and tourist and will ensure both pedestrian and vehicular access is not concentrated in to one general area of the lake, unlike the current options put forward.

- **Car parking – do you feel the car parking options proposed are satisfactory and if not what changes do you suggest?**

### Feedback

Can parking is not satisfactory at all.

Councils comments at page 2 of your Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvement brochure (October 2014) stated that “the loss of car parking along the eastern road is compensated in full”

Question 1. Does that included the car parking spots already lost when council erected treated timber logs adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Lake recently?

Question 2. Does that include the car parking spots lost when the Manager of the Lake Ainsworth Holiday park took it upon himself to move concrete bollards directly adjacent to the southern end of the lake? The author of this email witnessed said Manager undertake this exercise and I hereby inform the council of this alteration of the road related area and request confirmation that the bollards be moved back to their original position, thus reclaiming the original car parking spaces unless council car provide evidence that said alterations were undertaken legally and authorised by council and/or relevant authorities such as NSW Roads & Maritime. See attached “Bollard” photos:

Question 3. Does that include the loss of parking the extends well beyond the sealed road surface during peak holiday periods?

Question 4. Does council have detailed information on possible hazardous leakage from said treated timber into the lake from those timber erected;

- a. into the extremely porous soils around the perimeter of the lake and
- b. into the lake directly (see attached "Treated Timber" photo)

- **Is the range of recreational infrastructure such as the playground, viewing platform and pathways adequate and if not, what additions would you make?**

#### **Feedback**

The inherent attraction of the lake and its surrounds is due to its natural beauty. Something a non-local firm with metropolitan roots has clearly missed. I personally attend to squeaking swings within the Village area of Lennox Head with appropriate lubrication when my children play on them as this appears to be overlooked by council maintenance staff. Additional play equipment is not appropriate in my opinion.

- **Should Council be expending monies on confirming the design of the new surf club and then obtaining planning consent?**

#### **Feedback**

I would suggest attempting to re-furbish and maintain the existing structure for as long as practical and safe. Then, if local firms are utilised for design and construction, confirm designs etc.

- **What are your thoughts on the evaluation undertaken by Complete Urban Pty Ltd in their analysis of refurbishing the existing surf club as compared to building a new one? (their preferred option is a new facility)**

#### **Feedback**

It is clearly evident that Complete Urban Pty Ltd would have a conflict of interest with their preferred option of a new facility, given they would most likely tender for the works. That is very clear.

- **Are there any other items you would like to see included in the scope of works?**

#### **Feedback**

Local consultation with local engineering/planning firms would be a great start. You are not an outsourced council, you are a local council.

Best regards,

Simon Jones  
Adviser/Director  
FINANCIAL SENSE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD  
Australian Financial Services Licence No 340749  
Ph: 1300 668 191  
PO Box 413 Lennox Head NSW 2478

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#### **DISCLAIMER**











## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

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**From:** dion oakman [<mailto:dionsoakman@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 3:48 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

In my opinion many disadvantages of the proposal have been overlooked. Apart from the obvious loss of access to the east, ease of use, shaded areas and favourable protection from summer onshore winds. The southern side has little shade and summer north easterlies concentrate blue green algae both here and west.

I can see the reasons for improved lake health, yet the concentration of use to the south and west will surely increase greatly the stress on the lake shore, especially the western side that is shallow, hardly used and currently in a sound natural state (not to mention the bushland surrounding) and importantly has shade!

I wonder if in trying to preserve the lake it will go from a spread out use to a concentrated one that causes more damage than it can repair by regrowth etc.

Signage and education can be greatly improved where users can help protect and maintain its environment

and still use it instead of causing damage.

For instance I know youths that have in the past found it a fun practice to defecate in the lake! This is a fact.

Peoples mindsets need to change to one of conservation. Better signs, brochures, leaflets?

On the use of western road. The sealing of it will create a dangerous speedway! It's usually too rough for this but it does happen. It is also underused yet is at times a late night drinking party area with fires, broken bottles and rubbish.

What will it turn into with more people and further use of beach access.

Personally I would like the eastern road retained in some way and access to the camps around the western side if that

is a large traffic load. And keeping it an enjoyable amenity. I would also like the market to return as I can't see where it

caused damage compared to other uses. Most people don't frequent the market anymore it is in a crappy place. This area is a large part of the feel of the town.

