

Cheyne Willebrands

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 1:40 PM
To: lennoxheadlandcare@gmail.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 13:40:12

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Shaun Eastment

Phone Number

0448221210

Your email?

lennoxheadlandcare@gmail.com

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

The review needed to consider whether, under current conditions, the policy is achieving it's stated objectives, especially given the trial of concealed cameras instigated prior to the last summer season. There has been significant community discussion about unacceptable behaviour of 4WDs over the last 2 years and it is ongoing.

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

'Yes' to the objectives but 'no' to the content in. line with the comment above

Do you need to attach something?

4WD beach user policy Review.docx

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5f05401c8da692234c54128e

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Lennox Head Landcare are still concerned about the activities of some 4WD vehicles on Seven Mile Beach. Although behaviour has improved since the installation of concealed cameras, we are still experiencing very concerning levels of the following:

- non observance of speed limits near other beach users
- non observance of speed limits when running dogs alongside the vehicle to exercise the dogs
- actual speeding up on approaching resting terns and oystercatchers
- parking and lying/sitting/playing in the spinifex zone/foredune area
- driving well above high tide mark and cutting into the dunes
- dogs being released to run into the dunes and the heathland behind

All of this is despite wide distribution of both Police and Ranger contact details to empower beach users to report such behaviour.

We have also heard reports from local fishermen that the pipi population started to recover over the duration of the c. Easter 2020 4WD ban but have since become scarce again.

These activities obviously have a deleterious effect on intertidal shore life, beach and dune nesting species such as oystercatchers, rainbow bee eaters and turtles as well as the bird and mammal life in the immediate heathland apart from the negative impact on the beach experience for other beach users. It is time for the entire permit system to be thoroughly discussed and amended.

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Lucy White <pademelons13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2020 8:07 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: Lennox Head Car Access on beaches

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I can only express my disappointment at the cars that my children and I had to avoid on the beach today north of Lake Ainsworth. A P plater was driving recklessly (they nearly lost control) and four other vehicles came on the beach in the short amount of time we were there, about 30 minutes. At one point a car came around the bend on the entry and drove between my young daughter, who was splashing in shallow water, and me. It's not only dangerous, but needlessly destructive. With our increased awareness of the delicate nature of our environment, this is the kind of human impact that is no longer acceptable. Our beautiful beaches need to be protected by council. Not destroyed with a permit. Please protect our environment by not allowing this any longer.

Lucy White
North coast resident

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For more information please visit

<http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=sbKM3wTjlk5YPX4Q0ypX2P7VBtNpknCGhkH12ylAw&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2esymanteccloud%2ecom>

Cheyne Willebrands

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 5:19 PM
To: annabrijbala@gmail.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 17:18:43

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Phone Number

Your email?

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

Yes

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

Dear Council,

I am a resident in Lennox Head. Please do not grant access to Four Wheel Drive vehicles on Seven Mile Beach. They are an environmental disturbance to the wildlife and residents and would attract noisy and disrespectful rampaging and parties on the

beach. These are not the people for Lennox Head's beaches and it will disrupt the peace and nature that people love lennox for.

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

Let it be known we do not consent

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

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From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 3:41 PM
To: gavchrisrose@hotmail.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 15:41:08

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Gavin Rose

Your email?

gavchrisrose@hotmail.com

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

Yes

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

4WD access to Seven Mile Beach should be available only to emergency vehicles. As a regular user of the beach in its entirety usually during a 22km training run to Broken Head and return, for the last 35 years I have observed regular noncompliance with this policy where non-compliance is the norm rather than the exception. The vast majority of 4WD on the beach show Queensland vehicle registrations. Vehicles routinely drive above the high tide mark at speeds in excess of 30 km/hr and do not slow down when passing me when I am running on the beach. By definition there is no access allowed at high tide as vehicles cannot use the line below high tide. Vehicles will regularly

drive on the beach at high tide. Two years ago there was vehicle tracks for a kilometre at the northern end of the beach along the frontal dune in contravention of the guidelines. Last winter when our two families were on the Lennox village end of the beach south of the surfclub we observed a Queensland registered vehicle drive south on the beach down to the storm water outlet at the marine reserve end of the beach.

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5f055c749bfe5f3307500725

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Lyn Walker <lynwalker@westnet.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 12:41 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: Submission on 4wd policy review
Attachments: Submission RE Policy Review FO6 4WDs on Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head.pdf

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General Manager,
Ballina Council,

Attn Cheyenne Willibrand

I notice that this policy review is again on exhibition. I therefore re submit my submission. Please note that although the situation on South Ballina beaches is much worse (see todays summary on the Northern Star web page), allowing vehicles on 7 Mile Beach is hardly a morally supportive move to clean them up.

I reiterate:

there is no place for 4wds on the dunes - a tick for Council for trying with limited success.
there is no place for 4wds on the soft sand in front of the dunes - a tick for Council for trying with even less success
there is no place for 4wds on the intertidal zone - Council is not even trying; rather it is requiring vehicles to drive there!

Please examine the olicy in its entirety.

thank you

Dr Lyn Walker
8th July 2020.

Dear Paul,
Please find below my submission on 4wd policy F06 review

thank you

Lyn Walker
48 Barrett Dr
Lennox Head NSW 2478

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For more information please visit
<http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=770F3w02k8MjCB3G2RGn7Mn9XSHLqLo31hpJz6HnKw&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2esymanteccloud%2ecom>

**Submission Re Policy Review FO6 4WDs on Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head.
23rd June 2020**

By Dr Lyn Walker

This is a lazy, ineffective policy review. It deals only with the basic administration of the existing policy. The policy should be rejected until such time as a new review has been produced addressing the following insufficiencies.

