



Notice of Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Committee Room, Ballina on **Thursday 8 May 2014 at 2.00 pm**

Business

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce meeting held 15 April 2014 (attached).
3. General Business
 - (a) Meeting with Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc
 - (b) Dredging of North Creek
 - (c) Dredging – Ballina Boat Harbour
 - (d) Dredging of the Ballina Bar
 - (e) North Wall Breakwater – Raising the Crest
 - (f) Better Boating Program (BBP) Grants
 - (g) Marina Infrastructure
4. Business Without Notice
5. Next Meeting

Paul Hickey
General Manager

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

2. **Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 15 April 2014**

The Minutes from the meeting held Tuesday 15 April 2014 are attached.

Recommendation

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2014.

3. **General Business**

(a) Meeting with Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc

Attached is a copy of a letter received from the Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group, together with Council's response. Members of the Group will be attending this meeting to discuss matters with the Taskforce.

(b) Information from Norman Rogers (attached)

The attached information has been received from an interested resident, Norman Rogers. The Taskforce may wish to provide feedback on how Council should respond to the matters raised by Mr Rogers.

c) Dredging of North Creek

NSW Trade & Investment has advised that the Expression of Interest (EOI) for the opportunity to extract sand from North Creek at Ballina will be advertised on Monday 5 May 2014. The documents will be available on the Government's procurement website, eTender, at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au> and can be viewed from 5 May.

A copy of the documentation will be available at this meeting.

Council has previously resolved to submit a response and a key part of that response will be the royalty to be paid to the NSW State Government for any material removed from North Creek.

The Taskforce may wish to provide feedback on how this EOI process should be managed by Council.

d) Dredging – Ballina Boat Harbour

Update to be provided by Ballina Fishermen's Co-op.

e) Dredging of the Ballina Bar

No additional information available since the last meeting of the Taskforce.

f) North Wall Breakwater – Raising the Crest

Council's engineering staff have expressed concerns with respect to the type of works being proposed by the State Government. Correspondence between Council and the local member, Mr Don Page, is attached for information.

Even with the latest response from Mr Page there still remain concerns and the Council staff are continuing to investigate this to ensure that the works provide the optimum outcome for the community.

g) Better Boating Program (BBP) Grants

As previously advised Council has received funding under the BBP to construct a new boat ramp at Keith Hall Lane, a new car park at the Fishery Creek boat ramp and to complete a master plan for the Regatta Avenue precinct.

These works will be undertaken during 2014/15 and updates will be provided as the works progress.

h) Marina Infrastructure

Further to the representations at the last two Taskforce meetings from the MAIC and Mr Peter Marshall, Council is largely reliant on the State Government promoting this infrastructure as it is located on Crown Land. As yet there has been no feedback from the members of the MAIC who had indicated that they would be contacting Council.

4. Business Without Notice.

5. Next Meeting

**Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Tuesday 15 April 2014 at 1.00 pm**

Attendance

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Paul Worth, Ballina Shire Council
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative
Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Michael Cocks, Community Representative
Max Ryan, Community Representative
Greg Watt, Department of Premier and Cabinet (by phone)
Nadia Elliott-Burgess, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Peter Carmont, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
James Foster, Community Representative

1. Apologies

Garry Joblin, Ballina Professional Fishermen

2. Minutes from Dredging Taskforce Meeting held 13 March 2014

Noted.

3. General Business

- (a) **Max Ryan – Meeting with Peter Marshall and John Kelly to discuss Delivery of Marina Infrastructure.** Graeme McIlwain, Director of Cardnos was also present.

The discussions were noted.

- (b) **James Foster – release of regular hydro-graphic survey data to the local community to assist in boating safety**

The information was noted.

4. Business Without Notice

- (a) **Ballina Boatharbour – Soil Test Results**

The information was noted.

