

SHIRE OF BROOME

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE
COASTAL PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM
ON THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2003
COMMENCING AT 10:00AM**

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1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Apologies

Officers

Public Gallery

2. DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Member	Item No	Page	Item	Nature of Interest

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: **Seconded:**

That the Minutes of the Coastal Park Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2003 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

5. MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 ROEBUCK BAY: PUBLIC USE PRESSURES
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LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Broome
APPLICANT:	Rubibi
FILE:	CTE 28
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ben Wurm
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	N/A
DATE OF REPORT:	28 March 2003

SUMMARY: Rubibi has observed increasing human impacts on the coastline of Roebuck Bay, particularly between Crab and Dampier Creeks and seeks a commitment of Shire resources to assist in the amelioration of these detrimental impacts.

BACKGROUND

The coastline of Roebuck Bay east of Broome, especially between Dampier Creek east to Crab Creek is subject to increasing and unregulated human impacts which Rubibi has observed are having a detrimental effect on the long-standing cultural and environmental values of the area.

Detrimental human impacts in this zone include, water-skiing in Dampier Creek, the use of jet skis and other high speed water craft, vehicle use in the inter-tidal zone and on fragile pindan cliffs, access to migratory shore-bird roosting areas by domestic dogs, littering and (at Town Beach) boat-launching in areas of passive public recreation.

RUBIBI COMMENT

The indigenous cultural geography of Roebuck Bay is rich, complex and of great antiquity. This cultural heritage is of major local, national and international significance. Some of these areas have already been registered for protection under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. This coastline is part of the wider area in which registered Rubibi Combined Native Title Claim seeks legal recognition of the close and unique cultural relationship of traditional owners to land and sea.

In addition, Roebuck Bay was recognised some years ago by the local, national and international community for its outstanding environmental values, particularly for the coastal shore-bird roosting and feeding areas in the extensive wetland already listed for protection under the international Ramsar Treaty on the protection of wetlands significant to migratory birds. In terms of the bio-diversity of its benthic fauna, the Roebuck Bay mudflats was described in June 2002 by visiting international research scientists as the "Amazon rainforest of wetlands", which accounts for the extraordinary diversity of shorebirds which feed on these small invertebrates.

Rubibi is keen to collaborate with the Shire, appropriate State and Commonwealth agencies and non-government organisations to ensure that the unique cultural heritage and environmental values of this fragile coastal zone are protected and managed sustainably. To this end, Rubibi seeks the Shire's active support for a number of remedial measures.

SHIRE COMMENT (Manager Engineering Services)

While staff agree that all of the listed “pressures” are occurring, there are some matters where Council does have control or responsibility and some that it doesn't. In addition, the land at Crab Creek for example is not vested with Council and any works carried out on UCL has generally been on a cooperative (not strictly legal) basis to try and address the impacts. It will be a huge task to address all of the issues and these problems are not only present east of Broome, but to the north as well, as have arisen on many occasions through the Waterbank area. There are staffing and resource issues also in addition to the legal jurisdiction, and vesting issues. It is unlikely that any funding can be secured for a Coastal Park Plan by June 2003.

CONSULTATION

Rubibi has opened a preliminary dialogue with Department of Infrastructure & Planning, Coast Care, the Broome Bird Observatory, Environs Kimberley and the KLC Land & Sea Management Unit.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Native Title Act 1993
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
Land Administration Act
Environmental Protection Act
Off-Road Vehicles Act

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the joint approach by Rubibi and the Shire to the management of Minyirr Park and implementation of the 1999 *Coastal Park Management Plan*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

External funding sources and Shire budgetary allocation would need to be considered

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the joint approach by Rubibi and the Shire to the management of Minyirr Park and implementation of the 1999 *Coastal Park Management Plan*

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RUBIBI RECOMMENDATION

That the Shire actively collaborate with Rubibi in strategic planning to protect the cultural heritage and environmental values of Roebuck Bay (including the Ramsar-listed area) by:

