

TITLE: [EC] Tweed Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020

ORIGIN:

Environment & Health

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

Council, at its meeting of 16 February 2005, resolved to establish the above Strategy for community comment.

Only one (1) submission has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts Option 2 referred to in the body of this report being:-

- 1. Adopts the Tweed Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020 and implements its actions subject to budget constraints.**
- 2. Includes in Table A2 under heading "Paid Life Guards" requirements:**
 - i) to investigate and review the possibility of using Council paid life guards or other possible contractual arrangements; and**
 - ii) to develop thresholds that determine when new or expanded life guard services may be required.**
- 3. Establishes a Beach Safety Management Committee consisting of the Managers Environment & Health, Strategic Planning, Recreation Services, Chairperson of the Coastal Management Committee, one (1) representative for the four (4) local volunteer surf clubs and one (1) representative of Surf Life Saving NSW.**

REPORT:

Council at its meeting on 16 February 2005 resolved to exhibit the Tweed Coast Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020 for community comment (copy of report attached).

Only one (1) submission was received from Tweed Coast Sea Rescue Inc (copy attached). This submission, in two parts, strongly highlighted that the current volunteer surf life savings clubs only provide a service on weekends and strongly emphasised the need for an 'in house' permanent Council funded lifeguard service.

During the exhibition of the draft Strategy a public meeting was held on 29 March 2005. This was chaired by the Mayor and attended by representatives from the Surf Clubs and Tweed Coast Sea Rescue Inc. Two major issues arose out of discussions:-

- The difficulty of funding surf clubs and the lack of recognition as an essential emergency service.
- The role of paid lifeguards, particularly in respect of surf clubs.

Comment

It is considered that the above two points are very valid, especially the possible need for Council to investigate and review the possibility of providing extended paid lifeguard services to newly identified sites along the Tweed Coast for possible increasing periods of time i.e. school holidays. Also to investigate the possible creation of thresholds in population growth, beach usage, etc that could trigger the introduction of new beach areas that need a life guard service.

Accordingly, in reconsidering the adoption of the Strategy, such should include in Table A-2, action headed "Paid Life Guards", the expanded requirement to investigate the possibility of Council paid life guards and other contract arrangements such as with Gold Coast City Council and to develop thresholds when new or expanded life guard services may be required.

Further the Strategy proposes the establishment of a Beach Management Committee. With the adoption of the Strategy, it is recommended that such committee consists of the Managers Environment & Health, Strategic Planning, Recreation Services, Chairperson of the Coastal Management Committee, one (1) representative for the four (4) local volunteer surf clubs and one (1) representative of Surf Life Saving NSW.

Conclusion:

Council has two options in determining this report:

- Option 1. Conduct a Workshop with Administrators and relevant staff to review the Tweed Surf Life Saving Strategy.
- Option 2. 1. Adopt the Tweed Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020 and implements its actions subject to budget constraints.

2. Include in Table A2 under heading "Paid Life Guards" requirements:
 - i) to investigate and review the possibility of using Council paid life guards or other possible contractual arrangements; and
 - ii) to develop thresholds that determine when new or expanded life guard services may be required.
3. Establishes a Beach Safety Management Committee consisting of the Managers Environment & Health, Strategic Planning, Recreation Services, Chairperson of the Coastal Management Committee, one (1) representative for the four (4) local volunteer surf clubs and one (1) representative of Surf Life Saving NSW.

LEGAL/RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

1. Tweed Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020 (DW 1311106)
 2. Report to Council Meeting held 16 February 2005 on Tweed Coast Surf Life Saving Strategy 2020 (DW 1156327)
 3. Submission received from Tweed Coast Sea Rescue Inc (DW 1176589)
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