



# THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY & SHELLY BEACH

## Wyong Shire Council's Sustainability Manager, Greg White's presentation 20 April, 2010 AT 7:00pm on "The Coastal Management Plan"

Greg said it was good to see the level of interest and invited people to ask questions as he went along. Greg advised that the Coastal Management plan was under final preparation and had hoped to have it here tonight but DECCW has not signed off on it yet and they are partners in the preparation and they have to sign off on the document.

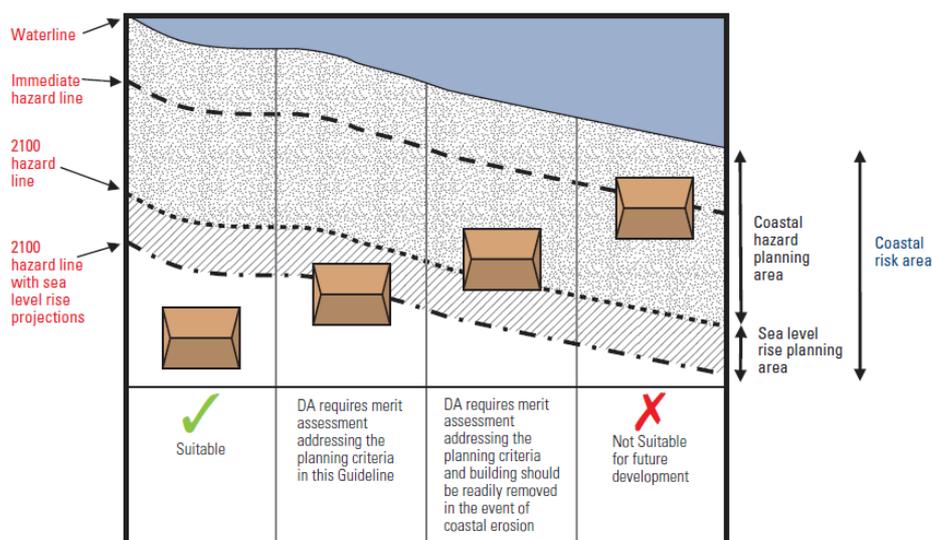
Greg advised that it had been a long and sorry saga. About ten years ago council employed a group of consultants to prepare a Coastline Management plan and that was following Council's interim Development Control Plan (DCP77) that included the preliminary hazard lines that are in use in the guidelines today. Council tried to move ahead but after four years of poor performance Council sacked the consultant. Council then engaged a new set of consultants and tried to move ahead fairly quickly. In 2004 there was Community consultation with draft hazard lines. At the time DECCW changed its required methodology and actually took other consultants to court. This went on for four years and as a result Council's project was put into abeyance. It was a very frustrating time for everybody. About a year ago they got this project back on track and are now finalising the plan so that it is in a form for public consumption. It will be going to Council hopefully before June 2010, and Council will vote whether or not to put it on exhibition. It is expected to be on exhibition for two to three months. There will then be more consultation. We have already had two community consultation meetings. So at this stage I have not got anything to show you. When the consultation is on please come along.

Greg answered a question on how the plan's consultation will be advertised. The Council always advertises in the paper, notify Precinct Committees by sending out emails. For the last consultation Council sent out about one thousand letters.

Greg advised that this time they were doing things a little differently and there will be a single integrated volume in four parts. Parts one, two and three will be the Management Study; Part four will be the Management Plan. Appendices will include full hazard studies, consultation documents, statutory and policy background and evaluation details. There will also be a summary document.

He also said that there was a question on hazards line. Previously Council did some work using AWACS<sup>1</sup> to produce the current hazard lines on DCP77. They have all been updated because nothing is static along the coast. You have an immediate hazard line which is on the beach, the high hazard line adjacent to the dunes plus an intermediate one which is further back.

Figure 4 – Coastal erosion consideration in DA assessment



NOTE: Figure 4 was not part of the presentation but added by the note taker for clarity.

<sup>1</sup> AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) data that provides airborne surveillance information using onboard radar to gather data to be passed to other platforms using tactical data links (TADILs).

You can build in the high hazard line provided you have a whole host of studies. You need a coastal engineer to identify hazards that you can address by piers or revetment works to protect the property. It is a lot more costly than a slab on the ground and has a lot more requirements. There are erosion hazards and land slip hazards. The dunes are mobile, they come and they go. At Curtis Parade you have a fair bit of erosion into the dunes. In 1974 there was a big chunk taken out and then in the calmer periods it builds back up. DECCW advises that in a big storm like the 1974 storm the amount of erosion is in the order of 20 metres. If you live within 20 metres of the surf zone that's the potential for erosion during a big storm. Aspects such as sea level rise are going to make that worse.