1. It does not deal with any evidence about the effectiveness of the existing policy towards achieving its goals.
2. It ignores advances in research and significant relevant modern concerns that should at the very minimum be discussed.
3. The Ballina Coastal Reserve PoM anticipated that Council may wish to prohibit 4wds on Seven Mile Beach and allows for that to happen within the PoM.

My 2015 submission 2015 asks for the kinds of data necessary to even begin evaluating the policy. Ballina Environment Society submitted a discussion paper to the March 2019 B Ward Committee highlighting both the failure to achieve the environmental goals of the policy and research suggesting that it would be wise for the policy allowing 4wds on 7 mile Beach s (and all beaches) to be changed if beaches are to be protected.

Both documents are attached FYI.

1.Evidence of effectiveness

The policy is quite clear about its goals vis;

- Ensuring safety for beach users

- Environmental protection of the beach, dunes and surrounds.
This submission supports these goals but Council decisions have fallen short.

We cannot claim to have ensured safety.

Briefly, conflicts that compromise safety between vehicles, dogs and pedestrians are still a problem despite the publication of rules for beach usage.

We have no data on the numbers of permits valid at any one time. Council responded to enquiries with only raw data about how many permits were issued within a given month. That is not a meaningful figure. Overlaps of permits occur because they are issued all the time for different periods of time. Why no accurate data? How great is the potential conflict? We do know that during busy times people complained about the number of vehicles on the beach at any one time; some estimating 400!

During coronavirus lockdowns Council closed the beaches to off road vehicles. It was one sure way of reducing a major source of conflict and proved that it is not necessary to have this access. Council has tried nothing else successfully.

We have not stopped incursions into the dunes.

It is not necessary to list the function of the dunes for flora, fauna and climate change. Council knows all that at the superficial level at least.

Even one vehicle can wreck havoc. Despite strict rules incursions on to the precious dunes occur all the time. Council introduced "hidden" cameras to some fanfare because it cared about protecting the dunes. What were the results?

There is wildlife to consider, nesting birds and turtles on the dunes.

Closure is the surest answer if Council is serious about protection of the dunes.

Research Directions and community values

The beaches have been taken for granted. There is some attempt to smooth out the ruts that impede peoples' enjoyment of the beach and assist in erosion. The beaches are as vital to assist in dealing with climate change as are land dwelling fauna and flora.

What measures have Council taken to protect them? The intertidal zone, where vehicles are directed to drive on 7 mile beach have entered research as an environmental concern both for erosion and for the destruction of significant creatures that live there. A simple google search will reveal pages of research reports into the intertidal zone and 4wds on beaches. Where is the staff report examination of this recent research because if the results are sustained there is no place for vehicles to drive on beaches that is environmentally protective?

There are no impediments to prohibiting 4wds 7 Mile Beach

As in the introduction, the PoM foresaw it and allows for it without needing to change.

IN Conclusion, Ballina Council needs a policy review, not an administrative only document. With such a limited review it is unlikely that the goals can be advanced. The goals themselves are worthwhile. Why not try the one move to achieve them and end 4wds on the beach.?

Attachments

1. Dr L Walker Submission re 4wd Policy 2015
2. BES discussion paper to B Ward committee March 2019.

48 Barrett Dr
Lennox Head
NSW 2478
11 Feb 2015

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
P.O.Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Submission re: 4WD Beach Access
Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head Policy Ref F06

1. I support the Policy Review.

2. I suggest that the Objectives of the policy include the objective given in the case as argued for imposing permits, for 4WDs on the beach in the relevant Precinct Plan and implicit in the Ballina Coastal Plan of Management,

To limit the numbers of 4WD accessing the beach.

3. I suggest that record keeping relating to all the objectives be required in the text of the policy itself. It is noted that evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy could not be assessed because the data to enable it was not available. I also note that allowing 4WDs on Seven Mile Beach was a hotly contested issue in the formulation of the Precinct Plan.

It is important to be able to assess whether or not 4WDs should continue to have access to the beach into the future and for that adequate data is essential.

Here are my suggestions for the records that should be kept to enable effective evaluation.

- The number of permits active for each month. That would include all yearly, six monthly and shorter periods to be counted for any one month.
- Regular monthly inspections of all environmental data such as evidence of dune disruption, vegetation and intertidal marine life assessment (recent scientific studies suggest intertidal destruction of life forms to be a matter of concern regarding vehicles on beaches.).
- The number of permits cancelled, the reasons for the cancellation, date of cancellation, the period of the cancellation and the addresses of the vehicle owners whose permit has been cancelled.
- The details of any warnings issued.
- Regular checks of permits of vehicles on the beach to assess compliance.
- The total number of permits issued for any one year.

Thank you
Dr Lyn Walker.
Ph 6687 6815; E: lynwalker@westnet.com.au

Attachment 2.

Time to prohibit Off Road Vehicles on Beaches (ORVs).

Discussion paper prepared by Ballina Environment Society March 2019

Introduction

Ballina Shire Council has a policy to allow ORVs on a designated strip of Seven Mile Beach. There are rules governing where vehicles may drive, the speeds to be used and the priority of pedestrians over vehicles. Drivers are required to obtain a paid permit to drive on this beach.

