

26. MAIREHAU ROAD/TRAVIS WETLAND LAND DISTURBANCE AND EXCAVATION INTRUSION

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Community Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Communication - External and Internal	

The purpose of this report is to outline events that led to the levelling of a sand dune on the Mairehau Road side of Travis Wetland and provide mechanisms to prevent the same type of incident occurring in the future. It will also be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

At its 3 July 2000 meeting the Board was informed of an incursion into the Travis Wetland by developers of the subdivision adjacent to Mairehau Road. This led to the levelling of a sand dune covered in native bracken and shrubs, which had been tended by the Travis Wetland Trust. The sand dune was considered an important part of the local ecology at Travis Wetland and its removal upset the Trust and Coast Care, which had not been informed of the pending road works. A full summary of the events is attached in reports from the Area Head Ranger, Coastal Parks, and the Senior Enforcement Officer. The Environmental Services Unit also believes that the Council should not prosecute the contractors in this instance as they have undertaken reinstatement work on the affected area.

The Board also resolved to provide delegated authority to the Chairperson, Dave Dobbie and Don Rowlands to report to Council pending reports on the incident. By the time reports arrived it was agreed that the situation was no longer urgent and that this report could be forwarded to the Board for its consideration. A letter outlining the day's events was also sent to the Travis Wetland Trust, as requested by the Board.

The events that occurred on 30 June 2000 raise a number of questions, not only in regard to this particular incident but also for the future protection of important Council owned heritage sites in the City.

City Streets Unit representatives believe that they had clearly informed the developers of the situation regarding the Wetland Heritage Park. City Streets were also unaware of any need for the work to commence with urgency and believed that Environmental Services were coordinating the subdivision proposal. It was expected that they would liaise with any other Units that may have a vested interest in the work. The City Streets Unit plan for the works also showed moving of post and cable back to the road edge, which would not intrude into the Wetland itself. The contractors ended up intruding 12 metres into the Wetland.

Coast Care informs further, that neither it, the Parks Unit nor City Streets Unit were consulted over the 30 June works.

Although the contractors are at fault in this incident, there was a lack of communication between the Council Units involved. This prevented an opportunity for Coast Care staff to meet with the contractors on site and define the exact extent of the works to be undertaken. The Community Advocate has taken this example to an officer team established to enhance inter unit communication wider community consultation. Some defined linkages obviously need to be established to allow the likes of Coast Care to be informed of works, not only at Travis Wetland, but also along the Coastal Marine environment in the future.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the aforementioned recommendation be adopted.
 2. That the contractor and consultant provide for the replanting of the reconstituted dune, under the supervision of Colin Meurk.