Part 1 of the document covers what the Coastline Plan aims to achieve; Plan scope and purpose; Spatial focus; For example DCP 77 did not include the Surf Clubs and they were left in no man's land. Adaptive management – community change and climate change. It presents a sustainable coastline setting out a vision, objectives and targets for the future. It documents the preparing of the Plan identifying stake holders and what the community has said. There are other areas that are half and half like Toowoan Bay. Here there is rock platforms protecting the beach and these issues are being addressed at the moment. The coastal engineers are having a hard time addressing the issues here and so Council has had to take a conservative view to protect the houses.

Part 2 is a status review of the coastal condition, the existing management and risks to coastal values: It looks at the existing management framework; stakeholders, roles and responsibilities of all levels of government as well as the coastal landforms and processes relating to scale and rates of change. It identifies coastal erosion hazards, geotechnical hazards, biodiversity, settlement and land use as well as coastal values. It has a Risk assessment and identifies what needs to be done differently.

Part 3 is an option evaluation designed to reduce risks and enhance coastal values. It identifies the types of response tools available to Council; the sustainability evaluation process including its criteria and scoring. There is an adaptive management framework looking at the potential responses for managing: Inundation risks; Geotechnical risks; Coastline management opportunities; Governance/institutional partnerships and Coastal erosion and recession risks, both immediate, for 2050 and for 2100. It also has detail on benefits and problems.

Part 4 is the Action Plans for implementation. It lists the relevant objectives and targets; preferred options; intent and rationale. It identifies who has responsibility and the key partners. It sets out priority/timing and a review period as well as where there are specific locations for investment. It provides Indicative costs and funding sources.

The presentation showed Council's vision for the Wyong coastline provided continuing community enjoyment of resilient coastal landscapes in times of change.

Key Principles:

- Coastal knowledge and community awareness
- Recognise the scale and variability of coastal processes and hazards, including climate change
- Risk based and logic linked decision making – for effectiveness and efficiency
- Building biodiversity resilience
- Community access to the coastal landscape

Greg advised that if you look at the data from council's perspective sea level has been rising and has been rising from about 1750. The predictions are that it is going to get a lot worse into the future. But even if it continues to rise at the same amount within 100 years it is going to be much higher. What we do know is things are changing. Our population is changing. We know the sea level is changing, what we are not exactly sure of is the rate of change. We know what the impacts are likely to be we just don't know exactly when they are going to occur. What we need to do as a Council is to assess the risk and manage that risk into the future. And that's what the Coastline Management Plan will be doing.

Coastal erosion hazard results show that Toowoan Bay and Blue Bay can expect impacts on property by 2050. All surf clubs are in zone of wave impact and slope adjustment by 2050; also car parks, access and facilities. The Central Coast highway at Budgewoi/Lakes Beach will be impacted by 2050 and 2100 with a possible entrance opening at Budgewoi/Lakes Beach by 2100

Geotechnical hazards show that without any climate change, cliffs and bluffs predicted to recede further by 2100 - 25-30m (sand bluffs) – e.g. Cabbage Tree Harbour Coastal Erosion Hotspot and 12-20 m at rock bluffs. Climate change (SL rise) affects geotechnical processes, increases rate of recession resulting in increased exposure of toe of slope to wave impact.

The State Government and Council made decisions in the past to subdivide some land, and did so in good faith without realising the future impacts. In streets like Curtis Parade it is only a matter of time until we get a big enough storm to impact all the houses there. How the future is managed will need difficult decisions from Council. You really do need to look one hundred years into the future and assess the risks. Over the past one hundred years the coastline has moved inland between ten and fifteen meters.

Greg advised that he was happy to talk about the lake as it is connected to the coast and was immediately questioned about calling it "a lake" and not "a lagoon". He explained that lakes, such as Lake Macquarie tend to be deeper, while lagoons are shallow, between one and two metres deep.

Vivienne Scott said people in European countries have a completely different mindset and were able to use devices to protect the coastline, and look at ways to stop people from losing their houses. Greg replied if you have enough population you can protect it. It is not possible to build levies around the lake to stop sea level rise because they would hold the run off causing floods behind them. We do not have the population and investment as do places like the Gold Coast where billions of dollars worth of investment are at risk. So it comes down to money and the Council does not have the funds.

