

**POLICY NAME:** BEACH DEBRIS MANAGEMENT  
**POLICY REF:** B07  
**MEETING ADOPTED:** 23 March 2023  
Resolution No. 230323/5  
**POLICY HISTORY:** 280618/50



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## OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this policy are:

- a. To preserve the natural processes and environment on coastal beaches and foreshores; and
- b. To provide guidelines for the management of beach debris on coastal beaches and foreshores

## POLICY

Council will clean up and undertake the removal of accessible human rubbish items deposited on coastal beaches and foreshores.

Individual logs and wood debris from emergency and authorised beach access track entry points and established lifeguard patrol areas will be removed as soon as practicable to ensure safety.

Council will not clean up or remove beach debris consisting of naturally occurring items that are deemed part of the natural ecosystem and food chain processes e.g. shells, pebbles, individual and dune forming logs, seaweed etc.

The removal of dead marine wildlife from coastal beaches and foreshores will be undertaken in accordance with State Government guidelines.

Council will remove large beach debris quantities, typically after large weather events on an individual basis and only after being either funded by State Government programs or reported to and approved by the elected Council to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources.

## BACKGROUND

Beach debris consists of both natural and human made items and the coastline of Ballina Shire has a history of receiving deposited debris from the Richmond River and coastal currents from the Pacific Ocean.

Council has traditionally been able to manage beach debris levels with existing and external resources. Changes to natural disaster relief funding from the State Government has impacted the ability of Council to resource large scale clean-up of beach debris.

## DEFINITIONS

- Council:** Ballina Shire Council
- Debris:** Scattered pieces of rubbish or remains and loose natural material such as trees and logs.
- Ecosystem:** Is all of the living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other, and also with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, sand, climate, atmosphere).
- Foreshore** the part of a shore between high and low water marks, or between the water and cultivated or developed land. This can include rocky foreshores below coastal headlands and sand spits and beaches along rivers.
- Marine:** Relating to or found in the ocean, includes existing in or produced by the ocean e.g. plants, wildlife, seawater.

## SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Council employees
- Councillors
- Community members
- Consultants/Contractors

## RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

## REVIEW

The Beach Debris Management Policy is to be reviewed every four years.