- 1. Writing to the Department of Transport (DPI) by 30 April 2003 to enlist their support in the enforcement of legislation in relation to power boating and speed restrictions in Roebuck Bay.***
- 2. Supporting the revocation of the Dampier Creek ski area.***
- 3. Consulting with traditional owners through Rubibi on any, and all issues that impact on this area, as a matter of course.***
- 4. Supporting efforts to secure funds to undertake a coastal management plan for the Roebuck Bay area by July 2003.***
- 5. Enforcing Shire ordinances and local laws on areas under Shire control, ie vehicle management, parking, etc.***
- 6. Installing effective information signage, particularly speed restrictions for watercraft and prohibitions on public vehicular access in the inter-tidal zone.***
- 7. Actively supporting obligations arising from the RAMSAR listing of Roebuck Bay***
- 8. Actively support moves for an increased Ranger presence in the area.***

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council support items 1, 3 & 5, and request further information in regard to Item 7.***
- 2. Rubibi be advised of Council's previous resolution in regard to 2 and that item 6 is not Council's responsibility.***
- 3. Council support an application by Rubibi for funding for a Coastal Park Management Plan for the area.***
- 4. Any additional ranger or other resources required will need to be "costed" and considered in Council's forward plan***

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

5.2 UP-DATE: HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS FROM RECENT EARTHWORKS, DAMPIER CREEK CATCHMENT AREA, BROOME.

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Broome
APPLICANT:	Rubibi
FILE:	CTE 28
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ben Wurm
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	N/A
DATE OF REPORT:	28 March 2003

SUMMARY: Rubibi requests a progress report from the Shire about steps taken to address on-going public health and environmental concerns arising from recent earthworks in the Dampier Creek catchment area.

BACKGROUND

The environmental and public health impacts of recent earthworks carried out by Broome International Airports Pty Ltd (BIA) and the developers of Roebuck Estate residential subdivision, in the catchment area of Dampier Creek, were considered at the last meeting of the Coastal Park Management Committee (CPMC) on 13 March 2003.

RUBIBI COMMENT

The last CPMC meeting requested that Council *inter alia*:

- (1) Obtain copies of prior approvals or clearances obtained by BIA/Roebuck Estate for the earthworks, with copies to be forwarded to Rubibi;
- (2) Seek comment from the WA Planning Commission;
- (3) Advise Rubibi of the proposed drainage layout;
- (4) Report back to the next CPMC meeting.

In addition, Rubibi is concerned at the continued pooling of stormwater around One Mile Community, with potentially serious public health problems arising from mosquito-borne disease. An existing drainage problem at One Mile Community appears to have been exacerbated by the recent earthworks.

SHIRE COMMENT (Manager Engineering Services)

The questions raised here are the next stage of the original item considered by the Coastal Park Management Committee on 13 March 2003. That item has not been to Council as yet for a resolution (in 08 April 2003 agenda) and until Council discuss and resolve, then it is premature to consider this item. However staff can provide advice and most of the required information to Rubibi as a matter of course once Council considered the 13 March 2003 Coastal Park Management Committee item.

CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Native Title Act 1993
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
Land Administration Act
Environmental Protection Act

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Public health and environmental management implications

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RUBIBI RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Provide copies of prior approvals or clearances obtained by BIA/Roebuck Estate for the earthworks, or, the response received BIA/Roebuck Estate;**
2. **Provide a copy of the response received from the WA Planning Commission;**
3. **Provide a copy of the proposed drainage layout;**
4. **Advise on steps taken and proposed to resolve the drainage problem and associated public health risk facing the One Mile Community.**

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

That Rubibi be advised that these issues may be addressed once Council has considered the same matter as detailed in the 13 March 2003 Coastal Park Management Committee minutes.

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

5.3 MINYIRR PARK: QUARTERLY REPORT TO MARCH 2003

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Broome
APPLICANT:	Rubibi
FILE:	CTE 28
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ben Wurm
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	N/A
DATE OF REPORT:	28 March 2003

SUMMARY: Rubibi seeks to table a progress report on works in Minyirr Park during the last quarter to March 2003, prepared by Coastal LandCare Project Officer, Ms Sharon Griffiths.

BACKGROUND

Rubibi wishes to draw to the attention of the Coastal Park Management Committee and Council developments in the Miniyirr Park project in the last quarter ending March 2003. A report is *attached* for information and discussion.

