

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

*Members*

Mayor Cr Phillip Silver  
Cr Peter Moore  
Cr Sharon Cadwallader  
Sheila Aveling           Tintenbar School of Arts  
Ian Duncan               Newrybar  
Louise Owen             Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce  
Fran Byrne              Ballina Coastcare  
Lyn Walker               Ballina Environment Society  
Fred Goodman           Lennox Head Residents Association  
Darel Vidler             Lennox Combined Sports Association  
Graham Shaw            Lennox Lions  
Malcolm Milner         Lennox Head Landcare  
Berenice Roberts        Southern Cross K-12 School

*Council Staff*

Jillian Pratten  
John Truman  
Steve Barnier  
Paul Hickey (Chair)

*Apologies*

Cr Jeff Johnson

*Observers*

Paul Jones  
Brian Smith

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

**3. Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved**                   (Sheila Aveling / Fred Goodman)

That the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 16 May 2011 be taken as read and confirmed.

**4. Deputations**

Paul Jones – Spoke about the new railing installed on the shared path between the surfers carpark and Dress Circle Drive, Lennox Head and the lack of empathy of the design of both the railing and the shared path with the natural environment.

Brian Smith – Spoke regarding issues relating to Lake Ainsworth. Brian provided a written submission that is included with these Minutes.

**5. Outstanding Business**

(a) Earth Mound Removal - Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park

Information noted. Reference was made to previous information provided to the Committee on this matter.

(b) Additional Sporting Fields for Lennox Head

Information noted. No timing able to be given to commencement of works.

(c) Ian Avenue, Lennox Head - Parking Prohibition

Information received.

**Resolved (Lyn Walker / Fred Goodman)**

That Council pursue the installation of no parking signs on the northern side of Ian Avenue.

(d) Strategic Road Planning for Lennox Head area

John Truman Civil Services Group Manager provided an overview of the strategic road planning for Lennox Head.

(e) Alleged Sampson Post - Angels Beach

Information noted.

**6. Items raised by members of the Committee**

**Ballina Coast Care Inc.**

Shaws Bay Escarpment

A late report by staff was distributed to the meeting and is attached to the Minutes.

**Lennox Head Residents Association**

Handrail on Shared Pathway at Lennox Head

Committee was advised that the Coastal Walkway path which is proposed to extend south from Pat Morton Lookout to Flat Rock is to be constructed to the same standards as used by National Park & Wildlife Service in its parks and reserves for walking tracks.

Concerns were again expressed over the current design of the shared path from Pat Morton to Lennox Head.

**Resolved (Fred Goodman / Louise Owen)**

That Council not proceed with any further hand railing on the shared path and that an alternative solution for safety purposes be sought if required.

(This matter is the subject of a report to the July Ordinary Council meeting)

**Resolved (Malcolm Milner / Louise Owen)**

That Council place a greater emphasis on landscaping and empathy with the environment in respect to providing public infrastructure in environmentally sensitive areas which will then ensure outcomes that are more sympathetic with that environment.

**Knockrow Newrybar Residents Group**

Newrybar Village Plan

Ian Duncan thanked John Truman for his assistance with a number of issues and with the provision of information for the preparation of the village plan.

**Resolved (Ian Duncan / Louise Owen)**

That B Ward Committee supports the Newrybar residents in their endeavour to produce a master plan for the village. This plan to be developed in consultation with Council and including signage, landscaping, traffic flows and parking, Council owned buildings and other infrastructure as required.

This plan is to be presented to Council for consideration in the 2012/2013 budget.

**7. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The Committee noted the documents that have been recently exhibited for public comment.

**8. Business Without Notice**

Lennox Head Landcare – Malcolm Milner

Asked why the dog sign at Seven Mile Beach had not been removed. The matter is to be followed up with Kerrie Watts as staff had previously been advised to have it removed.

**Action:** Kerrie Watts to advise where the removal of this signage is up to.

Ballina Environment Society – Lyn Walker

Shaws Bay Plan of Management is out of date and needs to be reviewed. Advised that this action is not on current Council works plan, however a report on the current status of the Plan of Management is being submitted to the July Ordinary Council meeting.

Newrybar – Ian Duncan

Again thanked John Truman for his assistance. Advised that they are planning to install a new verandah on the north side of the hall. Spoke about the need for the village plan.

Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce – Louise Owen

Noted Council had provided additional servicing and bins at the skate park.

Requested that Council install a bubbler near the skate park.

Asked about the alfresco dining fees. Was advised that Council had passed the fees as exhibited.

Advised that replacement of community group information boards was awaiting Council determination of a replacement signage theme.