There was a statement from the floor that there was two schools of thought about The Entrance channel and that the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Committee wanted it closed. Greg Advised that Council had voted to keep dredging the channel and Councillor Lyn Webster advised that it would commence in the last week in April or the first week in May. They have been waiting for a Part 7 licence from the Department of Fisheries. Greg White said that an increase in procedures had caused the delays. Our Chairperson Vivienne Scott summed up the mood of the meeting when she stated that Council should have known the time it takes to obtain approvals and planned its timeline accordingly to have dredging commence before last summer.

Q. What are they doing about Fishermans Wharf? You sit down to have a meal there and are driven off by the stench. There are rats running in the mud. it is a disgrace!

A. Greg had no knowledge of this and took it on notice to get back to us.

Q. Is it Council priority to open the channel? Is it something you want to do?

A. Greg advised that Council opened the Channel because of flooding issues. There is some impact on water quality but the tidal influence is marginal.

Q. What about the fishing?

A. If it is the right season you will get the movement of prawns into the lake.

Q. It is the season right now and the lake is closed. It will take three years for the prawns to recover if the lake is not opened and this effects tourism. (30 min)

A. That's an issue. Karen is taking notes

Q. In the eighties they opened it up with bulldozers? ( Greg has advised he misunderstood the question and his answer related to the Lakes Restoration Project where large amounts of sediment was bulldozed around the edges of the Lakes to build extensive flats above mean lake level.)

A. And it created a lot of acid sulphate soils around the edges and the actually stuffed a lot of the ecology of the lake. Council did a lot of things in the past that it now knows was not right. It now has Estuary Management Study and is spending in the order of \$46million on improving the lake.

Q. If you have a shower and block the plug hole the water will flow over. Can you take this back to Council? That if you don't unblock the channel the lake could flood.

A. It is always going to be a narrow channel. The June 2007 flood the lake built up, created a head and cleared the channel.

Q. Jim Price stated that you may be calling it a lagoon now but I have been here over fifty years, originally it was a lake. There was a regular ferry service between The Entrance and Wyong and there was boat building on the Lake and it was of sufficient depth to allow this. It has gradually silted up through muck washing into the lake and silting it up. One of the major things that caused it was extending the Memorial Park into what was then the channel. During the Christmas Holidays warning signs had to be posted not to swim in the channel because of the currents. Forty years ago the lake was tidal and they used to publish tide charts for Toukley. I have even heard from long term residents that dynamite was used to open up the channel. We have to get the channel open one way or another or the dream of some estate agents to fill in the lake and sell it for real estate will become a reality!

Q. What happened to the trial of geotextile bags?

A. They were trialed at Byron Bay and failed.

Q. Have you done any studies on the impacts on the coastal sewerage works, mainly the outfalls to the sea.?

A. The question raises the issue of Council and State Government infrastructure. Storm water drains around the lake; sewerage outfalls; pumping stations; roads; boat ramps -all those things are going to be effected. Council is doing a risk assessment of these assets to look at when these things may be effected and we will program works to provide for that.

Q. Are you using Lidar<sup>2</sup> data in your assessment?

A. The Lidar data is now being used with an order of accuracy of plus or minus 0.15m. We have set up three dimensional models in the computer. The hazard lines have been worked out and put into this model. I will be able to come back and show you 3d pictures of beaches and what the storm cuts would look like.

Greg then went onto explain that the Shire had not had a major one in one hundred year event and if we do the flooding will be more extensive than we have seen before.

Q. You said that you can't stop these events so why are you considering them?

A. So that we can plan and react to the emergency. If you address the 1 in 100 year storm that is considered an accept level of preparedness.

Q. Why do we need to do all these studies why don't you just get on and do something instead of study after study?

A. Previous generations who did not do the studies ended up making mistakes.

Q. It should be a national thing, it should be a holistic approach because one part of the coast effects the other.

A. Coastal Management is a State Government issue but it has delegated responsibility for planning and implementation to Councils.

