

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TRUST:

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Jack Evans Boatharbour Reserve Trust Meeting held 8 December 2004

UNDER SEPARATE COVER:

Minutes of the Meeting of the Jack Evans Boatharbour Reserve Trust Meeting held 8 December 2004 (DW 1132643)

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REPORTS THROUGH THE GENERAL MANAGER/EXECUTIVE MANAGER

REPORTS FROM DIRECTOR ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

1 [JEBH-EO] Scuba-Doo Pty Ltd - Dive Operations

ORIGIN:

Recreation Services

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The Trust has received a proposal to conduct a Scubadoo dive operation in the Jack Evans Boat harbour. The Department of Lands requires the consent of the Trust prior to providing owners consent to a Development Application and issuing of licences.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust notifies the Department of Lands that it has no objections to the Department:-

1. Providing owners consent to a development application to operate a Scubadoo dive operation from Jack Evans Boatharbour.
2. Issuing a licence over that part of the Jack Evans Boatharbour required to conduct the operation.
3. Issuing of a licence over that part of Lot 703 DP 877250 required for operating the businesses, providing facilities and providing parking.

REPORT:

The Trust has received a proposal to conduct a Scubadoo dive operation in the Jack Evans Boat harbour. The applicant is aware of the master plan for the Boatharbour and that approval for such an operation would be temporary until such time as the plan is realised.

The proposal is reproduced overpage:-

SCUBA-DOO PTY LTD

ABN 57 076 458 869

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Gold Coast Mail Centre
BUNDALL QLD 4217

AUSTRALIA

W: 16354

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL
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Our Ref TCRG/070405

April 7 2005

Rebecca Groth
Tweed Shire Council
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

Dear Madam

As per our telephone discussion, the following is a brief description of the operation of a Scubadoo dive site we wish to set up in the Jack Evans Boat Harbour.

I am aware of the overall plan for the harbour but as the dive site is a temporary arrangement I would like you to consider our proposal so we can operate there until the plan is finalised.

We have spoken with Mr Phil Fogerty from the lands department who without committing himself agreed our plan had merit and would consider granting a license on a temporary basis.

Once the plan has been approved and accepted we will then make formal applications for a Scubadoo site within the guide lines of the overall scheme

Description of our proposal

We propose to set up a Scubadoo dive site operating along the inside of the rock wall. At no time will the Scubadoos be allowed to operate outside the lagoon or near the two entrances. A fully qualified dive Instructor will be with the divers at all times.

A catamaran or motorised pontoon will be used to launch the Scubadoos. This will be anchored near the sea wall and could be moved or relocated at any time as required by the council.

The boat will have a minimum impact on the view from any apartment building or on the shore line, less in fact than the pontoons and boats of the Air Sea Rescue.

A small floating pontoon would be sited in the area as shown in the site plan. The divers would be ferried from the pontoon to the launching platform in a small boat. the floating pontoon will be a temporary structure that could be loaded onto a truck and moved quickly. Any concrete paths or pads would be broken up and removed returning it to the same as before

The Scubadoos are safe and environmentally friendly. They are operating on the Great Barrier Reef at present (copy of the approval enclosed). There is no noise or

Phone 07 55 788124 Fax 07 55 789243 Email enquiries@scubadoo.com.au Website www.scubadoo.com.au

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pollution of any kind and as the Scubadoos are under water the only visible evidence of them being there are the buoys that are attached to the Scubadoo and float on the surface.

The area in which we wish to operate is away from the area used by the people who hire the paddle boats and catermarans and with the buoy and flag attached will show any person who ventures into that area that there is a scubadoo below.

We discussed the use of the shed & shower block with the Council in our previous DA and the Council accepted that it could be of mutual benefit to all parties if we upgraded the block with toilets that would be available to the general public. At present the building is in need of repair and is not being used. The building would be renovated and upgraded to include male & female toilets, showers and an office for Scubadoo P/L.

The amenities would be cleaned and maintained by Scubadoo P/L.

All costs in upgrading and renovating the building including cleaning and maintenance of the toilets etc would be at no expense to the Council as Scubadoo P/L would carry out this work at its own expense. Mr Fogerty seemed to think that this would fit in with his plans

There is a large paved carpark adjacent to the building which could be used as a carpark for visitors

It is not envisaged there would be a large number of cars using the facilities as most of the diving will be tourists who are brought to the site by bus or coach tours. We will also have a shuttle bus picking up tourists from Hotels & motels in both the Tweed and Surfers areas.

If the business is as successful as we think it will be this should create many jobs and become a Tourist attraction for the Tweed area bringing more people to the Tweed.

In my opinion this project will be an asset to the Tweed.

As we intend to submit a DA in the near future could you please comment on the proposal and inform me if this will fit in with your criteria.

If you require any information on any aspect of the proposal please let me know so we can submit relevant information with the DA.

Yours faithfully



For: Bevan Steffensen

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The Trust supported the lodging of a Development Application for the Scubadoo dive operations at it's meeting held 11 April 2001. However, that application proposed construction of an artificial reef which presented some complications. The proposal subject of this report does not propose construction of an artificial reef and is scaled down to reflect it's temporary nature.

As noted in the correspondence, the applicant proposes to utilise the boatshed and toilets building remaining on the old Aquatic Club site as the office and facilities for the operation. This area has been utilised by the Voluntary Marine Rescue (VMR) for boat storage. However, the VMR have indicated it is no longer required for this purpose.

Officers from the Department of Lands have indicated they are willing to consider the proposal on a temporary basis provided the Trust indicates it's support for owners consent to the Development Application, and for the issuing of licences over the Boatharbour and the lot containing the boatshed building.

LEGAL/RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER:

Nil.

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