- 5. Next Meeting – Tuesday 8 May 2014 – 2.00 pm**

Meeting closure: 3.40 pm

31st March 2014

Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc

PO Box 335 Hermans Lane., Pimlico NSW 2478

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 2 APR 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

ATT : General Manager

Ballina Shire Council

CC : Ballina Councillors

Dear Sir / Madam,

In a recent information evening involving this club and other Angling groups within the shire, we were told of Ballina Shire Council intention to dredge North Creek in the not too distant future. This information came as a complete surprise to everyone attending the meeting and immediately raised serious concerns for the future of fish and fishing on the Richmond

Briefly, some background on why we are concerned

The evening was about the decline in fish stocks within the Richmond (both commercial take and recreational take) and possible reasons for this decline. Our guest speaker for the evening was Craig Copeland of the NSW Fisheries Conservation Action Unit. Although we all knew the importance of habitat for survival of juvenile fish and a continued healthy fishery, we were astonished to learn that two thirds of the Richmond's habitat has vanished over the past four decades due to various reasons he outlined on the evening.

North Creek is one of the few remaining key sensitive habitat areas to provide refuge and growth for multiple marine species, benthic organisms and of course juvenile finned fish.

To this end could you please respond to the following concerns raised on behalf of the Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group (RVAAG) and the Ballina Fishing Club.

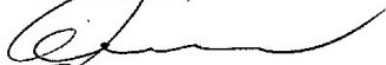
1. For what purpose does the dredging need to occur and what was the consultative process that led to this decision (we presume there was one)

2. We believe 'boating movements' in North Creek was one possible reason. Which boating group or organization approached council re dredging? Our records show that James Foster, consultant with GHD (engaged by council in 2005) recommended in his report regarding North Creek that this area be a 'retreat boating' type area for small tinnies, canoes etc given it's environmental sensitivity. Can you please confirm
3. What is the sediment type being targeted for dredging in the Creek and where is it located
4. Can you provide details to the writer of this submission exactly where you intend to carry out these dredging operations in North Creek and proximity to existing sea grass beds
5. Referencing your consultative process prior to making your decision to dredge, what will be the impact on benthic organisms, water quality and sea grass beds, all essential to supporting remaining fish life in the Richmond
6. Again, referencing your consultative planning process, how long do the engineers predict the post dredging profile to remain before the Creek reverts to its original profile?

In summary, we are sure that all councillors are aware of the fact that the Ballina business community will become increasingly dependent on the tourist trade and resultant income given that the town is now bypassed. A significant drawcard for many a visiting family (holiday or otherwise) has always been their ability to fish while staying here. As earlier stated, the Richmond fishery has been in decline and may soon start to impact on those folk who choose Ballina as their fishing/holiday destination.

Dependent on the extent and location of this proposed dredging, we have major concerns as to the sustainability and preservation of this remaining important habitat area given the already fragile state of the Richmond in general. We (RVAAG) would be happy to meet with council representatives to discuss

Yours Faithfully



LD
Lindsay Doust, President

Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group INC

335 Herman's Lane

Pimlico via Ballina NSW 2478

Email : lindsaydoust@bigpond.com

Phone : 0428 66 2611

enquiries refer

Paul Hickey

In reply please quote

14/21105 (1314-03)



4 April 2014

Lindsay Doust
President
Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc
lindsaydoust@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Doust

Re: Dredging – North Creek

In response to your letter dated 31 March 2014 I wish to advise as follows.

Council has expressed an interest with NSW Trade and Investment (Crown Lands) in respect to dredging North Creek, primarily in the area from Missingham Bridge to just north (or north west) of Prospect Bridge.

The reasons for Council's interest are three fold.

- Firstly to address the current silting of this area. Council is of the opinion that this is resulting in reduced or limited access for recreational boats.
- Secondly to reuse any sand removed as fill for Council works or for possible for on-sale.
- Thirdly to address any environmental issues that may be occurring due to the on-going narrowing of this waterway.

In respect to the process to dredge North Creek, Crown Lands has advised that prior to any dredging, they are required to call expressions of interest (EOI) for the licence.

Any interested party will be able to respond to that EOI process and Crown Lands will then assess all responses to determine whether they will provide a licence. The initial licence is a licence to investigate.

The investigation licence then allows the successful party to pursue all the necessary environmental and planning approvals that are required before any dredging can take place. The estimated expenditure to try and obtain these approvals can vary from \$50,000 to \$300,000, dependent on the level of analysis, research and modelling needed. If planning approval to dredge is then obtained, and there is no guarantee that an approval will be forthcoming, Crown Lands can then issue a licence to that party to operate the dredge.

The above process is extensive and could take many months, if not years. Therefore your comment that Council will be dredging in the "not too distant future" is incorrect and it may well not be Council at all who eventually dredges this location, assuming any dredging occurs.

