

January 2012

Planning Decision Disappointment

The NSW Land and Environment Court has dismissed Council's challenge to the validity of the concept plan approval granted for a 200-lot subdivision at Hearn's Lake by Tony Kelly, the former NSW Planning Minister.

"This is not a good start to 2012 and is extremely disappointing," said Steve McGrath, Council's General Manager. "We undertook the court action in response to significant community concern and representations from Northern Beaches residents about the impact of a development of this size at that site. Council's own Development Control Plan for that area stipulates just 35 lots due to flood and environmental constraints.

"We were advised that our only option was to seek a judicial review and that there were reasonable grounds for such a review to happen. Unfortunately, the decision has been made to dismiss our challenge. Council is now considering its position in the light of that decision."

On December 20, 2010, the then NSW Planning Minister Tony Kelly granted a concept approval for the Sandy Shores development site at Hearn's Lake under Part 3A of the State planning legislation. Council subsequently began judicial review proceedings in March 2011 and raised three grounds of challenge to that approval. A two-day hearing was held in June 2011 before the Hon. Justice Terence William Sheahan AO.

The three grounds of challenge were, first, that the Concept Plan Approval was given without the existence of a current set of 'Director General's Requirements' - a list of environmental assessment requirements that are identified by the Department of Planning's Director General during the start of the planning assessment process.

In the case of the Sandy Shores application, a set of DGRs was issued in October 2006. Those DGRs expired after two years and, as the formal Environmental Assessment for the project was not lodged until January 2009, Council's view was that no DGRs existed at the time the Concept Plan Approval was granted.

The second claim was that the Concept Plan Approval was uncertain. The Concept Plan Approval dated December 20, 2010, contains inconsistent statements about whether Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 applies to future approvals of the project.

The final claim related to the fact that the Concept Plan Approval was not granted to a legal entity or the proponent.

However, in his Judgement, handed down on January 23 2012, Judge Sheahan dismissed all three grounds of challenge.



The Hearn's Lake site



NRL Clash Marks First Year of Lights



The Rabbitohs v Warriors trans-Tasman clash at BCU International Stadium on February 11 will also celebrate the first anniversary of the installation of the ground's 1500 lux floodlighting.

It is just a matter of days until the NRL pre-season action returns to BCU International Stadium, with the South Sydney Rabbitohs taking on 2011 NRL Grand Finalists - the New Zealand Vodafone Warriors - on Saturday 11 February.

With the Warriors going all the way to the Grand Finals last year the clash is sure to be a great test for both teams just a few weeks out from the season proper.

The game also marks the one year anniversary of the installation of the new 1500 lux floodlighting, which has lit up many successful events during the past year and will again be one of the highlights at the NRL game.

For ticket purchase, pre-game entertainment information and transport options, go to www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/nrl2012

Ticket prices are:

- Grandstand (no concessions) \$30.00 each
- Outer ground - adult \$15.00 each
- Outer ground - child/concession \$10.00 each
- Outer ground - family (2 Adults and 2 children aged 6 - 14) \$40.00 each
- Children under 5 (Outer Ground only) Free

Please note that booking fees will apply for phone and in-person purchases.

Sport Returns to Richardson Park

First Grade cricket has returned to Sawtell's Richardson Park following the \$422,084 upgrade to the ground's drainage system.

“With our climate, good drainage at local sports grounds is obviously important,” said Coffs Harbour Mayor, Councillor Keith Rhoades. “By providing sub-surface drainage at Richardson Park, we can now ensure that players aren't faced with the prospect of waiting for weeks after heavy rain for the ground to dry out enough to use.

“It also gives us the security we need to be able to offer the facility as a venue for more regional events in the future.”

Work began on the upgrade in August 2011 and was completed in November. In the past, the ground has been closed for extended periods after heavy rain. During the exceptionally wet 2009 winter season, the ground was closed for 19 consecutive weeks, causing significant cancellations and disruption to normal training and competitions for all local user groups.

Last year, Council successfully applied for a \$187,278 grant from the NSW Community Building Partnership fund towards the cost of the project. Additional funds of \$40,000 and \$42,000 respectively were obtained from the State associations of the two key sporting groups that use the ground – AFL NSW/ACT and Cricket NSW.

Council agreed to fund the shortfall in the total project cost by up to \$194,806 from the 2011/2012 Community Facilities Fund.



