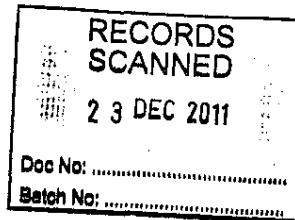




Department of
Primary Industries
Catchments & Lands

Our Ref: GF87R240/3

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



Attention: Mr Graham Plumb

Dear Mr Plumb

RE: Planning for Lake Ainsworth Recreation Reserve

I refer to your letters of 23 August and 12 October 2011 regarding the planning in place for Lake Ainsworth Recreation Reserve and Crown Lands position in relation to the access road through Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

Notwithstanding the recommendations of the *Lake Ainsworth Management Plan*, the *Ballina Coastal Reserve Plan of Management*, the *Redevelopment Strategy for Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park* and the *Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Master Plan*, the road through the Caravan Park remains a key issue for the Lake Ainsworth Recreation Reserve and the North Coast Accommodation Trust (NCAT) that is now responsible for managing the Caravan Park.

As you would be aware the former Department of Lands did not support the option in the Master Plan adopted by Council in 2006 which called for constructing the Council public road through the Caravan Park, nor, for that matter, did it support Option 3, which entailed modifying the existing vehicular corridor. The stated preference was for Option 1 which was considered to be in the best interest of the Crown estate.


The position remains that Crown Lands and NCAT do not want the Council road in the middle of the Caravan Park opened to traffic due to potential liability and public risk management issues in addition to the loss of amenity and other adverse impacts. Given the significance of the road issue to the future viability of the Caravan Park it is expected to be highlighted in a revised plan of management for the Caravan Park scheduled to commence in 2012. In the meantime the rationale underpinning the Department's preference for an alternative westerly route away from both the Caravan Park and the lakeshore is well-documented and remains unchanged.

Further to the above it is suggested that Council's review of the matter take into consideration the commitment of Crown Lands to review the *Ballina Coastal Reserve Plan of Management* as part of the proposed new Plan of Management for the *Ballina Coast Regional Crown Reserve (BCRCR)*. The broad scope of the RCR Plan of Management will provide an appropriate strategic platform for future management of the whole Lake Ainsworth precinct and Crown Lands will ensure the outstanding access issues are addressed as part of the planning process.

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Please don't hesitate to contact me on 02 6640 3401 should you require further details.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Baumann
Senior Natural Resource Management Project Officer, Grafton
Crown Lands – Far North Coast

21 December 2011