

## **OLD BAR BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT GROUP INC**

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### **NEWSLETTER NO 51 – APRIL – MAY**

#### **CHANGE OF MINISTERS**

I have had varying advice regarding which Minister is responsible for Coastal Management, Upton or Roberts, but Andrew Staniland from MdCoast Council has kindly confirmed that Coastal Management has definitely been placed in Minister Upton's portfolio (from the NSW Government published 15 March 2017 - Allocation of the administration of Acts. This publication from the NSW State Government lists that Coastal Management sits with the Minister for the Environment, Gabrielle Upton)

**MIDCOAST COUNCIL'S ACTION** – Midcoast Council's Old Bar Beach Project Manager, Andrew Staniland has arranged that he and officers from the council endeavour to meet with our group every three weeks and April 28 our latest three weekly meeting with him and Geoff. Love gave good update – as previously advised Council is handling our problems as 3 items for our beach

- **The stormwater**- also as previously advised the Racecourse Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan is to be completed in 2017/2018 – I have been questioned as to whether the exit point of the creek was to be addressed with strong protection and the advice given was that this would be included in the plan. Also that the preparation of this plan is essential as it will be included in the Old Bar Manning Point Coastal Management Plan.
- **Beach Scraping** as an urgent protective interim measure –
  - Geoff Love, as promised, supplied a feasibility study and costing which was submitted to Minister in charge of Coastal Management. Geoff's feasibility study identified that \$90,000 would be required for one sand scraping campaign. This information was given to MP Stephen Bromhead who recently received verbal advice from the Minister that the \$90,000 would be released. Andrew has submitted the necessary application form to the State Government along with a letter of support from MP Stephen Bromhead. As per all other applications, the sand scraping has to be assessed. It is hoped that funding will be successful.
  - Council also has to apply to the Department of Industry Lands (DoI Lands) for a permit to undertake the sand scraping work. Andrew has a meeting booked with staff from DoI Lands (Taree office) Friday 5 May to commence this discussion related to permits.
  - **Old Bar Manning Point Beach Coastal Program** – the group is already working on preparation of the "program"
    - As previously advised MidCoast council is putting up \$100,000 and have submitted a funding application to the State Government requesting a further \$100,000 – i.e. \$200,000 to prepare a study for which the groundwork has already been organised by the former GTCC. The "program"

- for Old Bar and Manning Point will identify strategies to manage the coast. Once the "program" is certified, funding for identified strategies can be sought
- Previously GTCC commissioned Manly Hydraulics Laboratories to undertake a study reviewing all previous studies related to Old Bar and Manning Point. The final draft of this study prepared by Ed.Couriel of Manly Hydraulics has been received by MidCoast Council and both Geoff and Andrew said that they are going through it in detail. After this process Council will make the study available to the public.

Andrew and Geoff were pleased to advise that they are now conversing with a group at Manning Point – Bruce Field is spokesperson – and up to the last six months this group were not concerned with the erosion of the beach, only the problems of the river. However, they now understand the beach is a problem and MidCoast Council are hoping that we will be able to share notes with them. The Manning Point community are interested in short term options which have been spurred on by the works undertaken on Old Bar with sand traps and dune fencing.

I wish to acknowledge that Andrew and the MidCoast crew are so helpful and obviously are working at our problems and I am sure our community will appreciate the outcome.

### **DUNE FENCING – DONE**

Thanks to the help and work of Barbara and Pat the job is finished as far as the Nortec boys are concerned, but the fencing is working so well they want to do it north – I will endeavour to get more help from Nortec and materials, hopefully from somewhere without digging into our precious Feasibility funds. MidCoast Council seem to be able to assist in the engagement of Nortec services and it is hoped they will help again.

### **SAND TRAPS**

Barbara, Pat and crew continuing their effort and getting assistance from the Nortec crew have continued the sand traps south as far as the dune fencing and that is Racecourse Creek outlet.

A point to note is the satisfying comments Pat is getting from community members about how well the sand traps are working and surprise as some were doubtful that they were going to do any good.

*So people do take notice – and thank you Barb, Pat, and crew for a good job well done*

**HAY BALES.** - Andrew is meeting with Tina (DoI Lands Taree office) Friday 5 May, to talk about the use of hay bales on Old Bar Beach, as yet another interim measure to trap sand. It is thought that a permit will be required to place the bales on the beach.

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ELAINE PEARCE, PRESIDENT.