**Action:** John Truman to follow up the installation of a bubbler at the skate park.

Lennox Head Lions Club – Graham Shaw

Advised that a group had been meeting to discuss Lake Ainsworth and endorsed the recommendations made by the group that were provided to Council by Brian Smith.

Graham requested that Camp Drew Road be graded due to its current poor condition. There are also pot holes on the eastern road.

**Action:** These matters will be followed up by John Truman.

**Resolved (Graham Shaw / Lyn Walker)**

That the eastern road at Lake Ainsworth be closed to vehicles while there is any flooding of the road.

Tintenbar School of Arts – Sheila Aveling

Requested the speed limit on Tintenbar Road be lowered to 80km/h. The road had been newly surfaced however the problem was still that the speed was too high. Advice was provided that this request should go to the Traffic Committee and this may already have been considered by the Committee.

**Action:** John Truman to follow up where this action is up to with the Traffic Committee.

Signage for Tintenbar Hall. The hall committee is still awaiting confirmation as to whether a DA was required or not. Requesting that the matter be followed up with Council staff as no response has been received to date.

**Action:** Rod Willis to provide response to Hall Committee on this matter

Lennox Head Combined Sports Association – Darel Vidler

Renovations to the Williams Reserve club house are nearing completion and the association is just awaiting the sign off by a Building Surveyor.

Next stage in the works is the internal changes which involve upgrading of toilets. They will be using Tursa work crew to assist with this work.

Problems are being encountered with youth accessing the top area and are looking at how to stop this.

Expressed concern over the installation of the current bollards and the location of the shared path on the eastern side of Williams Reserve.

Report on this issue being submitted to the July Ordinary meeting of Council.

Ballina Coast Care Inc– Fran Byrne

Advised that her group has received \$5,000 for additional bush regeneration works on the Shaws Bay Escarpment.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the B Ward Committee is scheduled for Monday 19 September 2011, at 4.30pm.

**MEETING CLOSURE**

6.55 pm

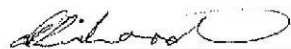
Report for Lennox Head Residents Assn Inc. Re Stabilising the Upper Level of Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head.

Problems Caused by High Water Levels in the Lake.

- (A) Eastern Road to the Fitness Camp and Dog Off-leash Track becomes inundated causing:-
- [1] If high enough causes diversion of traffic.
  - [2] Damage to the road surface.
  - [3] Erosion of the lake edge by killing grass which causes sandy soil to wash into the deeper areas of the Lake.
  - [4] Causes part or complete re-location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Markets.
  - [5] Unwanted chemicals leach from the road surface and exposed road base into the Lake waters.
  - [6] Services to the Fitness Camp – Water, Sewer and Telephone are located under the road - if damage occurs underwater rectifying it could be a very difficult and costly affair and could cause further pollution of the Lake waters.
- (B) Elsewhere:-
- [1] Killing grass cover on inundated areas around the Lake.
  - [2] Eroding the edges and washing the sand and soil into deeper areas of the Lake.
  - [3] Swamping park and picnic areas including picnic tables, fences etc.
  - [4] Damaging work that have been put in place to rectify previous depredations caused by high water levels i.e. retaining walls, walkways and steps.
  - [5] Eroding soil and sand from around the roots of established trees which causes growth problems and instability.
  - [6] The erosion that is caused moves sediments into the bed of the Lake and causes unwanted changes in the biological and chemical make up of the Lake's water.
  - [7] Compromises future planning for facilities around the Lake.

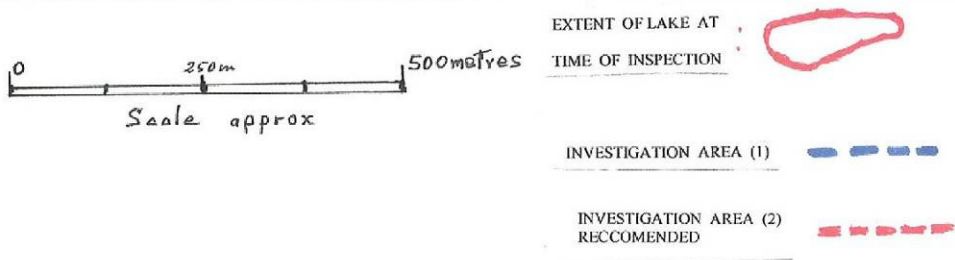
Investigation of Possible Solutions for Stabilising the Upper Level of the Lake. (See Map)

