

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

Ordinary Meeting of Council on 29 October 2024

Please refer to the minutes of the [Council Meeting](#) for outcomes of the agenda items.

Name	Subject/Comments	Presentation Provided	Hybrid
Trish Hellier	NOM24/009 Vehicular Access to Maloneys Beach	Yes	In person

Mayor, Councillors, General Manager, Staff, Gallery and those comfortable zooming from home my name is Patricia Hellier from Batemans Bay.

NOM24/009 VEHICULAR ACCESS TO MALONEYS BEACH

Councillors in the 14 years I have been involved with this Council I cannot remember a motion being put forward by a Councillor to consult the community for such a short period of 14 days. My initial reaction when I read this item on the Agenda was “How are they going to make contact to ALL those interested in this issue in such a short period of time as a number of homes at Maloneys are holiday homes”. This motion is VERY lacking in detail.

I read the General Manager’s response to this proposal and I note it states “Council would likely have additional ongoing maintenance requirement from the increased usage. It should also be noted that the area could flood as it is a storm water swale. Council would have little appetite to construct a formal boat ramp facility on Maloneys Beach. I note in the General Managers response that NPWS and Marine Parks have been informed, I therefore ask has Council received a written response from these organisations?”

My concerns were further escalated on **Saturday, I was sent a copy of a FB comment, this comment was from a group called “Residents of Maloneys/LongBeach -against removal of boat launch access”** the FB notice was headed **‘IMPORTANT UPDATE’** it was a copy of today’s **motion**, what concerned me was the following wording **“Once this consultation is passed through at the meeting next week (and there is no real reason this will not be passed)”** unquote I thought **REALLY**– the comment went further to state **“we really need everyone to write in to council to give their feedback to the consultation. It went on to say “I will provide details on how you can respond once I have it”.**

As a regular participant in Council Meeting I remembered a **Petition being presented to Council on this issue.** I accessed Council web site for the **19th March 2024.** I read the **Agenda of the meeting and the lengthy detailed General Managers Response, I read the statement from the Presenter, I read the Minutes on this item and the motion which was Moved by Clr Schutz seconded by Clr Grace THAT Council receive and note the Petition the motion was carried unanimously.**

I also listened to the Live Streaming of this meeting, I read the 38 Page statement attached to Public Forum by the presenter who I soon realised is the driver of the FB page I mentioned. I found it concerning that in this statements from pages 18/20 there was a continual criticism of the Maloney’s Beach Residence Association with a statement “their views are biased to their interest” I will add, I am not a member of this Association . There was an allegation that NPWS targeted the self-proclaimed Maloney’s Beach Residence Association and they were the only ones privy to Consultation”. Councillors was this the case, or was the Consultation missed due to the general lack of interest from the community.

In one of the FB comments that was sent to me it was alleged that **“the access to Maloney’s Beach was now blocked”** on Sunday I visited Maloneys, and found this to be incorrect. I noted where the sandstone blocks had to be placed after the previous gates were vandalised, dragged out by a heavy vehicle, obviously by a very disgruntle person thus a further cost to Council.

I spoke to a couple enjoying the beach with their children, I asked if they lived at Maloney’s, and they said they did, I raised the placement of the sandstone blocks, they told me they were happy that **“jet skis could no longer access the beach and that they no longer had the late night parties on the beach and loud cars dragging around Maloneys late at night”.**

What has changed since the Council Meeting in March 2024 – **there has been a Council Election** - It would appear there was extensive lobbying conducted by individuals from this FB page that I mentioned **to candidates seeking an assurance for their support** - hence today's motion which I believe is **targeted to attract “those people in the know” that will then create a large number of submissions for the removal of the sandstone blocks.**

It has apparently been stated by this FB group **that are not asking for a new boat ramp to be erected**, it was stated on a FB post that **“they would like to see a Sand Ramp”**, Councillors a Sand Ramp **does not come from beach sand**, it is a particular **sand that can be compacted down and would have to be purchased and carted in and a ramp erected – at what costs and who will pay? and there is a possibility a sand ramp could be washed out to the sea.**

I cannot help reflect on the 14 homes under threat at Myamba Pde Surfside. To save their homes these homes owners would have to apply for a permit to sandbag their homes, owners would have to purchase sandbags and the sand to fill the bags at their own costs. This situation was created by Council and state Government of a previous day.

Councillors I strongly recommend that all Councillors take the time to access the meeting **of the 19th March 2024** read the documentation **especially the lengthy and detailed General Managers report** ask yourselves **what has changed since that meeting, and WHY was that motion just NOTED**. I would recommend that an on site inspection be conducted by the Councillors to ascertain exactly what land is NPWS, seek a written response from NPWS and Marine Parks and I suggest this motion should not proceed in this format until this occurs.

Thank you
Patricia Hellier
29/1024