



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES BALANCED APPROACH TO DUNE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT COLLINGWOOD BEACH

Yesterday the 17th November 2016 the New South Wales Legislative Council unanimously passed a motion put forward by the Hon. Paul Green affirming the importance of maintaining native vegetation across coastal areas and supporting community engagement to protect the Collingwood Beach dunes with appropriate vegetation.

Mr Green is very pleased the House gave unanimous support for the motion. "I thank all my colleagues, including the Greens, and in particular Mr Justin Field MLC, for their support in passing this motion." The motion acknowledges that the prime purpose of the draft dune vegetation management plan currently under consideration by Shoalhaven City Council is to secure views from the shared cycleway across the 1.5 kilometre beachfront between Susan Street and Moona Moona Creek.

"It is of paramount importance to allow the pruning of vegetation, which does not affect the resilience of dunes as the remaining vegetation assists in mitigating erosion during storms. I now call upon Shoalhaven City Council to progress the proposal and adopt the amendments proposed by the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group" said Mr Green.

The motion endorses the vision communicated by the Minister for Planning Rob Stokes when he visited Collingwood Beach on 24th May 2016 and met with members of the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group. The Minister viewed the vegetation on the dunes, discussed the science behind dune resilience, and subsequently wrote to the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group summarising the current status of coastal reforms. The Minister confirmed that Councils need to balance the environmental and stability benefits of vegetation on dunes against the visual amenity for adjacent landholders, in consultation with local communities.

Given the amount of money Shoalhaven City Council has already spent on developing a Dune Vegetation Management plan with amendments, taken in conjunction with its current proposal for a special rate variation, surely now is the time for council, as prompted by the New South Wales upper house, to move ahead with the plan already paid for rather than spend more of ratepayers' time and money on a new plan.

The Collingwood Beach Preservation Group has been studying the particular issues related to dune resilience at Collingwood Beach. Based on the literature endorsed by the Office of Environment and Heritage in the Coastal Dune Management Manual, and historical evidence it is irrefutable that views can co-exist with a resilient dune system. The Collingwood Beach Preservation Group has published a video that highlights the particular circumstances of Collingwood Beach. The video can be found at: www.collingwoodbeachpreservation.com.au.

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