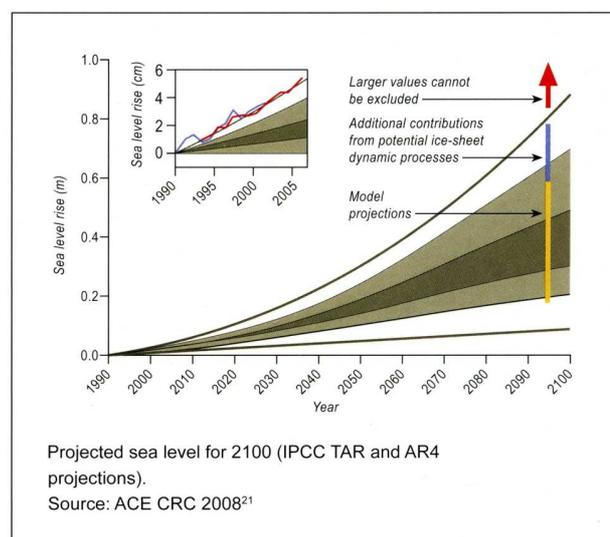
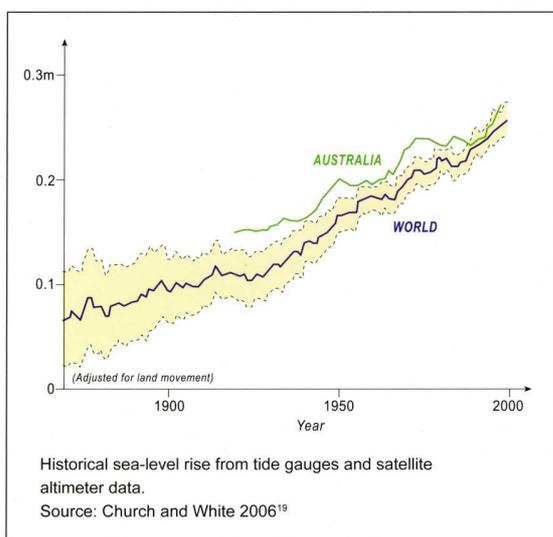
Q. Queensland seems to be doing more have you investigated what they are doing?

A. Some things have worked and others haven't in Queensland. They have had to put in a multi-million dollar pumping station to save Stradbroke Island.

Q. Have you consulted with Gosford and Lake Macquarie Councils?

A. We have consulted with them and many other Councils. Lake Macquarie's policy is almost the same a Wyong's and while Gosford's is a little bit different it has many similar features ( 1hr)

Greg then spent some time referring to the graph below to explain the 900mm sea level rise by 2100 that the State government has determined should be used in its risk assessment.



Q. You are never going to know if it is correct, if you consider always lookin one hundred years into the future it is going to be too late. How about doing something now, If you don't try you will never get anywhere; like sandbagging, just because it didn't work in Queensland does not mean it will not work here. Just dredgeing and putting it back on thebeach is just stupidity as it washes away. You should be putting a heap of rocks out there.

A. Placing rocks has been tried and failed in the past.

<sup>2</sup> Lidar is an acronym for "light detection and ranging." In the mapping industry, this term is used to describe an airborne laser profiling system that produces location and elevation data to define the surface of the earth and the heights of above-ground features.

Q. Back in 2007 we had a big flood and the channel was wide. I know Council does not like a big wide channel, not even half that, what is the reason for that? I know they do not want break walls, is it because they are worried about the bridge foundations? Are they worried about the tourists getting washed out to sea? Can you give me an honest answer?

A. I told you before the dredging is done for flooding, water quality and recreational amenity.

Q. The Channel has not been done for years.

A. The reason the dredging has not been done is because we did not have the licence to do it. Now they have the licence they are starting next week. It may be too late for you, I understand that. I am not arguing against that.

Q. In the Estuary Management Plan there was money allocated for the lake to be worked on. If none of that money has been used for dredging or fixing the channel, why don't they purchase some type of implement to ensure that the channel is always kept open? A fund should be established so that the money from the interest is always available to work on the channel so that rate money isn't wasted each year.

A. Council pays for the dredging out of rates.

Q. Are the hazard lines relevant to AHD<sup>3</sup> levels.

A. The levels that we use from Lidar<sup>2</sup> are AHD levels.

Vivienne advised that the Lidar mapping is available on the DECCW web site.

Q. Cabbage Tree Bay is a hot spot and has attracted State funding. Curtis Parade is a Hot spot has it attracted State Government funding?

A. No not at this stage.

Vivienne then made a statement saying the reason our Precinct can't get momentum to attract funding is because 85% of our properties are owned by absentee land lords. It is only when we have an issue that affects large numbers do people turn out. People need to band together to get anything done.

