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30th April 2012

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
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Re: Final Draft Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan

Thank you for the opportunity for the Bonny Hills Progress Association to comment on the Final Draft Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan.

The Final Draft is a result of many meetings, varying forms of consultation with the community and public submissions. Council is to be commended for the processes that have led to this outcome and the BHPA welcomes the many positive features including the plans for the coastal walk through the Caravan Park. We are in broad agreement with the priorities identified and the timelines set for the tasks ahead.

The feature of the Final Draft that has caused the most comment in the community is the proposal for car parking at Rainbow Beach. All stakeholders agree that the present situation is unsatisfactory although there is still no agreement on what the best solution is. Whilst the option proposed is a good starting point for discussion, there are varying requirements for the stakeholders (including the Surf Club, the Fat Fish, the Community and beach users). The BHPA is prepared to facilitate an on-site meeting with PMHC and the stakeholders to ensure a successful and timely project to address the short to medium term needs.

The Final Draft also mentions concerns regarding pedestrian safety and access, specifically near the "Top Shop". The lack of footpaths in the area, the high volume of traffic and the high pedestrian activity have all been mentioned at recent public meetings held by the BHPA including a meeting held in conjunction with Hy-Tec to discuss plans to increase the extraction rates from their Bonny Hills quarry. PMHC needs to address these concerns as a matter of urgency and the BHPA would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on the issues at a site meeting, possibly in conjunction with the above mentioned Rainbow Beach parking meeting.

Another area of concern which has been mentioned in the Final Draft is the large number of organised activities at Rainbow Beach including events organised by several different board riding groups. There have been several suggestions for ameliorating the pressure and PMHC needs to address this issue and review the appropriate policies prior to the summer season.

The provision of toilets in the Community Hall Reserve is a project that has broad community support. The BHPA recommends that a working party be established by PMHC to explore the funding and construction options available.

In conclusion, the BHPA again thanks PMHC for the opportunity to comment on the Final Draft Bonny Hills Reserves Master Plan and would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our comments with PMHC staff.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Hafey
Secretary
Bonny Hills Progress Association