Dion Oakman.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council  
<council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:25 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth Improvements

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [lucasandkaren@bigpond.com](mailto:lucasandkaren@bigpond.com) [<mailto:lucasandkaren@bigpond.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 3:19 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth Improvements

Regarding plans for the improvements to Lake Ainsworth these are my suggestions:

The existing eastern access road should remain open to allow the many people that enjoy Lake Ainsworth to continue to do so. Any parking areas considered by Council will not be adequate for most of the year and the Village streets will be congested with parked cars from people trying to enjoy Lake Ainsworth.

I see the evaluation of anything to do with the Surf Club as a total waste of money as nothing will be done for many years as the surf club is operational.

I see that the money being used on Lake Ainsworth can be used for better purposes such as upgrading the Swimming Pools without the rate payers having to pay extra monies.

I agree with Councillor Paul Worth when he says that the damage done to Lake Ainsworth in the past has stopped and the damage has been rectified. Any changes to Lake Ainsworth and surrounds will be at the detriment of the ratepayers and visitors to Ballina Council area.

Yours Sincerely: Lucas Mackenzie  
2 William Place  
Lennox Head  
0417 335292



## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:36 PM  
**Subject:** FW: LAKE AINSWORTH REVIEW

-----Original Message-----

From: Darron Brown [<mailto:darron.brown@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Friday, 21 November 2014 4:30 PM  
To: Ballina Shire Council  
Subject: LAKE AINSWORTH REVIEW

As a rating paying resident of Lennox Head we object to the preferred option that has been presented by Ballina Shire Council.

We find the proposal conflicting. It is being presented to the community as a means of preserving the lake by limiting access to certain areas but increasing facilities to attract and cater for visitors. The proposal put forward by Complete Urban include building a platform, playground facilities, formalised parking, pathways, moving roads etc, though all this surely has a detrimental impact on the lake and the local community with heavy machinery being brought in to make the unnecessary changes.

Eastern road access:

We believe if the Eastern road access is retained then it should be open to all to use not just the sport & Recreation Centre. Surely drainage work east of the road can be carried out without the community being penalised.

Car Parking:

The Lake car parking has worked for many years as it is.

Recreation infrastructure:

This we strongly oppose.

The lake is a beautiful natural environment that has been enjoyed by family and friends coming together for socialising for many years without needing viewing platforms, pathways and playgrounds to ruin the natural ascetics. Families and friends come to Lake Ainsworth for how it is. The Lake in its present form allows for family interaction through water play. A playground does not fit in to the Look of the Lake surrounds. This concept is a totally unnecessary and a waste of money.

The Surf Club:

The surf club is in need of redesign & replacing, though we feel it would be best to leave it in its current position using the existing footprint.

Complete Urban Pty Ltd:

It's disappointing that a Gold Coast company was used for this proposal. They appear to be out of touch with the community of Lennox Head and what makes it unique.

Maybe limiting the access to the sport & recreation centre for heavy vehicles such as buses and delivery vehicles might need to be considered.

The sport & recreation centre also uses a number of powered watercraft in the Lake, this also might be looked at when concerned with maintaining the health of the Lake.

Sincerely

Kathryn & Darron Brown  
66a Gibbon Street  
Lennox Head NSW 2478

Sent from my iPad

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 5:00 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

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**From:** Sharron Short [mailto:sharronmt Tyler@yahoo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 November 2014 4:39 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

Lake Ainsworth

Unfortunately, I have just seen that there is a time limit allocated to submitting letters regarding the Lake Ainsworth so I will send this, in haste, and try to write something more substantial later in the hope that the content may be addressed.

Having read a rather condensed version of proposals, I would like to tender some comments.

