

Community's plan to save Woolli Beach from storm damage

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WOOLLI residents have come up with a plan that will help save their village from storm damage and has been included in a draft plan of management for the region. Members of the Coastal Communities Protection Alliance - Woolli (CPPA) have studied a pattern of storm damage on Woolli Beach and come up with a plan of "beach scraping" to reshape the beach and fix the problem.

A delegation of CPPA members addressed a Clarence Valley Council committee meeting earlier this month to show councillors how the plan could work.

They said at times the wave action formed an incipient dune in front of main dune. At high tide a channel formed between the two dunes and as the tide went out the water eroded the main dune.

The delegation outlined how earthmoving equipment could change the shape of the beach at these times, minimising the damage caused to the main dune.

Last week the council endorsed this measure, plus a plan to periodically nourish the beach with sand sourced from another area, when it approved the Woolli Beach Draft Coastal Zone management plan.

It also committed to further studies on beach erosion and techniques to shape beaches to lessen storm damage. The CPPA submission was one of 73 submissions that came into the council when the draft plan was put out for exhibition in May. The council has been forced to work fast to meet the State Government's deadline of June 30 for the report.

The government identified Woolli as a coastal erosion hotspot and advised council seeking government funding for remedial measures that it needed coastal zone management plans (CZMP) for each area. Clarence Valley Council has also prepared a CZMP for the Brooms Head Lake Cakora erosion hotspot.

At the Tuesday meeting Cr Margaret McKenna said the costs for these plans had still to be finalised. "Is it going to be user pays, how much is the State Government contributing, how much will council be asked to put in?" she said. "These are questions that all have to be sorted out down the track."

Deputy mayor Andrew Baker was glad to give the plans a green light. "They have the opportunity to proceed at a higher level of government," he said. "There was no need for them to be held back here."