This policy is a hangover from the days when the population was much smaller and when the highway from Brisbane to Lennox Head was winding and slow, further north beaches allowed ORVs and ORV ownership was not as prevalent. Our understanding of the nature and functions of beaches has grown as has our understanding of the real threat of climate change.



Ballina Environment Society is making four observations that lead to the conclusion that the policy should be revoked:

1. Vehicles are often driven over the dunes. This is prohibited in the rules because it is known to be harmful.
2. There are so many vehicle tracks around the entrance and further up the beach that the churn from them makes it increasingly difficult for

pedestrians to transverse this section of the beach. This was never the intention of the 4WD policy.

3. There is a growing body of evidence that the rich life of the intertidal zone is destroyed by ORVs driving on it.
4. ORVs assist sand erosion.

The existing Management Plans, especially the gazetted Ballina Coastal Zone Management Plan 2013/11, allow for closing the beaches when considered necessary and for completely revoking this policy if Council so decides. Indeed, The CZM Plan envisaged that Council might wish to do this. Therefore revoking the policy does not demand formal alteration to any Management Plan. It will require only a resolution of Council.

(Please note that although problems are very serious on South Ballina beaches most of these are national parks and therefore not under the care of Council.)

1. The DUNES

Council is well aware that ORVs on the dunes are detrimental to the health of the beach and to the creatures that live there so BES does not need to argue this case. Thus Council has directed that apart from passing through the dunes to access the beach vehicles are prohibited from driving anywhere except over the intertidal zone.

- There will always be drivers who do not obey this rule. Furthermore, the requirement to remain 10m from dunal vegetation is difficult for a driver to estimate and an unexpected high wave can force drivers too close.



The photos were taken in 2019. Although Rangers have recently been active at Seven Mile there is no possibility of preventing this habitual behaviour without 24/7 surveillance. **The rule is not enough.**

- There will always be drivers who access the beach without a permit as there is no device for checking this at the entrance point -it being an honour system. BES has only been provided with the number of permits issued at a particular time – in Jan 2019 it was 48 – not how many permits were live at that time because permits are issuable for different periods of time. However, 48 seems risible to those who frequent this entrance area, poor January/February weather notwithstanding.
- No driver to this Society’s knowledge has had his or her permit revoked and no vehicle has been found to be on the beach without a permit. BES doubts that any fines have even been issued.
- Damage to the dunes at the entrance cannot be ignored. In 2005, when vehicles entered the beach at a track past the existing Lake Ainsworth toilet block, the Connell Wagner Report reported that the dunes were so degraded there as to threaten the Lake with inundation. Council removed that entrance promptly in 2006. We do not know what damage to the dunes at the present entrance will have on the long term viability of the dunal system, particularly as climate change advances. Do we need to take that risk?
- There is also a financial risk from maintenance of this entrance, which will become increasingly costly.

Fiona Folan 22/6/2020 17:49

Comment [1]: Duplicate from beginning of paragraph

THE INTERTIDAL ZONE

Evidence that ORVs are detrimental to the intertidal zone is growing. Many expert articles now take that damage for granted as a simple search of the internet will show. (I have one here, Jan 2019 by John Pickeral)

The arguments are as follows.

- ORVs kill life in the intertidal zone. A 4WD can crush a pipi at depth 30cms. There is increasing usage of ORVs around (and onto) the Byron Bay/ Ballina border because there are still some pipis, worms and ghost crabs to be found there. How long will that be the case? ORVs are a danger to wild life including protected species such as pied oyster catcher, nesting turtles, and Rainbow bee eaters
They contribute to beach erosion.
- THEY create barriers to other beach users by forming a massive barrier of soft craters across the entire beach at times.
- The intertidal zone sometimes goes up to the dunes.
- Drivers go right up to the dunes and down into the water looking for some solid ground to move over. Despite the requirement to keep 10m from the dunes, on some tides this is not possible and some drivers are either ignorant or ignore this rule.

Council has the power to change the policy of ORVs on beaches. BES requests Council use this power to retract this policy.

Prepared by Dr Lyn Walker
8th March 2019

Cheyne Willebrands

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 12:45 PM
To: wolfftom@me.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 12:45:26

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Phone Number

Your email?

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

Yes

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

I believe that Ballina Shire Council needs to implement a local permit system for travel on its beaches. It is well known that 7 Mile Beach is the first beach with vehicle access in NSW if you are travelling from QLD. The sheer volume of vehicles on the beach is simply not sustainable. I have 5+ years of experience as a wilderness bushwalking guide which has allowed me to see the negative impacts of vehicles on

shorebird populations (both in NSW and Tasmania). I personally own a 4WD but choose rarely to take it on the beach. If i do, I make sure to stay below the high tide line.

As a surfer and fisherman, I think it is probably unreasonable to completely prohibit access, but due to the sheer volume of cars on the beach I think the permit system must be limited to cars within the Ballina Shire. If not, I fear whatever remaining shorebird populations will be completely wiped out. I know for a fact – after years of personal observation – that only minor disturbances of birds like the Hooded Plover or Pied Oystercatcher will result in abandonment of the nest by parents, leaving the chicks unable to survive.

The destruction of dune systems both at 7 Mile Beach and South Ballina needs to stop. I highly doubt this is being caused by locals. Whether increased patrolling by rangers or otherwise, continued degradation of the dune system and shorebird populations will result in negative effects on local ecosystems that make Ballina Shire such a wonderful place to visit.