1. Why is there such a desperate need to disturb the lake? It is a beautiful, **natural** attraction. Why do you wish to desecrate it with concrete (paths), bitumen (new roads and parking bays), playgrounds. If it is absolutely necessary, the only thing, it seems to me, that needs to be done is to ensure the quality of the water in the lake. **Surely, protection of the lake is the major concern, not desecration.**
2. Being able to use the lake, is a bonus. Why do you wish to attract more people there? Already there are many people who revisit the lake, especially people from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, as well as newcomers. Numbers increase each year. Already we get much of the overflow of Byron Bay, as well. What is the necessity for all the new facilities you propose? The tower went! A new playground is absolutely unnecessary. Add to that the fact that, no doubt, its upkeep is going to involve an increase in insurance premiums. The lake already attracts many, many tourists.
3. In the proposed estimate you have listed new paths, playground equipment, exercise stations, BBQ and picnic shelters, roadworks and car parking. The proposed cost of the playground, etc. (\$264,000), new paths (\$222,000) and roadworks (\$600,000) is horrifying, exorbitant. All this at a time when you are trying to get people to agree to a rate rise!! Do nothing but the absolute necessary to ensure the protection of the lake.
4. Is there some reason for wanting to open up the western road? As soon as you seal it, there will be increased numbers of people attacking the lake from the much less visited area. No doubt removal of trees and other vegetation will be necessitated. Is there to be real estate development on that side of the lake so that the improved, sealed road will provide access?

5. Why would you shut down the Lennox markets by the side of the lake, supposedly to discourage people from polluting the lake, and then actively encourage more people to visit by building playgrounds, etc. You do not need swings at an attraction such as this. There are playgrounds where the equipment provides physical activity since there aren't other activities possible. At the lake you can swim and undertake other physical activities such as boating. When the markets were on, the lake area was cleaner the next day than most other days of the month. I frequent the lake and am often astounded by the rubbish left behind, especially on weekends and during holidays.
6. Employ a ranger exclusively for the lake area or utilise more effectively those you have. Have that person check that people are not desecrating the lake and the area around it. Perhaps there would be an opportunity for part-timers to patrol the lake at particular times of the day. There is a row-boat (tinny size) on the western side of the lake which has been there well over a year, if not longer, reasonably well hidden but it wouldn't be if there was a ranger frequently patrolling the lake on foot. Despite signs all over the place, there are still people who have dogs on the beach area around the lake and in the water. A ranger would help here. Throwing waste into the water and on the ground surrounding the lake would be reduced with a more evident ranger.

There is so much wastage of money. In this case, except for improvements to the lake's welfare, the money seems unwarranted. If you were able to look at Council's expenditure as your own money, minus a few zeros, perhaps that may help when considering what to do. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. It is the **condition of the lake** that is of paramount importance so, **first and foremost, the lake needs to be protected. It is a natural attraction. It does not need unnatural attention**, cosmetic surgery. Its preservation as a healthy, beautiful place for locals and visitors to use is paramount. Please don't deface it with all these unnecessary additions.

In haste.

Sharron Short

Shaun Eastment  
60 Survey St  
Lennox Head 2478  
21 November 2014

**General Manager**  
**Ballina Shire Council**  
**[council@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@ballina.nsw.gov.au)**

Dear sir,

As a member of both the Lennox Head Resident's Association and Lennox Head Landcare I have had many opportunities to acquaint myself with the Lake Processes Study 1996, the Independent Inquiry Into Coastal Lakes 2002, the Management Plan of 2002, the Master Plan of 2005 and the processes followed to achieve each of these plans.

With a background in the chemical and geological sciences I am able to analyse the strategies used to gather and assess the data that has informed these reports and follow the rationale for the recommendations given as a result.

Whilst none of these documents is as current as the Complete Urban Report, they are based on sound data gathering techniques and assessment. That, however, is not what I would say about the Complete Urban report when it comes to assessing the closure of the eastern road. They carried out no community consultation with regard to the lake itself. The one and only consultative gathering was restricted to surf club issues. At the last minute, after prompting by Council staff, a presentation of the draft report was held for community interested in the proposals for the lake but most definitely no consultation took place. Complete Urban it seems, have suggested abandoning road option 2 (Master Plan 2005) on the basis of (a) consultation with the Department of Sport & Recreation (b) "confirmation from Council that this option was not supported by the Crown when they took over management of the caravan park" (This perspective on the Crown's position is still a matter of dispute in the community). There is no rationale given for granting apparent priority to these stakeholders over all others consulted in the Master Plan process.

Given all of the above I am of the opinion that the best way to enhance the health of the lake is to:

- Close the eastern road to all traffic bar service and emergency vehicles.
- Reconstruct the road with a permeable and natural looking surface and a permeable road base which will increase the area of riparian zone able to absorb and filter rainwater
- Keep the lake foreshores and edges as natural as possible without hard surface paths cutting through them. If there is concern about the durability of a grass surface to drought and/or foot traffic then there needs to be consultation with

people with expertise in this area as to the best grass to use or, if necessary use of permeable grass pavers.