- (1) North western corner of the Lake where aerial surveying indicates an overflow waterway existed in the distant past and ran towards Camp Drewe.
- On ground investigation found that the present extent of the Lake is only about 40 metres from where this old waterway is now covered by the Camp Drewe Road. The old waterway continues on the other side of the road to the fire trail beside Camp Drewe. However to pipe overflow water from the Lake to this point and then down the fire trail to Birong Creek would need deep excavation on the trail and in the NW section of the Lake and considerable destruction of vegetation here and across Camp Drewe road to the fire trail. This possibility was then ruled out.
- (2) Pumping from the western side of the Lake to a header tank then under Camp Drewe Road then by gravity via pipes down the fire trail north of the Caravan Park to Birong Creek.
- This would require the establishment of an intake basin in the Lake, pipes and pump to a header tank on the lake side of the Camp Drewe Road. The water, by gravity feed, would be piped under the road, along the road verge to the fire trail, down the fire trail to an outlet basin on Birong Creek. This would not be very costly and would cause very little damage to the Lakeside or healthland vegetation.
- The cost to the community and the Lake environment caused by high water is quite high. The nuisance caused is very frustrating to the community. From memory we recall at least four partial or complete inundations of the eastern road during the last twelve years. One of these caused the road to be closed for about three months. With changing weather patterns these occurrences seem to be escalating. We recommend that the above suggestion be further investigated by Council. Our Committee is willing to provide more information and assist in any way with an investigation.