I have spent most of my life () in the Ballina Shire and I would hate to see these unique ecosystems destroyed by incredibly high volumes of 4WD traffic.

Thanks for your time.

Cheers.

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

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Cheyne Willebrands

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2020 11:36 AM
To: wolfsubs@mac.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 11:36:25

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Your email?

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

Appendix 2 of the document does not provide adequate protection for the natural surroundings and still preferences unnecessary vehicle activity over passive recreation. Examples include the inadequate 10m distance between vehicles and dunes (which is never enforced); assuming that driving above the high tide mark is sufficient to protect shellfish, migratory and other birds who rest along the shoreline; and a speed limit of 30km per hour which is far too fast for safety.

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

Driving 4WD vehicles over fragile beach ecosystems has a devastating impact on their long term survival. Given the massive increase in numbers of 4WD vehicles currently accessing the area it is my view that Seven Mile Beach should be permanently closed to all vehicles. Please see attached image for the ridiculous number of vehicles allowed on the beach over one weekend this year.

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

Driving 4WD vehicles on Seven Mile Beach is a contentious issue in Lennox Head. I would prefer to express my opinion to policy makers without it unnecessarily being brought to public attention.

Do you need to attach something?

[IMG_2770.jpeg](#)

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

Submission ID



From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 July 2020 10:55 AM
To: wdatylor@bigpond.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-07 10:54:47

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Warren Taylor

Phone Number

0417876434

Your email?

wdatylor@bigpond.com

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

Yes

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

I believe even with the published restrictions that 4WD access should not be provided. Firstly, even rare breaches of the rules cause significant and long lasting damage to the physical and ecological properties of the area. And breaches do occur.

Secondly, the regular use of vehicles compacts the sand. This has destroyed the ecology of the area, eg there are very few sand crabs any more. @0 years ago there were 2 or 3 per square meter, now they are very few at all.

So 4WD access has damaged the ecology that is purported to be important.

Thirdly, they make enjoyment of a walk impossible. One cannot just dreamily wander along; you will have to leap aside.

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5f03c7d723c4ad4d2d5e6b2f

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 6:49 PM
To: amandabromfieldartist@gmail.com
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

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Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-06 18:49:02

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Amanda Bromfield

Phone Number

0411897418

Your email?

amandabromfieldartist@gmail.com

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

This is the only reference to the fragile eco system of Seven Mile Beach.....

The area, including the coastal heathland to the west, is home to a number of plant and animal species, many of which are significant to the local ecosystem and the region.

Where is council leadership for eco system preservation and conservation?

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

Yes

Please provide further comments if you wish.

This is all about people and recreation... Where are council priorities about the environment and a sanctuary for native wildlife - flora and fauna. The coastal eco system is unstable due to climate change. Add man, 4WDs and dogs and it spells disaster.

Do you need to attach something?

Seven Mile Beach.docx

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Seven Mile Beach

Dear Cheyne

I would like Seven Mile Beach to be closed to 4WD access as soon as possible. Please. Environmentally, Seven Mile Beach is its own natural eco system. It is a sanctuary for native flora and fauna from both the biosphere and hydrosphere. Migratory birds such as Terns and Oyster Catchers seek shelter, food and rest along the beach before continuing their migratory journeys.

I am a local, I live along the beach and walk Seven Mile every day. During the Covid lockdown 4WD's were denied access to the beach, during that time I noticed more birds on the beach. The birds were less agitated because there were no 4WDs racing up the beach and scaring the birds away. There were also less dogs chasing and frightening these birds because the dogs were unable to come to the beach with their owners in the 4WDs. Each time a bird is frightened and flies away from man/dog/4WD it uses up its vital energy/calories that are essential for its onward flight. If the bird is unable to rest and recuperate it will quickly become exhausted and perish.

4WD's are heavy and the weight and pressure of such a vehicles crush the organisms and animals such as crabs and shell fish etc that live below the sand surface. There is 15 km speed limit on the beach - I rarely see any vehicles travel at this slow speed, mainly they speed along with their dogs running beside or in front of the vehicle.

I have see burnt out fires on the beach where people have set up camp for the day... I have seen some that look like they have been there overnight. And rubbish is left behind which many locals pick up and take home. I have even found a couch left on the hind dune.

There is no need for 4WDs on Seven Mile Beach (or Patches Beach at Sth Ballina for that matter). At the moment our council is allowing a minority a great privilege at the expense of the environment. Many of the 4WDs on the beach are Queenslanders. I would be very proud of our council if you led the way to protect our native flora and fauna and keep Seven Mile Beach and Patches Beach for future conservation and regeneration.

As a resident of the Northern Rivers I value the unique biomes that exist in our region. The coastal landscape is a very fragile ecosystem and I want to preserve it. I feel I have a responsibility to care for the land and nature for the future generations.

And so I would like you please to close beach access to 4WDs in our Ballina Shire.

My best wishes

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Amanda Bromfield <amandabromfieldartist@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 4:14 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Cc: Amanda Bromfield
Subject: Community Feedback re: 4WD Access to Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head Policy (Review)

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Attention : Cheyne Willebrands - Manager Open Spaces

Dear Cheyne

I would like Seven Mile Beach to be closed to 4WD access as soon as possible. Please. Environmentally, Seven Mile Beach is its own natural eco system. It is a sanctuary for native flora and fauna from both the biosphere and hydrosphere. Migratory birds such as Terns and Oyster Catchers seek shelter, food and rest along the beach before continuing their migratory journeys.