- Refrain from spending money on facilities which would increase the number of reasons for people to visit the lake area.
- Ban dogs from the public spaces around the lake. Notices have not been effective in convincing dog owners that it is important to keep their pets from swimming in the lake nor to keep this area clean of dog faeces, as we have all witnessed frequently.
- Construct all new parking spaces using grass pavers or a similar permeable surface.
- Ensure that all swales are designed to cope with the predicted peak rainfall conditions of our local area. The existing attractions it has to offer are threatening to harm the lake through overuse. As well as this, we need to spread our recreational attractions around the local area as much as possible to help reduce bottlenecks of traffic and parking and reduce potential conflict between the needs of a range of uses.
- Use strategically located signage to attract people's attention and educate them re the reasons this lake is special, the extra care it needs from its visitors and the reasons for taking that extra care. To achieve its purpose this signage needs to be carefully designed to attract attention, be aesthetic and communicate a few simple messages as simply and clearly as possible.

The proposed drainage plans seem well thought out at the concept stage; the test of their effectiveness will of course be in the quality of their design and construction.

Yours sincerely  
Shaun Eastment

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 November 2014 7:46 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

**From:** Georgina Wilde [<mailto:georgie.wilde12@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 November 2014 11:45 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

Dear Council Staff,

I am concerned for the health of Lake Ainsworth, which is a beautiful place to swim. The proposed road closure on the eastern side is only going to be effective, if it is closed to all traffic. The Sports and Rec Centre can be accessed from the western road.

If the road is only closed to some traffic, I would vote for leaving the road open to allow access to the dog beach. I walk my dog there most mornings and I doubt that there would be enough parking near the surf club to accomodate dog walkers as well as swimmers.

Moving the dog walking further north would be a great inconvenience, as it is much further and would not be accessible for people walking from their homes.

The health of the Lake is also dependent on sufficient rain and aeration; maybe Ballina Council can aerate the water more often to keep it moving; stagnant water is always in danger of deteriorating in its quality.

Kind regards,

Georgina Wilde  
19 Fig Tree Hill Drive  
Lennox Head

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Janeane Burke <janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 November 2014 2:38 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Ainsworth

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**From:** Judith Haggard [<mailto:judehag@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 November 2014 12:36 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Lake Ainsworth

**To - Ballina Council**

**From - Judith A. Haggard**  
3/53 Gibbon Street  
Lennox Head 2478

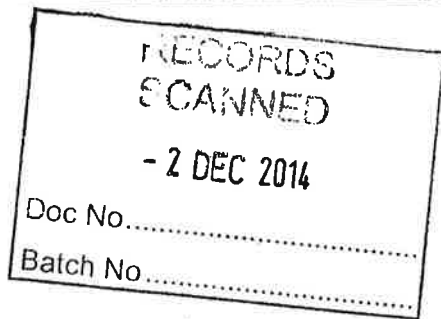
**Re Lake Ainsworth**

Please be aware that the health and the future of the lake hinge on the removal of the eastern roadway. All other factors depend on having a viable lake and immediate surrounds. I am aware that you received expert advice about the necessity of closing this road and therefore ask you to close it to all vehicles and fix up the western road for use. If this is not done the lake will suffer and so will Lennox Head.

Thank you for your attention.

Judith Haggard





12 Warrawee Dr  
Lennox Head 2478  
28 November 2014

Public Consultation on Lake Ainsworth Management

Dear Sir

We write to express our concern at the proposal to preclude the general public from using the eastern access road to the Sports and Recreation Centre as part of efforts to improve the environmental health of the Lake.

The need to enhance the water quality of the Lake is acknowledged. There is also an equally important need to maintain one very special attribute of the Lake, namely the ability of users to disperse along the Lake edge. Maintaining easy access is very important to a range of users including;

- . picknickers with heavy belongings
- . families with children and their associated water toys etc
- . aged people who have difficulty walking long distances
- . people with sail craft and other heavy water sports equipment.

By virtually closing the access road to the public, the above activities are severely compromised. The effect will be to concentrate Lake users to areas closest to parking, increasing congestion both in and out of the water. The experience of swimming in a quiet spot of your own choosing will be lost, which is a very important part of the Lake's current appeal. Parents and the aged, in particular, will struggle to transport themselves and/or their many and varied belongings, to places they have enjoyed and have had convenient access to for many years.