SHIRE COMMENT (Manager Engineering Services)

Information is noted.

CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Native Title Act 1993
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
Land Administration Act
Environmental Protection Act
Off-Road Vehicles Act

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the 1999 Coastal Park Management Plan

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the 1999 Coastal Park Management Plan

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RUBIBI RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the attached Quarterly Report on Minyirr Park.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

5.4 GANTHEAUME POINT: VEHICLE ACCESS TO BEACH AND PARKING

LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Broome
APPLICANT:	Rubibi
FILE:	CTE 28
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ben Wurm
DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST:	N/A
DATE OF REPORT:	28 March 2003

SUMMARY: Rubibi seeks the support of the Shire to contain vehicular access to the southern end of Cable Beach at Gantheaume Point and to divert vehicles to the designated parking area next to the Broome racecourse.

BACKGROUND

Since 1997, Rubibi has sought to collaborate with the Shire on strategies to restrict vehicles on the southern end of Cable Beach at Gantheaume Point. Rubibi is concerned increasing numbers of vehicles on the beach, particularly in afternoons and evenings. With the onset of the Dry (and peak tourist) Season imminent, Rubibi is worried that the human impacts on the beach (and user conflicts) will once again increase.

RUBIBI COMMENT

At all times of the year, but particularly in the Dry Season, increasing numbers of private vehicles are proceeding northwards along the Cable Beach from Gantheaume Point.

Rubibi seeks a commitment from the Shire to promote the diversion of vehicles to the new parking area adjacent to the Broome racecourse in order to minimize the damaging impacts of these vehicles on the beach and fragile dunes. The use of appropriately designed and located signage, identifying the parking area, will promote this goal. Rubibi has a number of other practical measures which it believes would improve the problem of vehicles on this southern section of Cable Beach eg, re-painting the dune sign, and an illuminated marker/buoy to delimit an (interim) allowable northern limit for vehicles on the beach.

The diversion of vehicles off the beach into parking areas improves the prospects for passive recreation on the beach by the general public. It also reduces the Shire's public liability risk by improving public safety on the beach.

SHIRE COMMENT (Manager Engineering Services)

This has been an ongoing problem and was highlighted recently when the beach to the north of the amphitheatre was closed, therefore shifting most vehicles to the Gantheaume Point end. However, that also demonstrates that any closing either beach will have a marked impact on the carparking off the beach and reinforces both Council and Rubibi position, in that additional carparking has to be provided at several locations. The rangers have been experiencing problems with vehicles travelling past the designated marker and a second marker to enable the 'no go line' to more easily seen by the public, and to clearly show the no access area. Rubibi's suggestion of a buoy (s) has been discussed and does have some practical problems, but could perhaps be trialled for the area between neaps and spring high tides.

CONSULTATION

Consistent with the recommendations of the 1999 *Coastal Park Management Plan*

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Native Title Act 1993
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
Land Administration Act
Environmental Protection Act
Off-Road Vehicles Act

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Consistent with the recommendations of the 1999 *Coastal Park Management Plan*, commissioned by the Shire

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RUBIBI RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Shire enforce the maximum limit for vehicle access at Gantheaume Point.**
- 2. As a priority and before the tourist season commences (May 2003), the Shire improve the warning information to drivers and make a visible (night and day) indication of the northern extremity of the area where vehicles are currently allowed.**
- 3. Shire cost out an illuminated buoy and its implications for management on the beach and report to Rubibi before the CPMC agenda cut off for the CPMC meeting on 8 May 2003.**
- 4. Shire encourage the use of parking areas off the beach by developing with Rubibi positive and effective signage designating the parking available adjacent to the racecourse.**
- 5. With Rubibi, the Shire include an article and map in the Shire Newsletter, showing the extent of northern access and the parking area available near the Turf Club and seeking community cooperation in reducing the vehicle pressure on the beach at Gantheaume Point.**

The Shire report to Council through the CPMC on initiatives taken to address the vehicle pressures.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt this Rubibi recommendation with the exception of the 8 May 03 cut-off in Item 3, as this may take longer to organise.

Moved:

Seconded:

FOR:

AGAINST:

6. MEETING CLOSURE