I am a local, I live along the beach and walk Seven Mile every day. During the Covid lockdown 4WD's were denied access to the beach, during that time I noticed more birds on the beach. The birds were less agitated because there were no 4WDs racing up the beach and scaring the birds away. There were also less dogs chasing and frightening these birds because the dogs were unable to come to the beach with their owners in the 4WDs. Each time a bird is frightened and flies away from man/dog/4WD it uses up its vital energy/calories that are essential for its onward flight. If the bird is unable to rest and recuperate it will quickly become exhausted and perish.

4WD's are heavy and the weight and pressure of such a vehicles crush the organisms and animals such as crabs and shell fish etc that live below the sand surface. There is 15 km speed limit on the beach - I rarely see any vehicles travel at this slow speed, mainly they speed along with their dogs running beside or in front of the vehicle.

I have seen burnt out fires on the beach where people have set up camp for the day... I have seen some that look like they have been there overnight. And rubbish is left behind which many locals pick up and take home. I have even found a couch left on the hind dune.

There is no need for 4WDs on Seven Mile Beach (or Patches Beach at Sth Ballina for that matter). At the moment our council is allowing a minority a great privilege at the expense of the environment. Many of the 4WDs on the beach are Queenslanders. I would be very proud of our council if you led the way to protect our native flora and fauna and keep Seven Mile Beach and Patches Beach for future conservation and regeneration.

As a resident of the Northern Rivers I value the unique biomes that exist in our region. The coastal landscape is a very fragile ecosystem and I want to preserve it. I feel I have a responsibility to care for the land and nature for the future generations.

And so I would like you please to close beach access to 4WDs in our Ballina Shire.

My best wishes
Amanda Bromfield

Cheyne Willebrands

From: ANDREW ROTHERY <arothery@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 3:18 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: For the attention of Cheyne Willebrands in the Open Spaces Sections -- 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Dear Cheyne,

I am resident of Linnaeus Estate (951 Broken Head Road, Broken Head), part of which is actually located in Ballina Shire. I am writing about the issue of 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach. My family and I would like to see 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach stopped. The reality is that, no matter how careful they are, drivers of 4WD vehicles harm the environment of beaches. Sadly, many are not careful and we see the results of their lack of care in the damage they cause to the sand dunes at the northern end of the beach and the fright and distress they cause the local birdlife as they drive along the beach.

The reality is that some drivers of 4WDs who enter Seven Mile Beach ignore or simply don't see the sign on the beach which prohibits vehicles and dogs north of the sign. Hence, we, the residents at that end of the beach, the local environment and local wildlife, all suffer the consequences of the inattention or ignorance of those drivers. I used to tell drivers who ventured to the northern end of Seven Mile Beach that they shouldn't be there but I tend not to now as I am sick of the abuse and profanities and occasional threats which are often meted out to me in response. (I always report the drivers concerned to Byron Shire police when I am able to get a photo of their vehicle but it never stops the next bout of abuse.)

I am also worried that you might inadvertently force more drivers of 4WDs onto Seven Mile Beach as a result of stopping access to other beaches in Ballina Shire. That would be a terrible outcome.

When COVOD bans meant that there were no 4WDs at the northern end of Seven Mile Beach it was noticeable how much more birdlife was on the beach and how relaxed the birds were. We were pretty relaxed ourselves as there was no need to concern ourselves with the occasional hoon in a 4WD hurtling along the beach.

Please consider banning 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach for the sake of residents all along the beach, the natural environment and the local wildlife.

I am very happy to take any follow up questions to this email at this email address or the number below.

Kind regards,

Andrew Rothery
+61 419 421 812

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For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Catherine Ingram <cathingram@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 12:33 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: 4WD on Seven Mile Beach

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Dear Council,

I am a homeowner and resident in Lennox Head. PLEASE **disallow** those horrible Four Wheel Drive vehicles on Seven Mile Beach. They are an environmental wrecking ball for the wildlife of that area, and they also invite an unsavory group of people who drag up and down the beach, drink, do drugs, and party. This has no place in the quiet sanctuary of Lennox Head's beaches. What possible good can come of this? But this list of harm is long. It is irresponsible for the governing body to allow it to continue.

Please let me know whether or not this is the correct place to lodge my submission.

Thank you,
Catherine Ingram

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For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

<BR

From: noreply=ballina.nsw.gov.au@mg.paperform.co on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
<noreply@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 11:40 AM
To: mmilner@norex.com.au
Subject: Documents on Exhibition - 4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-06 11:39:50

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Malcolm Milner

Phone Number

0400412273

Your email?

mmilner@norex.com.au

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

I wish to recommend that 4WDs being used for recreational use be banned from the beach.. There are now too many pedestrians and other beach users using the beach since Camp Drew Road was improved. These include dog walkers and exercise classes as well as walkers. I personally have experienced being passes by vehicles at much more the 15 kph .

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

In addition to the increased risks to people using the beach there is also a n impact on the shell fish that utilize the tidal areas of the beach. Byron Marine Parks should also be consulted on the continued use of the beach by 4WDs. Many vehicles do not adhere to the rule to remain 10 m from the dunes.