We would also question the extent of environmental gains by merely restricting traffic on the eastern access road.

It is unfortunate in today's society that the interests of people are often subjugated to the interests of the environment and we end up losers as a community. From our discussions with fellow users of the Lake, all would keenly feel the loss of the amenity the Access road has provided over many years.

We appeal to the engineers, planners and decision makers to review the current proposal with a view to retaining the eastern access road and seeking further avenues to ameliorate environmental impacts of its continued public use. To restrict access as planned would be a serious loss to locals and tourists alike.

Yours sincerely

  
Hilda and Wally Carter

RECORDS  
SCANNED

30 APR 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

**Ian Gordon**  
**22 Stewart St**  
**Lennox Head**  
**NSW 2478**

**29/04/14**

**Ballina Shire Council.**

**To whom it may concern,**

**I would like to state my disapproval that the eastern side of Lake Ainswoth road way is planed to be closed to traffic, I find it quite unbelievable that this causes a problem of erosion?**

**I use this road way often by car taking my dog for a walk as well as accessing the lake from this point. All I can see is a bottle neck of traffic and in busy summer season absolute chaos.**

**I think this side of the lake should be maintained for traffic and parking, left the way it is at present.**

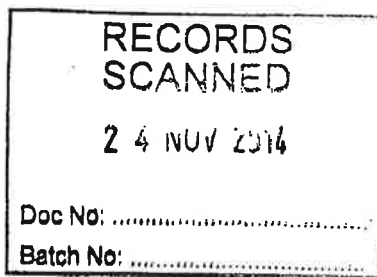
**I don't see closing the road way as a sensible move, rather better maintenance a more realistic long term solution.**

**Yours faithfully**



**Ian Gordon**

PO Box 154  
Lennox Head  
NSW 2478  
Telephone 02 66874055  
Email [rufusmr@bigpond.com](mailto:rufusmr@bigpond.com)



Ballina Shire Council President  
Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450,  
Ballina, NSW 2478

Dear Sir

**Submission on Proposed Lake Ainsworth Infrastructure Improvements**

We believe Lake Ainsworth and surrounds should be maintained and enhanced as far as possible to retain its natural state with any infrastructure improvements designed and implemented with that in mind.

The Lake is currently suffering from pollutants either indirectly entering the lake with surface runoff water or directly with both humans and animals swimming in the lake waters. The lake and surrounds should retain and encourage only passive activities.

We support the following actions to achieve the above, in no order of importance.

**1. ROADING**

The complete closure and removal of the sealed roadway on the Eastern side of the Lake, currently used as access by Sport & Rec. The construction of a new sealed road on the Western side of the Lake to provide new access to Sport & Rec.

**2. CONTROL OF CONTAMINATED/POLLUTED SURFACE RUNOFF WATER**

Construct a system of graded, vegetated diversion banks within the Lake catchment to collect polluted surface runoff water away from the Lake waters. This may require a system of sumps and pump outs if gravity flow is not possible.

**3. RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Passive recreational activities (swimming, picnics, relaxing around the Lake foreshore) to be encouraged by providing more barbecues, tables/seats. We see no need for playground equipment, jetties or viewing platforms as suggested by the Consultants. Pathways to be kept to a minimum with permeable surface construction. Vegetative plantings and grassing specific areas will help to provide areas for relaxing.

**4. CAR PARKING**

There will never be enough car parking but if it is decided to increase areas then develop them to the South of the Caravan Park, but not on the dunal system.

**5. LOCATION OF THE SURF CLUBHOUSE**

The current Surf Clubhouse has recently been renovated at great expense and should be left alone.

The Clubhouse is located in the centreline of the dunal system (Coastal Hazard Zone) and was designed on concrete sled runners so that if necessary could be pulled away from the current site. If Council had shown any sort of vision

then the ideal location for any new Clubhouse would have been behind the dunal system, on the Community land they sold to the Caravan Park!!!! Opportunity lost!!!!???

#### **6. EASTERN LAKE FORESHORE**

After the current sealed access road to the Sport & Rec. is removed from the eastern side of the lake then a revegetation plan will need to be prepared for the area including the removal of the overhead power line. The power line needs to go underground. Clearing for the existing overhead line has caused the debauchery/vandalism of the coastal tree and shrub association which is part of the dunal complex. In the plan catch drains will be required to be integrated with absorbent surfaced access tracks linking the picnic areas. It is expected that traffic along this strip will be substantial.