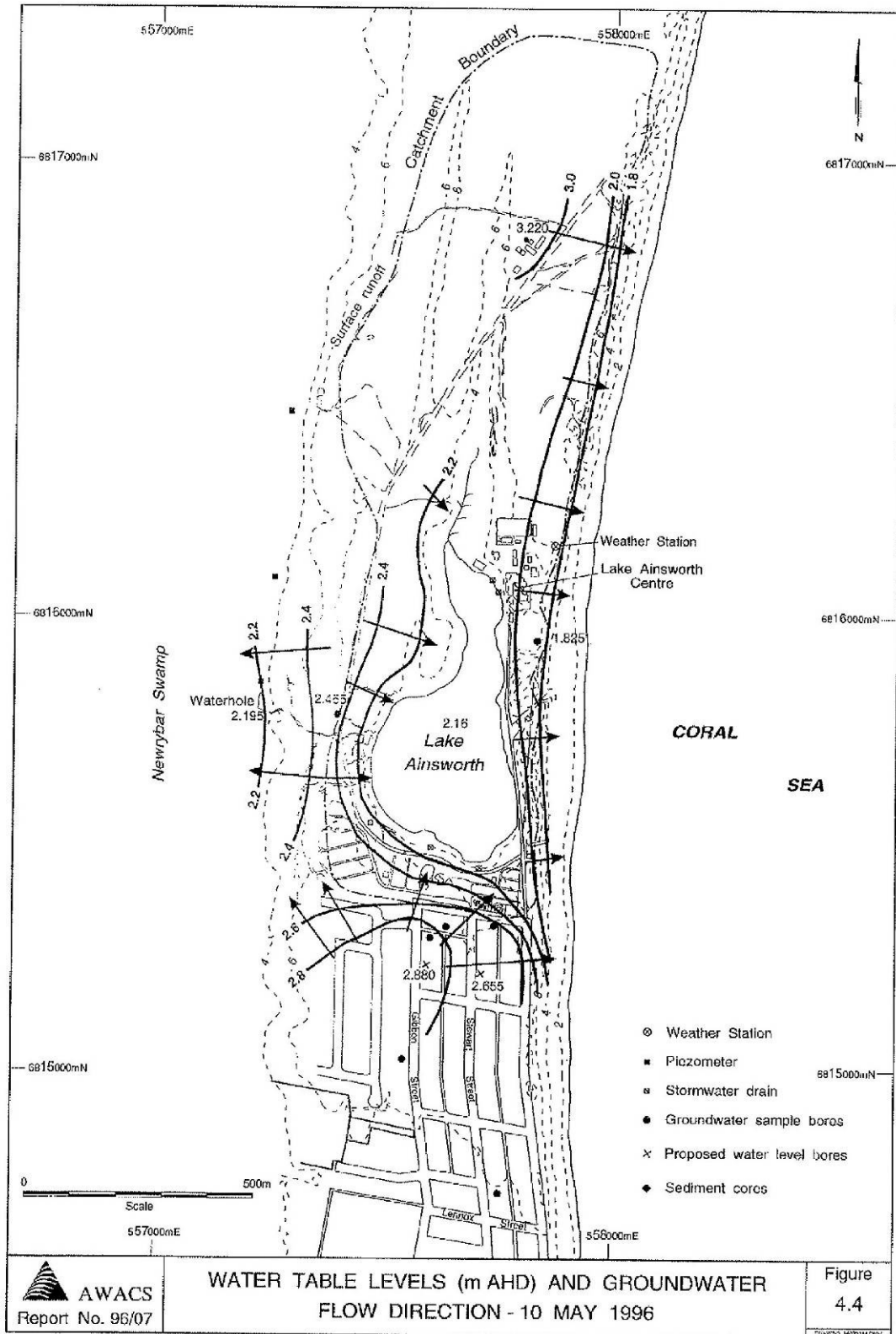


For Ross Richardson & Brian Smith

Lennox Head, New South Wales - Google Maps









### **Shaws Bay Escarpment - Erosion**

The Shaws Bay escarpment area was inspected and informal access tracks were found to generate from the top of the escarpment at Richmond Park (Council Community Land) Lot 1 DP 1152892 extending down the steep sand escarpment to the grassed area at the bottom of the escarpment on the Ballina Coastal Reserve Lot 529 DP729629.

There were a number of tracks found, however two tracks were found to be the primary tracks used. Judging from the tracks found on the paths the users include pedestrians, pushbikes and motorbikes.

The tracks contained some very steep sections with some very significant erosion cuts formed by the use at several locations causing much sand to be shifted down the escarpment. Many tree roots were exposed and rubbish that included wooden pallets, carpet and logs had been placed in locations to slow erosion.

Information from the public has identified that a commercial Boot Camp operator has been using the tracks.

Signage is in place at the top of the escarpment in Richmond Park and the bottom of the escarpment prohibiting motorbike usage.

Motorbikes using the Shaws Bay escarpment have been and continue to be targeted with assistance from Council's Rangers, Police and residents tipping off the Rangers and police when the motorbikes are onsite.

The area is also being used as a play area for kids and bikes for downhill runs.

One of the tracks is well used by pedestrians and possibly residents from the top of the escarpment area accessing Shaws Bay indicating a possible need for a formal walking track/stairs in that area.

### **Management Options**

#### Closure of track

Closing the track will be possible but hard to maintain as the users of the existing tracks may move their usage to adjacent steep areas and remove vegetation causing further erosion.

Signage restricting access should also be used along with information to educate the public on the damage being done and encourage them to use a suitable formalised access and to not use this eroding informal track.

Boot camps will be advised to stop operating at this location as they should not be operating on any sand dune areas as per their commercial activity license conditions.

#### Formalising a Path

Due to the steepness the construction of a track would require mostly steps with handrails. The existing winding track down the hill is approximately 120m long and is very steep passing under the canopy of littoral rainforest trees. To construct a path that meets the required construction and design standards the path may be longer and may require further vegetation clearing of littoral rainforest species to fit the track onsite.

A Review of Environmental Factors with complete flora, fauna and geotechnical assessment would be required for consent purposes prior to works beginning. Significant erosion control and

pier options would be required and to be structurally certified to meet the required Australian Standards.

Should a composite fibre and recycled plastic track be considered it could be raised off the ground with handrails and would minimise disturbance to the steep slope and vegetation. It is anticipated that a composite fibre and recycled plastic track would be costed at approximately \$300,000 including all assessments and engineering specifications, materials and installation. Composite fibre and recycled plastic steps would have low maintenance costs and have a lifespan well exceeding 50 years.

Should raised timber stairs with handrails be considered, it too could be constructed above ground minimising disturbance to the steep slope and vegetation. A timber track/stairs would be costed at approximately \$240,000 including design, materials and labour. Timber steps would have medium to high maintenance costs and have a lifespan of 15 - 30years. They would also be at risk from fire vandalism.

Should concrete stairs with handrails be considered, it would be anticipated that the track costs including labour would be approximately \$80,000 including approvals, materials and labour. The disturbance to the site and vegetation would be significant with the construction of a concrete stairs. Concrete construction would provide low maintenance and have a lifespan exceeding 50 years.

#### **Alternative Paths**

There are presently two other formalised and semi-constructed tracks leading up and down the Shaws Bay escarpment. One is to the west of the Lighthouse Beach SLSC site and the other opposite Shaws Bay adjacent to the Sandbar Café. Several other informal, less eroding, tracks exist at other locations along the escarpment that are infrequently used by residents.

#### **Recommendations**

Given the expense of all of the options to formalise a new path, the environmental impact of construction work, the level of usage of an additional path and along with the presence of existing tracks it is considered that the option of formalising a new path is unrealistic.

#### **Immediate Actions:**

- Close and rehabilitate the track accesses with fencing and signage.
- Advise boot camp operators they cannot use this site and must only use formalised accesses.
- Promote to the public the other formalised accesses on the escarpment via signage and education.
- Target motorbikes using the area with the assistance of residents, Council Rangers and the Police.