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5f0280e64b10c416cc385894

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Julia Champtaloup <ejuliac@me.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 July 2020 11:31 AM
To: Ballina Shire Council
Subject: Lodging a submission re:4WDs on beach

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Hi -

I want to lodge a submission about 4WDs on the beach.
I am not sure where to 'lodge' that so am sending an email.

Let me know if that works or where to send. Thanks -

As a resident of 951 Broken Head Road, Broken Head - very close to the border of Ballina shire line - I am strongly against any allowance of 4WDs on the beach in Ballina Shire because they do not follow the rules and there are no rangers on the Byron shire to monitor these vehicles.

Along seven mile beach 4wd vehicles often drive up and down the dunes - you can see the tracks up in the dunes way about high tide very often. These acts cause erosion of vital coastal dune areas and disturb nesting of shore birds.

Thanks -
Julia Champtaloup

(61) 0411 713 315

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Security%2ecloud service.
For more information please visit
http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=zf6C34hPvPi51RJIDWegKu4EwPJ_g2Q32VuwXeKNkw&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2esyanteccloud%2ecom

Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-06-28 19:32:42

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

4WD Beach Access Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Your Name

Robert Collins

Phone Number

0415212548

Your email?

promserv12@gmail.com

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

It is a clear policy document which is easy to understand

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

No

Please provide further comments if you wish.

Whilst I am supportive of the majority of the proposal I generally find that the policy is weighted too heavily in favour of 4 wheel drive access and use of Seven Mile Beach.

Approximately 2 years ago I suffered a brain aneurism and use the beach for mild exercise walking from the beach access north to the boundary between Ballina Shire and Byron Shire.

My capacity to do this is greatly impeded by the deep rutting of the beach around the access points and the cavalier manner the 4 wheel drivers take to other beach users. Unfortunately I also see many instances of 4 wheel drive vehicles accessing the zone above the beach which concerns me greatly. I have been horrified to witness 4 wheel drive vehicles in the dunes above the beach buried in the sand to their axles calling for help from other 4 wheel drive vehicles to be towed out to hard sand.

It may be appropriate for Council to alternate access for 4wheel drive vehicles to 'month month off basis' which would allow the tides to overcome the damage to the beach but still allow access to 4 wheel drive vehicles seeking serious access for fishing rather than random alcohol enhanced excursions.

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

No

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5ef863ba9916ef42713a31b1

Cheyne Willebrands

From: Ben Debs <bendebs@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 2:31 PM
To: npws.tweedbyron@environment.nsw.gov.au; Councillors; Simon Byron Council; Sandra Bailey
Cc: bendebs@me.com; lucyj373@gmail.com
Subject: Nat park 7 mile beach problem
Attachments: IMG_2959.jpg; ATT00001.txt; IMG_2960.jpg; ATT00002.txt; IMG_2961.jpg; ATT00003.txt; IMG_2962.jpg; ATT00004.txt; IMG_2963.jpg; ATT00005.txt; IMG_2964.jpg; ATT00006.txt; IMG_2965.jpg; ATT00007.txt; IMG_2966.jpg

CYBER SECURITY WARNING - This message is from an external sender - be cautious, particularly with links embedded within the message and/or attachments.

Greetings Tweed National Parks
(and Byron and Ballina Council as)
Please take note of the following advice and photos below

I have been walking 7 mile beach at Lennox Head for the past 30 years and in the last few years this year and I walk at 2 to 3 times per week from Lennox Head all the way to the National Park and broken head

These photos below were taken on Saturday, 30 May They are at broken head national park on the far end of 7 mile beach They show for cars who accessed the National Park from Ballina Shire driving to Byron Shire and the National Park and had a party at broken head

While on this walk we had 13 cars past us while walking in the National Park including these 4 I will send you other photos of the terra rising the beach in the National Park doing doughnuts and Lear rising next email

This is a national park which is been trashed by four-wheel-drive show no respect for the environment for law and order and as I have been walking this beach so many times this happens all of the time and as we understand Ballina Shire cannot properly police the beach neither can National Park's Then we request that National Park insist Ballina Council close access to fall drives on the beach As it is in the Byron Bay Shire we request Byron Bay council insist they close access to fall drives on this beach

As we approach these vehicles and these people partying we were not received very well and they are walking back from the National Park the van in the photo drove past us at not less than 70 mph and went past us no more than 3 m from where we were walking in a deliberate attempt to intimidate us as we had pointed out to them that their party was illegal They were drinking and quite drunk

As we walk this beach week in and week out we have witnessed a constant flow of irresponsible and at times drunken behaviour

There is no shortage of dogs being taken into the National Park It would seem to us that Ballina Council have no consideration for the environment or the beach and in fact allowing dogs and horses and fall drives and people onto the beach shows Ballina Council have no environmental credentials whatsoever

We are preparing a national news story to highlight Ballina Council's lack of interest in these issues We would like to think National Parks And Byron Council both who are being trespassed upon by disrespectful for drivers and their council Shire and on their territory would make remark and comment and request and concern to Ballina Council

In the unlikely event Ballina Council was able to police this beach in a way that could make it safe for dogs and horses and fall drives and people we would with draw this request

That we know this cannot happen is because we have lived in the region so long and we understand the type of people will never fall driving on our beach Most of us including locals go to the beach to walk and enjoy it in nature and safety Most people who take a car onto the beach are less interested in exercise in nature