The access to the 7 mile beach for dogs on leads should be on the northern end of the Surf Clubhouse.

#### **7. SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITY**

The above facility does not have a mortgage on Lake Ainsworth and as such should play its part in mitigating pollutants from leaving their urbanised site and entering the waters of the lake.



Jan & Don Manson  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2014

RECORDS  
SCANNED

24 NOV 2014

Doc No: .....

Batch No: .....

48 Barrett Dr  
Lennox Head

21 Nov 2014-11-21

The General Manager  
Ballina Shire Council  
Cherry St  
Ballina

**Submission relating to Complete Urban Concept Plan for Lake  
Ainsworth**

Option 4 is a plan for the past not the future.

I support the original brief that Council put out to tender which made the health of the lake a priority by requiring that the designs for the eastern side of the lake understand and incorporate "the works detailed in the master plan".

I believe that the switch to a Sport and Recreation oriented road plan will not be in the best interests of the health of the lake nor of the public recreational space. It is based upon misunderstanding the masterplan.

I support the submissions on this project made by Ballina Environment Society and the Lennox Head Residents Association.

In particular I strongly endorse the support of these two groups for completely removing the eastern road and Option 2 of the masterplan to use the road reserve through the caravan park and to reject tying the latter to sealing the western road.

Both that the benefits of Option 2 for the road to the north have not been spelled out well to the public during the current public exhibition period and the serious errors in the Complete Urban report require a withdrawal of that document and a new start.

However, the restoration of the eastern side of the lake is of such importance and urgency I accept proceeding at the moment.

The urgency doesn't just relate to the health of the lake. It is also because a sense of injustice prevails in the community (see equity as a constant issue in the LHRA submission about community responses) both about delays in implementing reforms having removed the markets - necessarily - some time ago and the now preferred option giving Sport and Recreation Centre exclusive use over scarce community space.

I think the new road option 4 is unlikely to work for S&R or for public amenity and ultimately for the best health of the lake.

Visually and actually it will divide a 5m wedge all the way along the eastern side in a way that the present road, for all its faults, did not.

The division will reduce actual usable public space, will have to use far more space than the concept plan shows because a maintenance track will be needed

for access to the toilet block, general maintenance, tree care – hopefully not electricity maintenance unless of course putting the powerlines underground is still not achieved – and a turn around for the vehicles there.

An isolated road through the width of recreational area will increase the vehicle people interaction. If close to the dunes, as it is likely to be in some narrow places, or too close to the lake edge if not, the public is likely to find access to the shady areas along the inside of the dunes too difficult and unattractive. The south east corner will become even more congested.

Option 4 presents a potential risk to lake and dunes.

It is not for nothing that the NSW guidelines for road building near sensitive water areas are for 40metres away from the banks and if not possible 20m away. The eastern side does not have the luxury of twenty let alone the desirable forty metres. A new road there would not now be permitted.

A new road will not solve some of the problems for the lake presented by the present road. The road may be built using the best possible formula but a formula is only as good as the input data. We do not have adequate data about this particular lake. Its processes are very different from the experience of most road designers. The data is incomplete as the Process Study willingly admits. Climate change will influence the data in ways we don't know. We know also that the dunes present particular problems.

The road height will most likely not be enough to prevent flooding.

All riparian runoff on the western side of the road will have a slope towards the lake as a result of an elevated western side of the proposed road, which in places will not have sufficient distance to be filtered before entering the lake. We will not have a second chance if things go wrong as say with building the LHCCC. or the coastal path south of Shelly Beach.

Some specific points are:

Under no circumstances should Ballina Shire rate payers be required to pay for Option4 road plan for the eastern road or the western road sealing. If Sport and Rec consider it to be essential at this time then it should pay for it to be done now. I commend Council for having this Intention.

I support moving the surf club south on the condition that the dunes at the present site are rehabilitated and dune protection is given to the new site.

I support extending the off lead dog area south to within fifty metres of the access track on the northern boundary of the present surf club or fifty metres from the flags or at the track itself should/when the surf club moves south. I have never owned a dog myself but I know the importance of well socialised dogs to human health and especially to the elderly and unwell. This proposal will allow dogs to be banned from the lake surrounds altogether and rangers should rigorously enforce the ban.

Sincerely,

  
Dr Lyn Walker