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478

t 02 6686 4444 • f 02 6686 7035 • e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au • w ballina.nsw.gov.au

Page 2
Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc
4 April 2014

The following information now addresses the six points in your letter.

1. The purposes are outlined earlier. In respect to the consultative process, from my observation Councillors have had a number of people personally raise their concerns in respect to North Creek. The Council's Port Ballina Taskforce, which consists of Councillors and representatives from the Ballina Chamber of Commerce, the Ballina Fishermen's Co-op, Ballina Professional Fishermen, NSW Premier and Cabinet and private individuals have all supported this proposal.
2. There is no record of any "boating group or organisation" approaching Council. Rather there appears to have been private citizens communicating their concerns and the Councillors themselves, from their own experiences and observations, supporting this proposal.
3. Council has undertaken no research into this matter.
4. Only a broad area has been identified, as per the introduction to this letter, and the exact location will only be confirmed if planning approvals are obtained.
5. This issue will be considered as part of any planning approval process.
6. Council has undertaken no research into this matter.

It appears that your questions have been based on the assumption that Council will be shortly dredging this location. As per this correspondence there is an extensive process to be followed and all the various environmental, social and economic considerations will need to be assessed before any approval to operate is issued.

As it is still only very early in this process, rather than meeting with Councillors, I would encourage a member of your group to meet with representatives from the Port Ballina Taskforce, as this group is playing a lead role in helping Council seek improved marine outcomes for Ballina, both from an environmental and social perspective. If you are interested in meeting with this group please call Mrs Sandra Bailey on 6686 1273.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hickey
General Manager

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478
t 02 6686 4444 • f 02 6686 7035 • e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au • w ballina.nsw.gov.au



1 Brunswick St
Ballina
2478

Secretary,
Port of Ballina Taskforce.

Dear Sir/Ms,

Could you tell me if the Taskforce has given in depth and meaningful consideration to the suggestion for a permanent resolution of the problem of the bar at the river mouth put forward by the late Evans Paddon.

Yours faithfully.

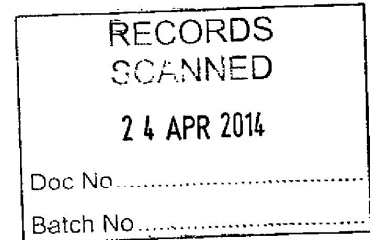
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N. Rogers".

Norman Rogers

31/03/14

1 Brunswick St
Ballina

Mr Paul Hickey,
General Manager,
Ballina Shire Council.



Dear Mr Hickey,

Port of Ballina 14/21720(1497-02)

When the Ballina Cruising Yacht Club was discussing problems with the entrance to the Richmond River a member mentioned a solution suggested by Evans Head professional fisherman (the late) Evans Paddon. In his younger days Paddon was a Single Sculls World Champion rower.

I was asked (as secretary) to contact Mr Paddon, seek his views, and report back to the next monthly meeting of the club. My recall of the substance of our conversation was as follows ...

1. Ballina has an excellent port.
2. Usage of the port is restricted by problems at the entrance to the river. Ideally mariners wishing to visit Ballina need to be able to enter the port at whatever time and under whatever sea conditions they arrive. Similarly they need to be able to leave port at the desired time. Neither condition can be guaranteed because of the vagaries at the entrance. (A flat bottomed naval vessel was detained in port for three days due to conditions at the bar).
3. Under adverse conditions entering the river with a following sea can be a hazardous exercise especially for sailing craft. With the majority of winds blowing from the south in bad weather use of the port is sensibly restricted. This is especially true for vessels wishing to seek shelter in bad weather.
4. There is a large fleet of recreational vessels on the Gold Coast whose owners could make the day trip to Ballina and stop over for a long weekend or so but are deterred for the above reasons.
5. Paddon believed that the entrance could be made permanently safe by extending the south wall easterly in a gentle curve to the north until opposite a line extended eastward from the north wall. He maintained that the inshore counter current which flows south to north combined with the outgoing river current during the ebb tide would keep the entrance permanently free from build up of sand.
6. He gave the geography of the entrance to the Hunter River at Newcastle as an example ... Nobby's Head serves the function of an extended south wall and creates an all weather port.
7. Vessels would then enter the river travelling south, parallel to the shore and head to wind ... a much safer manoeuvre especially for sailing craft.
8. In answer to the suggestion that a bar would form in a northerly direction from the end of the extended south wall Paddon maintained that the end of the extended wall would be in much deeper water than at present and the resulting turbulence would carry sand further north.

