

Progress of 4852 key issues

The progress of the requests of community members. Councillor Jennifer Downs addressed the Mission Beach Community Association with the update on the progress of the report's draft.

The Executive Committee of the Mission Beach Community Association and directors of council identified the key issues from the responses to the report.

"The opportunity exists for council to work with communities on projects," she said.

"Another key issue identified was traffic and safety.

"Council, police and Main Roads extracted important projects such as the lighting at Wheatley Road and South Mission Beach Road intersection which is now on the agenda.

"Upgrading of the Mission Road and Commadore Drive intersection, the 50 kilometre per hour signage, upgrading dangerous culverts on the Tully Mission Beach Road, and a right hand turning lane into Frog's Hollow are all on the agenda but they need to be assessed, costed and budgeted and this will take time as each street light will cost approximately \$50,000 to install.

"But I am pleased to say the Clump Point boat ramp lighting is nearly completed.

"Many of the items of the 4852 report have been addressed, but some will be attended to in the regular council maintenance cycle."

TERRAIN FUNDING APPLICATION TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION

Terrain Natural Resource Management Biodiversity Planning Officer Tony O'Malley outlined the latest plans for the conservation of wildlife corridors and natural habitat preservation.

"Because Mission Beach has been identified as a natural habitat of endangered species, one of the things we worked on early was the establishment of the Mission Beach Habitat Action Committee to work on the Mission Beach Network Habitat Action Plan," Mr O'Malley said.

"We have engaged in a broad process where we work out what we need to do for the cassowary habitats and then we need to put those things into a draft plan and then there will be a big consultation process to make sure we have heard everyone's ideas.

"We now need to bring the projects together.

"We have applied for the \$20 million funding from the Caring for our Country initiative and we hope half of that will come to Mission Beach.

It is not just about coastal areas; the rainforest is as important and we want to work with landholders on a voluntary basis to preserve their property's natural habitat.

"The grant will help us entice landholders to preserve the environment as a financial incentive.

"The full technical version of the final draft will be made available."

MBCA TO INCORPORATE

The Mission Beach Community Association has agreed to become incorporated.

The motion was officially carried under the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act.

The motion was moved to agree to incorporation and adoption of the model rules and a second motion was carried to appoint MBCA secretary, Allan Ogden to make the application for incorporation.

The formal paperwork will be presented at the next MBCA meeting on Tuesday, August 11.

Coastal management and coconuts on MBCA agenda

Cassowary Coast Regional Council Parks and Natural Environment Manager, Paul Devine told the MBCA meeting the cultural, social, recreational and economic values of the coast were identified as important values that need to be managed now for the future.

Mr Devine delivered a presentation on coastal management which outlined some of the actions taken by council to protect the values of the shoreline.

"I believe firmly that in 50 to 70 years, issues of coastal management will be one of the top issues the community will have to face and it is important to do deal with those issues now," he said.

"These values should be managed by control of future development through legislation, regulation of activities and strategic planning through using Best Practice and Best Science with inclusive effort."

Cultural values of the coast included sites highly significant to traditional owners such as Clump Point and the Hinchinbrook Channel.

Social and recreational values of the coast were highlighted as important components of the representation of Australia and the economic values were identified as strong drivers to the local and regional economies within the tourism and recreation industries.

Mr Devine said coastal areas post-amalgamation were in sound condition at present with a relatively low impact on the coastal values.

"We need to improve potential for the CCRC to take the right action, we need to retain and enhance partnerships through ongoing consultation and there is a level of uncertainty around the future, particularly with the impacts of climate change.

"Given the high biodiversity, social and economic value of our coast, stakes are high if we get it wrong."

COUNCIL COCONUT RULES

Opinions remained divided on council's coconut clearing policy but Mr Devine said council's rules have remained unchanged over the past eight years.

"The issue with the coconuts started about eight years ago when the Cardwell Shire Council and the Johnstone Shire Council at the same time developed a coconut management strategy," Mr Devine said.

"Those strategies have been carried out for the past eight years and most people were happy with the way the policies were implemented.

"When we develop a new coconut strategy we will be definitely consulting with the community, we need to have the community on side.

"There will be some places where they will be removed in instances where public safety is a concern such as footpaths, public walkways, parks with play equipment and picnic table areas.

"In other places we can tolerate them but we will deal with them."