I cannot perceive one good reason why we have four wheel drives on this heavenly populated beach and it is diabolical that council has allowed the return onto the beach considering all of the problems associated with dogs and horses and the types of rednecks in rebels that for all drivers who choose to drive on the beach often are I cannot perceive one good reason why we have four wheel drives on this heavenly populated beach and it is diabolical that council has allowed their return onto the beach considering all of the problems associated with dogs and horses and the types of rednecks and rebels that fall drivers who choose to drive on the beach often are Lucy and I can relate many experiences that we have had with four wheel drives on this beach None of the counsellors or anyone I am sending this email to spend as much time on that beach is us None of you can witness and give testament as to the problems we have witnessed On occasion there is a ranger on the beach who experiences a problem And for each problem that they experience there is another 100 that they don't see virtually every day

If Lucy and I say anything to these people when they are breaking the law we risk abuse and threats and intimidation We are standing there in our sarongs trying to enjoy the National Park

This region risks losing its environmental credentials Cars are for roads we have so many cars and so many roads can we please just preserving little bit of nature for the people Horses and dogs included

It is indeed an accident waiting to happen and I have no doubt it will happen if we do not act quickly I have not yet published anything to the media or to the ministry for the environment but we are considering both and all other options in defence of our environment our region and the people of our community I believe commonsense will prevail and that the right decisions will be made

There is patches beach and Broadwater beach which do not have the same population Considering the influx of the population to Lennox Head and the expansion of our town I believe these matters are a question of urgency

It has become unsafe for Lucy and I to walk on this beach to the National Park and even if we drive down to broken head down to 7 mile Road to access the National Park at that end we are still at risk as the photos below show

There is a general feel amongst the Australian community that individuals are above the law and that the law is a joke politicians and counsellors have no power authority and it's basically a free for all Could you please restore our faith and show a little bit of commonsense and make the decisions that represent the community I have no doubt if we put it to a Community vote of democracy in our region and Shire that the vast majority would prefer the four-wheel-drive we're not on the beach I truly cannot believe I am writing this email and I truly cannot understand as it is a no brainer It's like everyone has gone to sleep I just does not wake and understand the problem

I challenge all counsellors to visit 7 mile beach and to walk and go to broken head national park

Please protect this little bit of nature for the people and for nature itself

Good luck and in good spirits and kindest regards

Lucy and I are always available to assist with any issues whatsoever we are available virtually 24 seven
If there is anyway we can service the community we Cheers Ben debs Lucy jenkinson

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I am writing to you as a regular user of 7 Mile Beach for 4 wheel driving (about ten times per year), to walk our dogs (weekly) and to enjoy the beach with my kids (weekly). Over the last 8 years, as the popularity of the beach increases, I have witnessed some misuse and several close calls.

Since the development of the Lake Ainsworth foreshore (which is a fantastic development BTW) and the movement of the entrance for dog walking to the Northernmost beach entrance the mix of 4WD's, kids, dogs and families have become more closely intertwined.

In the last year I have witnessed more than ten VERY close calls that have involved 4WD's, kids and dogs. The risks have been weighing on my mind recently and became too much for me to keep silent after a really ugly incident today that I was involved in personally.

At 8am I was throwing a ball for my 2 dogs South of the dog beach entrance, while my kids were making a sand castle approx 5-10m down from the dunes. A group of 5 women were walking Northwards near the waterline as my dog was returning with a ball.

A 4WD was also approaching at that moment and wanted to go around the women but my dog was in its way transfixed on the ball I was about to throw. The dog was 2m away from me and my kids just behind me. As I was trying to call my dog out of the way he initially stopped about 1m from my dog. He then drove forward so my dog was under his vehicle.

I yelled at the driver and he stopped again. My dog got out of the way and he drove past, his wheels passing approx 1.5m from my kids and their sand castle. As he went by he said "Get out of the way. This is a thoroughfare."

The ironic thing is he had 2 small children himself in kids seats in the back.

Myself and my kids were rattled.

As we were walking off the beach I heard a 4WD backfire as it came onto the beach further South at the 4WD entrance. A dog obviously got excited nearby and chased the car and went under the wheel in soft sand. I was a long way away but it appeared that the dog wasn't injured.

I can't keep silent any longer. The arrangement at 7 Mile beach, especially on long weekends and holidays, is a tragedy waiting to happen. A tragedy that will involve Ballina Council ultimately in legal proceedings I imagine.

I love using 7 Mile for taking the family up the beach in my own 4WD but I can see this activity is unsustainable. With the ballooning population of the Ballina Shire and in particular Lennox Head the increasing meetings of vehicles, kids and dogs will get closer and closer until a devastating tragedy will forcibly change things. The present situation is akin to allowing vehicles on Central Coast beaches which is unfathomable and has been restricted for 20+ years. Interestingly, the Northern Rivers will be more populous than the Central Coast by 2025. That's in 5 years time!

I noticed that during the closure of the beach to vehicles during Covid 19 the number of pedestrians using the beach multiplied exponentially. This indicates to me that there are many local residents who are not using the beach because of the concern of vehicles.

Part of me hates writing this letter because I hate having more and more rules and limits placed on us plus I still use the beach for 4WDing. But, I do understand that as populations balloon there do have to be limits and restrictions changed for the welfare of communities.

Please make changes before it is too late. I'm sure there will be a vocal minority against any changes but it obviously has to change at some stage in the future. Whether it's soon, before a terrible accident or after is up to you.

