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The General Manager
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

re: PMHC Draft One Year Operational Plan 2016 – 2017

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Council's Draft One Year Operational Plan 2016-2017.

In the 2015 BHPA Submission on the Draft Operational Plan we restated our 2014 comments (italics) and urged Council to consider the coastal side of Ocean Drive for this footpath.

5.1.1.4 (d) The lack of a footpath on Ocean Drive between Rodley Street and Beach Street (south) has been the subject of many meetings and a large volume of correspondence over recent years. The BHPA urges PMHC to allocate funds to rectify this dangerous situation immediately.

PMHC included this footpath in the 2014-2015 Operational Plan. However, the complex engineering requirements of a footpath on the western side of Ocean Drive has resulted in the project not being commenced. The BHPA urges PMHC to consider the eastern or coastal side of Ocean Drive as an alternative option to provide safe access for visitors and residents, including parents with young children.

PMHC's response was as follows:

5.1.1.4 (d) The specific components of the footpath / cycleway program are currently being finalised with assessment based on the rolling priorities of the 2014-2015 program and a review of the practicality of construction. The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) will also be referenced in this finalisation process. The BHPA submission to the PAMP has also been noted in regard to this point.

A footpath on the northern side of Ocean Drive between Rodley Street and the existing surf club access is listed in the PAMP as one of the key pedestrian infrastructure components in Bonny Hills. Assessment of priorities and funding availability to progress these works will be an ongoing process for Council.

Given that the original footpath was proposed two years ago, the BHPA requests an update from Council as to the status of this project and the reasons for not locating the footpath on the coastal side of Ocean Drive.

The BHPA makes the following comments on specific sections of the 2016-2017 Plan:

1.1.1 Council is to be congratulated on its efforts to engage and inform the community using a variety of tools including reference groups, workshops, taking the Council to the Community and the updated website. One area that needs urgent attention is the attachments section of the Business Papers for Council Meetings which often exceeds 200MB. Prior to the development of the new website, relevant documents could be downloaded as part of the agenda item. In the new system, all the attachments have to be downloaded (in May this was in excess of 700 pages) to access a two page report.

4.1.1.4 The BHPA supports the collaboration between PMHC and community groups such as Landcare and requests that remediation of the escarpment and the associated public safety issues at Bartletts Reserve be included.

4.7.1 Council is to be congratulated on the progress of the KPoM and the biodiversity strategy. The BHPA will continue to provide support and representation on the working parties to support the implementation of the two policies.

5.1.1.4 (d) Refer to comments above. In addition, pedestrian and cycle access to Lake Cathie Public School must be an urgent priority.

5.2.1.4 The BHPA requests that results of the Area Wide Traffic Study be made available to the Association and other Community Groups.

5.5.3.4 (n) The BHPA congratulates Council on the work undertaken to ensure the water quality in Duchess Creek and Rainbow Beach and will continue to work with Council to inform the community.

The BHPA would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this submission with Council as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Hafey
18 May 2016