

21. CAVE ROCK AREA ENHANCEMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on proposed works at Cave Rock and to answer submissions made at the March meeting.

BACKGROUND

Board members will recall the Parks Unit's report in March updating them on consultation carried out on the proposed development of the Cave Rock reserve area. This is summarised below:

Studio 33 Landscape Architects Ltd. presented an initial concept plan which was circulated within Sumner and then further refined at the final workshop held in November last year. We are confident that it meets the community's needs and aspirations for the area. Key issues raised by submitters on the draft concept were:

- Confusion as to public and private (leased) areas near the On the Beach restaurant, in particular the restriction of access on to the jetty.
- The health of the Norfolk pines if seating is constructed around the base of them
- The need for irrigation for new lawn and shrub areas.
- Location of proposed toilet block
- Loss of parking spaces

These have been considered by the designers and will be addressed when areas within the concept are detailed. These will be determined by the funds that are made available. In the 1999/2000 funding of \$20 000 is available

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

The concept plan developed by Studio 33 Landscape Architects and the community was presented to the Board in March Further comment was provided by representatives from the Sumner Resident's Association and the Clifton Neighbourhood Committee at the Board meeting. These are summarised below:

- Planting in this exposed site will be affected by wind-blown and drifting sand.
- Norfolk pines in site are not doing well and Macrocarpa cupressus may be more suitable.

- Four picnic tables are provided, two of which are too close to proposed toilets. Is toilet block really necessary?
- Why raise the grassed area? Expensive and sea wall will still obscure view. War memorial will be continually filled with sand.
- Is this a suitable proposal for the area? It may be changing the historic use of the site considerably – is it an attempt to “pretty up” the area unnecessarily? Is this a suitable community use of the area?
- Is the proposed tour bus stop appropriate?
- Do not want to see Cave Rock lit up
- General comment – a prettying up exercise of area for which the need has not been determined and the capacity of the environment has not been recognised. Sand and salt spray have not been taken into account.

RESPONSE FROM PARKS UNIT AND STUDIO 33

The first two comments are valid and we agree that macrocarpas are more suitable as a tree species even though Norfolk pines have an historic nautical place along shorelines. We are well aware of the problems posed by salt and sand laden wind in the area and believe that the design together with careful plant selection will combat any problems caused by site conditions.

The proposal for four picnic tables does not seem unreasonable given the large numbers of people, in particular family groups, that visit Sumner. For the same reason toilets are proposed. During the workshops café owners highlighted that toilets in their premises were under almost constant demand by members of the public who were not necessarily dining there. The positioning of the toilets will be finalised when the money is available to build them. Both picnic tables and toilets were discussed at the workshops and the need for a play area was even debated.

The bus stop for tour buses was also discussed and has been shown in a position that is supported by City Streets staff and workshop participants.

Cave Rock does not have to be lit up but once again this was a suggestion that was discussed at the workshops.

Overall comments referring to the necessity of the enhancement of the area are of concern. The Parks Unit embarked on the design exercise, organising three meetings with interested parties, including the Sumner Resident's' Association representatives because of general feeling that the area around Cave Rock and the On the Beach restaurant has for some time been of a low standard. It is dominated by large areas of seal and this does not add value to the Sumner beach experience. In addition to this, confusion had been expressed as to the appearance of the public jetty area as part of the On the Beach activity. The first stage of works in the area seeks to address the public-vs-private issue.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

\$20 000 is available for the current financial year. The following works can be carried out by Coast Care before the end of the 1999/2000 financial year:

- Clarifying the public use of the jetty
- Improving access on to the beach

A publicity leaflet has been sent to residents about the project and work is due to begin according to the attached plan.

CONCLUSION

Parks Unit staff believe that the concept plan designed by Studio 33 Landscape Architects is an excellent solution to the enhancement of the Cave Rock reserve area. We are confident that it has the backing of the Sumner community as there has been good communication with residents by way of workshops and publicity leaflets. Further refinement of the design will occur as funds become available.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board continue to support the enhancement of the Cave Rock reserve area in accordance with the concept plan.
 2. That the Board endeavour to commit further funds to the project.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the first recommendation be adopted and that the Board consider the question of further funding for this project.