

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

An apology has been received from Sheila Aveling.

2. **Welcome to New Members**

Welcome to new members of the Committee - the Cumbalum East Community Precinct Steering Committee.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 15 July 2013 were distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the "B" Ward Committee held 15 July 2013 be taken as read and confirmed.

5. **Deputations**

6. **Outstanding Business**

(a) Williams Reserve – Tree Staking after Storm

At the last meeting Darel Vidler asked if staking of trees at Williams Reserve was necessary after the recent storm.

In response to this request, the trees have been staked.

(b) Community Event Signage – Tintenbar

At the last meeting Sheila Aveling asked where the sign posts for Tintenbar would be located.

Staff have undertaken site inspections at Tintenbar, and have sought Ms Aveling's feedback on two locations. The preferred location is on the corner Tintenbar Road and George Street (closest to Tintenbar General Store). As this location is in very close proximity to the Store, Council has written to the owners seeking their feedback on the proposed signs. The letter sent to Tintenbar General Store asks for feedback by 16 August 2013. After that time, subject to no objections, Council officers will install the signage infrastructure.

A site meeting was held with management of the Tintenbar General Store on 16 August 2013 to highlight the placement of the Community Event Signs at Tintenbar. Their response to this proposed location was not favourable. There has been no further communication since as Sheila Aveling is away.

c) Newrybar – Information Board

At the last meeting Ian Duncan suggested that an information board would be useful in providing the history of the village.

Staff advise that there are no funds available in the budget for an information sign at Newrybar.

Current Information Board locations include:

- 1) Visitor Information Centre (needed to comply with Visitor Centre Accreditation requirements)
- 2) Tamar Street Bus Interchange (public transport interchange)
- 3) Ross Park, Lennox Head (high traffic area)
- 4) Bicentennial Gardens (designated and signposted rest area for Ballina)
- 5) Ballina Bypass Truck rest area (high traffic area)
- 6) Freeborn Park, Alstonville (public transport interchange)

(d) Pat Morton Lookout – Lighting

Council's Environmental Scientist has supplied the following information:

Background

A member of the Ward B Committee, Malcolm Milner, representing Lennox Head Landcare, has expressed concern about new lights at the Pat Morton car park (18 March 2013). He is concerned about the effect of the lights on the surrounding environment and the impact on the aesthetics of the area. He believes the lights are too bright and inappropriate for the locality. The matter was referred to the Environmental Scientist for comment on environmental impacts.

Ian Gaskell, Environmental Scientist (20 May 2013) advised that from a cursory observation, the lights would not be having a substantial adverse impact on fauna. The committee (13/31568) further questioned the need for illumination of the area and asked for additional comment.

The 15 July 2013 meeting further requested that Cape Byron Marine Park Authority be asked for comment.

Inspection

I inspected the car park, lighting and immediate surrounds, in daylight, on 29 August 2013.

The two lights are angled to direct illumination towards the bitumen carpark (Photo 1), but doubtless illuminate a wider area and would be visible from a distance away.

The car park is located approximately 150m from the hightide mark. Mown grassed areas surround much of the car park, with a patch of planted/regenerating littoral rainforest species, including Coast Banksia just behind one of the lights (Photo 2).

Potential fauna impacts

As humans and most other animals have evolved in a light day/dark night 24 hour cycle, disruptions to the light environment can be detrimental to physiology and behaviour, with flow-on effects on community ecology.

Animals can experience increased orientation or disorientation from artificial lighting, potentially affecting foraging, reproduction, communication and other critical behaviours (Longcore and Rich 2004). Examples from the literature that may be relevant locally include:

- Insectivorous bats (including threatened species) feed on insects attracted to lights
- Fireflies rely on light for communication and attracting mates

Examples of fauna species known and likely at the headland include:

- Common Planigale (threatened). This small marsupial is nocturnal and carnivorous. It is likely to move away from artificial light (and stay under vegetation cover), as would some of its prey species (other small mammals) while some of the insects it preys on might be attracted to light
- Cane Toads – attracted to light and the insects that are also attracted (could be exploited with a trapping program)
- Common Blossom-bats (threatened) probably feed occasionally on the Coast Banksias close to the lights and are likely to avoid illuminated trees (no specific information available).

Summary

Impacts of artificial lighting on fauna are complex and difficult to predict. The car park location and surrounds are subject to other light intrusion (car headlights) and the recently installed lights use a design that limits light spillage.

The surrounds of the car park consist of regrowth and planted native vegetation of potentially high conservation value, though much is currently in the early stages of restoration development and separated from the car park by mown lawns. Increasing use of developing fauna habitat is likely and some fauna species would adapt to an artificial light environment on habitat edges to some extent.

Their assemblages and interactions would probably be less “natural” than a fauna community developing in an unlit environment.

Cape Byron Marine Park personnel will be best placed to comment on possible impacts on shore and marine species, though it seems that limited or perhaps no light would reach those environments.

It will always be worth looking for any opportunity to reduce, modify or remove unnecessary lighting, but substantial impacts on fauna are not likely at this location (as advised previously by Ian Gaskell, Environmental Scientist).

An accessible review is:

Longcore, T. And Rich, C., 2004. Ecological light pollution. *Front. Ecol. Environ.*, 2(4), 191-198.
http://www.researchgate.net/publication/221959079_Ecological_light_pollution/file/d912f4fe9e7491d151.pdf



Photo 1 Angled orientation of light



Photo 2 Lights at entrance to car park and between noticeboard and building in background

7. Business with Notice from Members

8. Council Documents on Exhibition

The following is a list of recent documents that have been placed on exhibition in the period since the last meeting.

- Planning Proposal BSCPP 13/004 – 60 Crane Street – closing date 2 August 2013
- Development Servicing Plans – closing date 30 August 2013
- EEO Policy and Management Plan – closing date 11 September 2013
- Commercial Activities on Public Land Policy – closing date 11 September 2013

9. Business Without Notice

This item provides an opportunity for updates and / or questions to be tabled by the members.

10. Next Meeting

Monday 18 November 2013