Paddon favoured testing his theory by an hydraulic model. When contacted the Southern Cross University lacked the necessary capability.

Yours faithfully,


Norman Rogers

17/04/2014

John Truman

Trim Ref: 14/15360, 14/16651

10 April 2014

Mr Don Page MP
PO Box 1018
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear Mr Page

Re: Raising the Crest of Ballina North Breakwater

Council has recently received a copy of the plans prepared to facilitate the project to raise the crest of the Ballina North Breakwater. I am writing to seek your review of these plans as we hold concerns that the outcomes proposed are not consistent with our understanding of the community expectations which were expressed so strongly following the recent upgrade works at this site.

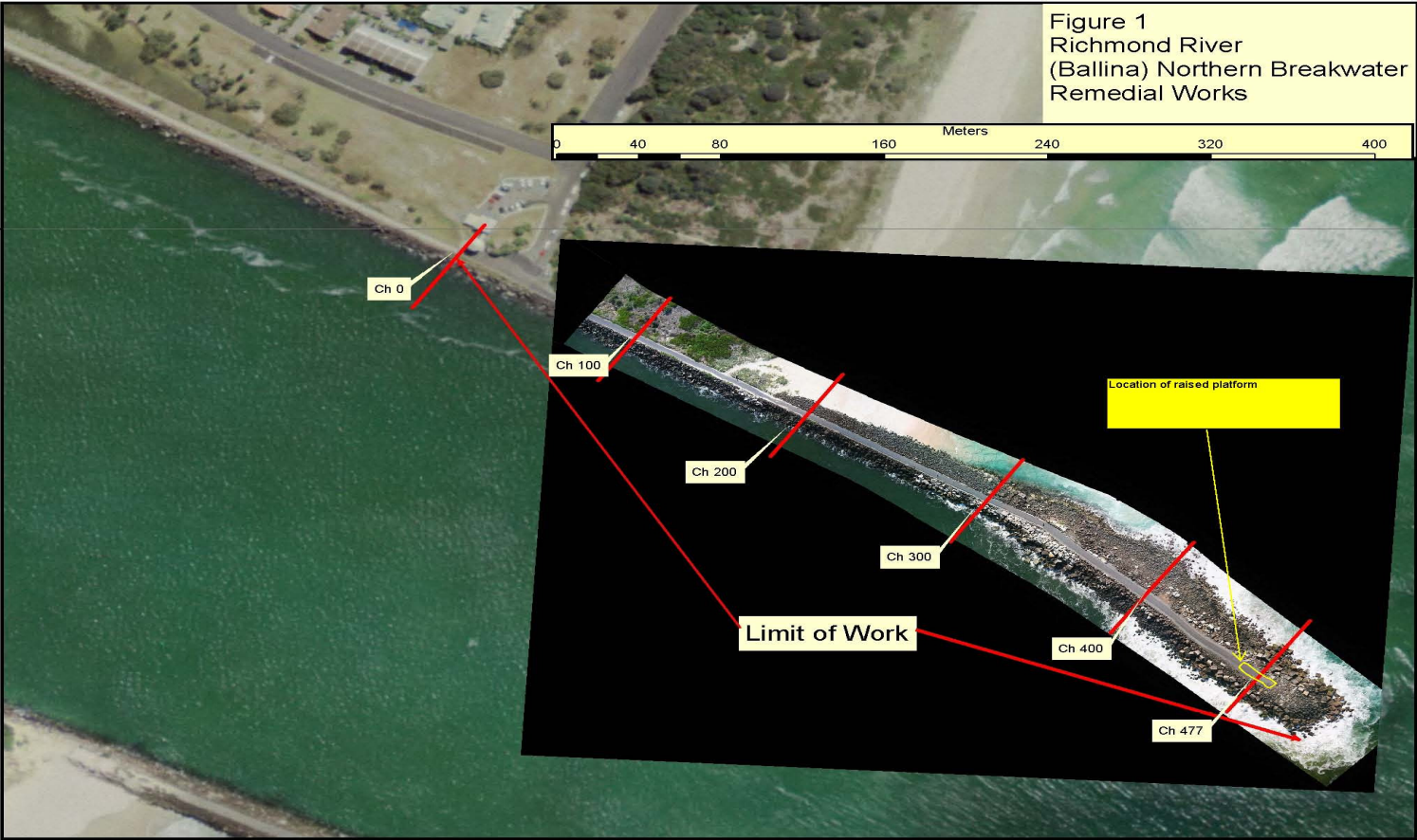
The plans show, copy attached, a narrow raised path surrounded by large rocks at the head of the breakwater. The main concerns are that the 3m wide path provides a small location for the public to access the space and view and the end of the wall. The existing situation provides a relatively flat area at the head of the breakwater that is about 9m wide and provides a place where the public can stop, chat, and park their bike or scooter. The proposal for a narrow path only will make the end of the raised path a very congested area and not meet the primary objective of the project to restore the lost amenity of this area.