Q. People do care, but ever since that farce of a meeting on the geotextile sand bags at the North Entrance Surf Club that was supposed to be specifically for North Entrance Beach they are sceptical. There were hundreds of people there who do not live in North Entrance and the meeting was all about the lake. This was false advertising in the Council letter we got and the recommendations were put forward, people came up from Sydney, they were all there. I complained to the Council representative who was there, whose name was on the bottom of the letter and I got the reply that the letter was poorly worded! Well that was a farce and killed it from then on. People in Sydney are not going to come up when it is a white wash and is about something else. They had that concern there, they wanted it addressed and somehow or other Council has to win their confidence back.

A. Vivienne responded by saying we need people like you to be a spokesperson and work actively with a group of people and keep hammering this issue with Council.

Q. We went to the Council and spoke to them but it was a waste of time.

Q. We have submitted three DA's to Council and they keep moving the goal posts. Originally we could build eighteen and a half meters from our sea boundary, then it was changed to twenty two meters and now with the final DA approval it is twenty five meters. The sand dune at the back of our property is nine meters above sea level and the distance from the dune to our back boundary is easily fifty meters. By moving us back twenty five meters Council has sterilised fifty percent of our property. What are we supposed to do? Wait until you give us a new line and push us into the Street?

A. When the plan comes out it will be accessed by Council and that is how future DA's will be accessed.

Q. It will be easier for them to be flooded out by the lake than it is by the sea.

A. Yes that could be the case. The scenarios being painted for North Entrance are not that crash hot. They will be effected by the sea and the lake. It is a case of buyer beware! If you are already there you need to address them and you need to address them in the best way possible. Council could say no one can build there any longer, but that sterilises and isolates the place already. In adjusting things and moving houses it means you are going to be safe for the next seventy to one hundred years. So you have some assurance moving into the future.

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<sup>3</sup> AHD is Australian Height Datum standardising levels across Australia,

- Q. They keep moving the goal posts.
- A. I will grant you that, the goal posts are changing, but as I said the times are changing, and the State Government is coming out with new legislation, they are changing various acts with a whole lot of coastal reforms to deal with this problem.
- Q. What is Council doing about the sand dune at Wyuna Avenue and Curtise Parade that is encroaching further and further onto the road and will soon block it? Council is saying you can't put the sand back on the beach because it is contaminated, but the sand came off the beach and is now one meter above the fence walk way and is continuing to build. The sand at the houses on either side has been washed away and they are in danger of collapsing. Is anything likely to be done about that or will Curtise Parade actually be closed?
- A. I do not know. I am sorry I can't answer you. A note is being made of it.
- Q. Another thing the second stage near the Surf Club, the sand was bulldozed from the rear to the beach. It was classified as being OK even though it was full of rubbish and vegetation. This is pure windblown sand off the beach and now it is not suitable to go back on the beach because of all the greenies thinking it is dirty. It has to be carted away somewhere - it's a joke! All it needs is a bulldozer to push it back where it came from and save a house that is going to drop into the ocean.
- A. That is the purpose of the dredging
- Q. That dredged sand is filthy and is being used to nourish The Entrance beach but this clean sand can't be used to nourish the beach right in front of it. It does not make sense..
- A. Marlene Penning replied that there is a joint State Government/CMA/Council project and that in the next couple of weeks machinery will be arriving to push the sand back onto the beach from Simpson Street and that a massive amount of planting is proposed by two green core teams.
- Q. How long is this Coastal Management Plan going to keep going and how much money is going to be spent on it before money is spent on doing something?
- A. We already had a Development Control Plan in place at the moment and that's what effects your properties if you want to put a DA in at the moment. It will go to Council in July/August to decide if it will be placed on exhibition or no and after that it will come back to Council for adoption.
- Q. Is it impossible to fix The Entrance channel - that is to open it up? In Dubai it seems that nothing is impossible. Compared to what they are doing The Entrance Channel is nothing.
- A. It depends what you mean by fix.

Karen Douglas, WSC's Senior Officer-Terrestrial Ecology and Sustainability made a statement on The State Government's Coastal Reform Package. The State Government is introducing legislation to give extra options to Council's and land owners with regard the management of coastal erosion. It is looking at giving landowners the right to protect their own property. I urge you to look at the legislation on the Department of Planning web site: Submissions close 7 May 2010.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm>

It gives people the option of placing temporary protection measures in the event of large storms. The temporary measures can stay in place for twelve months, and after that they have to be removed. They do not want rocks or car bodies, they want sand and sand only. There is also provision in the legislation for more permanent structures.

Vivienne thanked Greg for the presentation and stated that we would love to have him back when the hazard lines are published. There was a warm round of applause for Greg's efforts.

Note taker: Doug Darlington