The drainage upgrade work is still visible beneath the pitch at Richardson Park.

Holiday Storytimes ‘On the Right Page’

Splash the Dolphin, Max the Monkey and Barney Banana helped make the two special Storytimes held in the CBD during the holidays a roaring success.

The Storytimes — run on 6 & 13 January — were aimed at kicking off a campaign to make 2012 the National Year of Reading.

The VIP guests were on hand to give out free kids passes to the Pet Porpoise Pool and free bananas from the Big Banana. The Book Warehouse also kindly donated six \$10 vouchers to give away too.



The special holiday Storytimes were ‘a wonderful start to celebrate the National Year of Reading’.

“The National Year of Reading 2012 is about children learning to read and keen readers finding new sources of inspiration,” said Enzo Accadia, Council’s Library Manager.

“Storytime is a very popular feature of Council’s libraries and these special days are a great way for parents and guardians to come along with their littlies and find out more.”

There has been very positive feedback from the children and parents who came along.

Parent Jo Melinz said: “My two boys and I attended each session for some animated storytelling (and the occasional song), skilfully led as always by the ‘Queen of Storytime’ Judy Atkinson and her wonderful assistants Tracey and Skye.

“What a wonderful start to celebrate the National Year of Reading.”

Future AFL Stars Take to the Field

For the first time under the new lights, the fifth consecutive Joss AFL NSW/ACT Under 18s State Zone Trials were held at BCU International Stadium from 16 – 18 January.

This year’s tournament brought 150 of the best AFL players from all eight AFL regions in the State together as they vied for a spot in the NSW team—sometimes in very wet conditions.

The event is also an opportunity for players to showcase their skills to AFL Club recruiters.

AFL NSW/ACT Talent and Coaching Manager, Darren Denneman said: “Coffs Harbour is a fantastic city to host the event and we always look forward to playing at BCU International Stadium.

“Without the support of communities like Coffs Harbour, none of these players would have the opportunity to be part of the AFL/NSW Joss Talent Program and Club Academies.”

Despite the rain in the early part of the event, the AFL players enjoyed themselves during the tournament, which is designed to help prepare them for a life long profession in AFL. Many left excited about returning to the event next year.



The Joss Trials brought 150 of the best young players in New South Wales, as well as talent scouts to Coffs Harbour. The AFL event gives the city a great economic boost, bringing an estimated \$321,000 into the community.

Nathan's Award a Surprise



Nathan Crawford could be in line for a state award.

Survey Design Technician Nathan Crawford had a great send-off to his six month trip around Australia – he was named as the winner of the 2011 Riverina Institute Academic Award for Civil IV Construction (Design).

But his achievement caught him off guard.

“I was definitely surprised,” he said. “I didn’t think the course went that well and it was hard.”

Nathan and his colleagues Jesse Kelly, Brett Walters and Stephen Williams have all been undertaking qualification courses through block release at the Riverina Institute in Leeton. Nathan’s achievement will also make him eligible to be considered for the state awards.

Nathan has been employed by Council for the past seven years. He began as a trainee survey assistant and has progressed to survey design technician.

His latest project was the design of a sewer rising main and pump station valued at \$2.4 million.

“I’d like to congratulate Nathan on his academic achievement and the progress he’s made while he’s been with Council,” said Steve McGrath, Council’s General Manager.

“We highly value our young trainees and have gladly supported Nathan to achieve his goals by assisting with study leave, travel costs and technical support.”

Congratulations to Award Winners!

Congratulations to the 2012 Australia Day Award winners and also the 55 new citizens who took the oath on Australia’s national day.

The winners of this year's Australia Day Awards were the Coast Out Festival (Community Event of the Year), Damian Phillips (Sportsperson of the Year), Stephen Metcher (Volunteer of the Year), Rachel Hall (Young Citizen of the Year) and Frances Blake (Citizen of the Year).

The nominees (below) were BCU Coffs Coast Cycle Challenge, Coast Out Festival, Joshua Chapman, Nicole Gusman, Keith Jervis, Damian Phillips, Rodney Watson, Alison Palmer, Betty Wright, Denise Hudacek, Faye Urquhart, Stephen Metcher, Elise Crofts, Rachel Hall, Helen Sikkens, Frances Blake, Ken Pay and Sue Martyn.