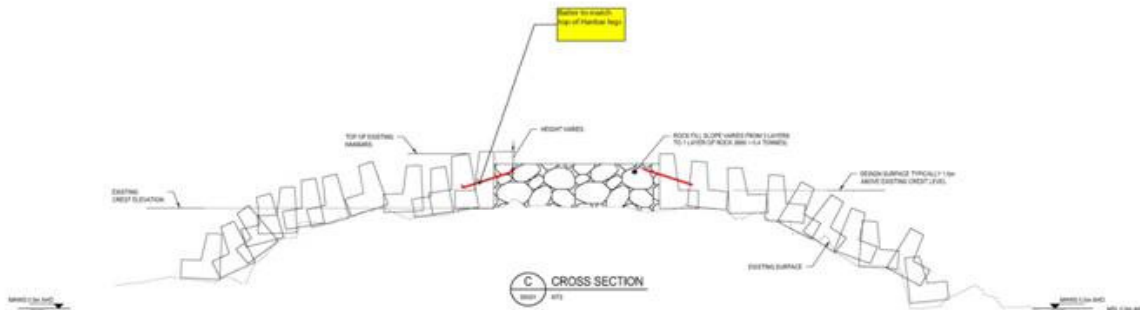
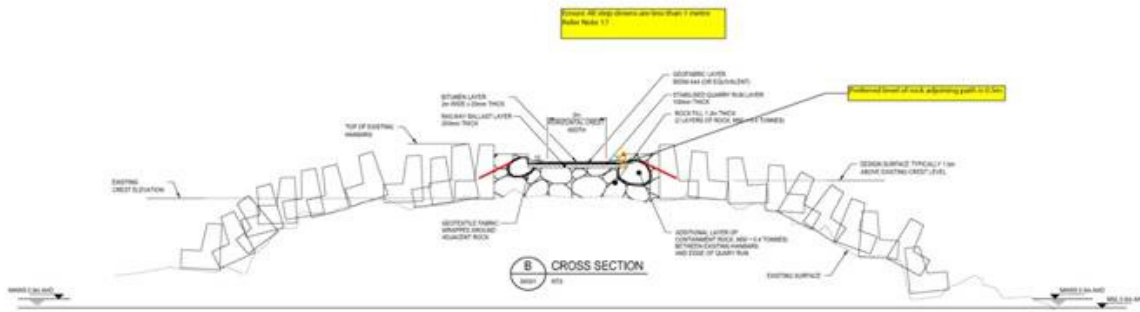
As you are aware, the community use of the breakwater is popular and considered important. Having worked with you to secure the funds to address the concerns about the original project, we submit that it is necessary for the Government to review the proposed design to ensure that the project will meet community expectations.

We would appreciate your review of our concerns and should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me on telephone 02 66861 256.