Edward Armytage
38 Nashua Rd
Fernleigh NSW 2479
0451 264 687

**Four Wheel Drive (4WD) Beach Access- Seven Mile Beach
Policy Review
8 July 2020**



The current Policy is outdated and focuses merely on the managing of 4WDs such as speeds, where to drive, distances from other beach users, permit issuances & penalties for breaches.

The current policy does not recognise that Seven Mile Beach is within the Byron Marine Park; nor does it measure 4WD impact on flora and fauna; their incursions into the dunes or the safety other beach users.

The last review seems outdated even for 2016 because a diversity of public use of Seven Mile Beach was already happening which can be attributed to population increase Lennox, Ballina Shire and the region.

Since then:

- 1) More population increases
- 2) Queensland's 4WD policy changes lead to a large increase of Queensland 4WD vehicles (& the odd all terrain vehicle) using this beach which in turn appears to be created environmental damage due to over-use and dune incursions.
- 3) Recent resurfacing of the Western Rd has made the horse and 4WD tracks easily accessible to beach goers, boot campers and off-leash dog exercise et al
- 4) There had been increasing anecdotal evidence of 4WD drivers not abiding by the specified distances or speed limits near people and dogs.
- 5) Lennox Head Landcare and Ballina Environment Society began raising concerns at B Ward meetings such as the environmental damage occurring, safety of other users and no data available on actual numbers using the beach.
- 6) There has been some increased monitoring of 4WD users.

The 4WD exclusion during the COVID-19 restrictions gave other beach users the opportunity to experience this stretch of beach in a safe manner and the

**Four Wheel Drive (4WD) Beach Access- Seven Mile Beach
Policy Review
8 July 2020**



environmental damage of 4WD became quite salient to them. I understand there are many who were disappointed by the re-opening of the beach.

My personal experience since the re-opening to 4WD is observing tracks to the dunes (well beyond the high tide line) and my 50/50 experience with drivers. One abided by the distances and speeds from people including coming to a complete cautionary stop for my dog, meanwhile a P Plate ute weaved its way up the beach amongst beach users at more than 30kph.

The 4WD policy renewal must include:

- 1) Accurate recording of 4WD users with additional data analysis about their usage patterns which is made available to the public.
- 2) Consultation with Byron Marine Park & integration of their policies and expert opinion.
- 3) The continual monitoring of the environmental health and/or damage incurred on Seven Mile Beach by 4WD and actions taken to prevent any more damage.
- 4) The fundamental safety of other beach users is given priority over 4WD access.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.A. Wilcox".

Monica Wilcox

President, Lennox Head Residents' Association
for Lennox Head Residents' Association.

4WD Beach Access – Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head Policy (Review)

Submission to Council

08/07/20

I am writing to express my thoughts about 4WD vehicles on our beach, while there may be an opportunity, during the review, to consider changing the policy.

During April and May, walkers have had the beach north of Camp Drewe to themselves. It was a great opportunity to experience the beach this way. It was wonderful to walk in the 4WD area without having to stumble in wheel ruts in the sand and to know that vehicles would not be speeding by. So peaceful and relaxing for people and the environment .

It is difficult to understand why owners of such vehicles, unless disabled, cannot get out of their cars and walk. I note that the distance to the Byron Shire border, where no vehicles are allowed, is only 3.3km. It really seems pointless to allow the practice of vehicles on the beach to continue for such a small distance.

Driving on the beach plays havoc with the little creatures that live in the sand, not to mention turtles and shore birds, such as oyster catchers. Research by Associate Professor Thomas Schlacher and his colleagues from the University of the Sunshine Coast have shown that the number and variety of tiny animals in the sand was reduced by half where vehicles are allowed to drive over their habitat.

The increase in local population and visitors will continue to exacerbate the problem of 4WD on the beach; more vehicles and more walkers.

Please stop this part of the beach being used as a road for the benefit of the environment and the enjoyment of the community of walkers. If Council are to continue allowing this practice, please review the policy every year instead of every four years to enable monitoring of the certain increase in vehicles and people.

Susan Williams

26A Greenfield Road

Lennox Head NSW 2478

Feedback for Documents on Exhibition

Submitted At

2020-07-08 04:23:16

Name of exhibited document you want to make comment on.

Markets on Public Land Policy

Your Name

Jane Walshe

Phone Number

6463068852

Your email?

jane.walshe@me.com

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

Yes

Please provide any suggestions for improvement.

As the owner of a property 951 Broken Head Road, Broken Head I would like to stress the need to patrol the 4WD vehicles on Seven Mile Beach. This beach spans both the Ballina and Byron Shires jurisdictional area. Byron Shire does not patrol their section of Seven Mile at all.

Time and time again drivers blatantly ignore the No Vehicles Beyond This Point sign and drive up in to the dunes and sanctuary lands. These are the same people who pollute the beach with trash and often camp overnight.

Seven Mile Beach is one of the most scenic beaches in Australia and preservation of the surrounding land and dunes is important for the survival of many habitats for local wildlife. Erosion caused by irresponsible 4WD vehicles is ruining these natural environments and destroying the landscape over time.

Please help focus resources on preservation and protection for generations to come to enjoy Seven Mile Beach. Better signage, more patrolling and enforcing the rules is what the Council should be working towards.

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

Yes

I agree to Ballina Shire Council collecting my Name, Email, and Phone Number

I agree

Submission ID

5f04bd94a4221564ea5cc625