Yours faithfully

John Truman
Group Manager
Civil Services





PRELIMINARY

| | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----|----------|
| A | INITIAL ISSUE | CD | 03 09 13 |
| Rev | Description | Rev | Issue |

NSW DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT - CROWN LANDS
BALLINA NORTH BREAKWATER CREST UPGRADE WORKS
TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS

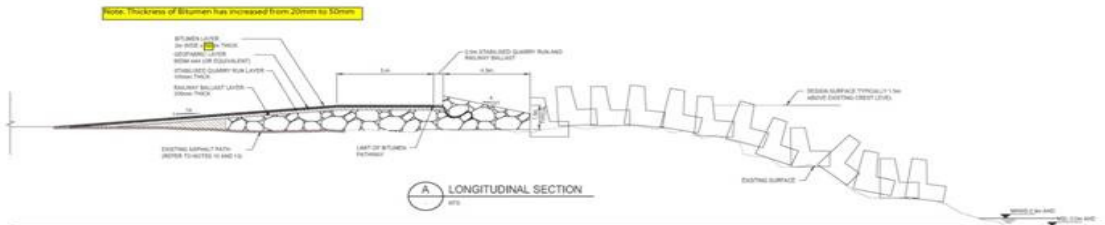
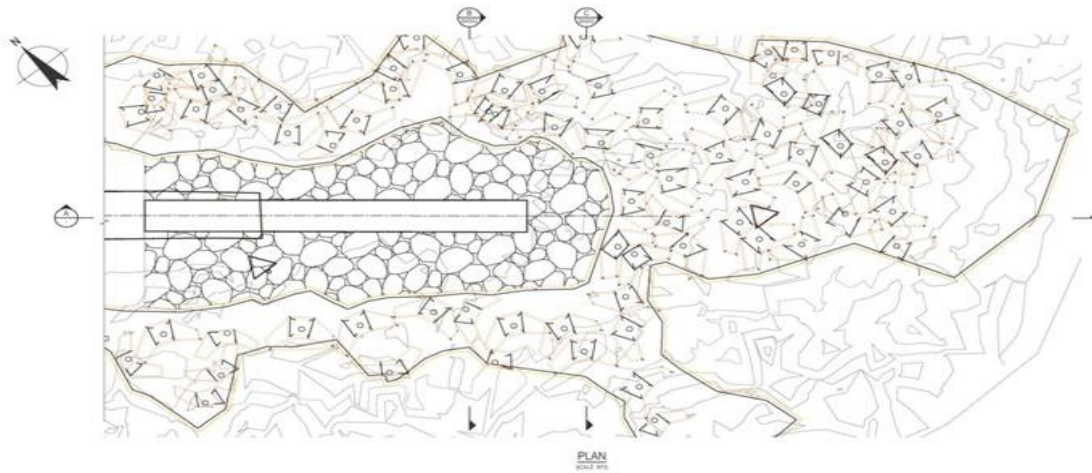


Level 15, 101 Capricorn Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
P 61 2 9238 9000 F 61 2 9238 9100
E australia@ghd.com W www.ghd.com

GHD Pty Ltd
GHD Pty Ltd is a registered company in Australia. GHD Pty Ltd is a registered company in Australia. GHD Pty Ltd is a registered company in Australia.

scale NTS for A1 job no. 21-21214
date SEPTEMBER 2013 rev no. A

approved (PD) SK002



NOTES:

1. PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEY INFORMATION INCLUDING CONTROL POINTS AND ADJUAL PHOTOGRAMMETS PROVIDED BY WILSON CIVIL AND ASSOCIATES (MARCH 2013) AND (JANUARY 2013).
2. PHOTOGRAMMETRIC SURVEY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AUSTRIE SURVEYS (MAY 2013).
3. SURVEY INFORMATION LIMITED TO APPROXIMATELY 20MM METRES AND ON ROAD 500 LEVEL, AS SHOWN.
4. ALL SURVEYING DISTANCES AND DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES.
5. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF THE STRUCTURE SHOWN ON OBSERVATION MADE BY GHD MAY DIFFER FROM A FIELD VISUAL CHECK AND FROM AN EXISTING SURVEY DATA COMPLETED BY GHD, (MAY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC 2013).
6. LIMITS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED IN CONSULTATION WITH CROWN LANDS AND BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL.
7. MATERIAL PROPERTIES OF SUPPLIED ROCK SHALL BE APPROVED BY CROWN LANDS PRIOR TO START OF WORKS COMMENCEMENT.
8. THE METHOD OF PLACEMENT SHALL PROVIDE A STABLE SURFACE CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING A MINIMUM OF 10000 VEHICLE TRUCKS, ENSURING THE MINIMUM INTERLOCK BETWEEN ADJACENT ROCKS AND CONCRETE STRUCTURE UNITS.
9. ROCK AND CONCRETE STRUCTURE UNITS SHALL BE PLACED AND RELIQUATED TO MINIMIZE IMPROPER OR UNDESIRABLE PRODUCTION OF TRASH AND WASTE CONSTRUCTION.
10. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING EVIDENCE TO THE CROWN LANDS IN WRITING DURING CONSTRUCTION.
11. LOCATIONS OF EXISTING MANHOLE ARE INDICATED ONLY.
12. EXISTING PAVEMENT, SIDEWALK OR ROAD AS TO BE PLACED BETWEEN BALLAST SHALL BE REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH STABILISED QUARRY RUBBLE. THE JUNCTIONS OF ROCK PLY SHALL BE FINISHED TO MATCH EXISTING SURFACE UNITS TO BE FINISHED BY UNDESIRABLE WASTES. EXISTING UNITS TO BE FINISHED BY UNDESIRABLE WASTES SHALL BE FINISHED BY UNDESIRABLE WASTES PRIOR TO PLACEMENT OF BALLAST BALLAST UNITS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COMPACTNESS OF EXISTING UNITS.
13. EXISTING MANHOLE OR EXISTING MANHOLE PRODUCTION UNITS SHALL BE RELIQUATED AS ADVISED WITH CROWN LANDS.
14. BALLAST BALLAST SHALL COMPLY WITH THE BALLAST BALLAST STANDARD CODE SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY AUSTRIE OR AS ADVISED WITH CROWN LANDS.
15. BALLAST OF ROCK PLY SHALL BE SET WITH 1:2 AND 1:1:1 FINISHED WITH COVER OF 100MM (MINIMUM) AND 1:1:1 FINISHED.
16. THE PROJECT SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED TO MEET THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE BALLINA NORTH BREAKWATER CREST UPGRADE WORKS WHICH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE A/E/S CONTRACT.
17. AS TO WHATS DESIGN PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY CROWN LANDS IN THE EVENT OF UNDESIRABLE PRODUCTION, AS TO WHATS DESIGN SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE A/E/S CONTRACT, WHICH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE A/E/S CONTRACT.

PRELIMINARY

| A | INITIAL ISSUE | CD | 23 OR 13 |
|-----|---------------|--------|----------|
| REV | DESCRIPTION | ISS/10 | DATE |

NSW DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT - CROWN LANDS
BALLINA NORTH BREAKWATER CREST UPGRADE WORKS
PLAN AND LONGITUDINAL SECTION



Level 10, 120 Catherine Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
P +61 2 9250 7500 F +61 2 9250 7500
E ghd@ghd.com W www.ghd.com

GHD Pty Ltd

Copyright © 2013. This document may only be used for the project and site shown. It is not to be used for any other project or site without the prior written permission of GHD Pty Ltd.

scale: NTS for A1 job no.: 21-21214

date: SEPTEMBER 2013 rev no.: A

approved (PD) SK001



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



DON PAGE, M.P.
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

OFFICE: Shop 1
7 Moon Street
Ballina NSW 2478
PHONE: (02) 6686 7522
FACSIMILE: (02) 6686 7470
MAIL: PO Box 1018
BALLINA NSW 2478
WEBSITE: www.donpage.com.au

15 April 2014

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Attn: Mr John Truman

Dear Mr Hickey,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of correspondence from Group Manager, Civil Services, Ballina Shire Council regarding the recent announcement to raise the crest of the Ballina North Breakwater.

I have noted Council's comments in relation to this project and appreciate these being brought to my attention.

I am advised the proposed works include a provision of 2m bitumen pathway and 1.5m of quarry run material either side of the pathway, i.e. 5m width plus placement of containment rock 2m wide either side between the edge of the quarry run material and concrete Hanbars i.e. 9m in total. The containment rock will 'sit' approximately 0.5 m above the level of the quarry run material to protect against wash out of material in a major storm event and wave overtopping.

This compares to the current 2m wide bitumen pathway and 3.5m of quarry run material either side of the bitumen pathway up to the edge of the concrete Hanbars i.e. 9m in total.

I am further advised that whilst the distance between the containment rock is 5m, the full 9m will be available for people to use if necessary.

Should you have any further concerns in relation to this project please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Don Page MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

DP:tg

RECORDED
SCA

24 APR 2014

Doc No.....
Batch No.....