

John Holman WUFA

From: Todd Dickinson <Todd.Dickinson@warringah.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 30 March 2012 5:12 PM
To: President@WarringahUrbanFringeAssociation.org.au
Cc: Vincent De Luca (Mail Forwarder); Malcolm Ryan; Virginia Laugesen (Mail Forwarder)
Subject: RE: Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study

Hi John

I'm happy to advise that Council staff will be holding an additional two information sessions open to any member of the public to attend. We have to work around the Easter Holidays, so to allow a reasonable time for notification, these will probably be held in late April. In addition, notification of the information sessions will be via letters to owners of all properties who are referenced in the Study, emails to recipients on Council's standard register, and advertisements on Council's webpage and in the Manly Daily. As previously indicated, we are also happy to accept additional submissions after the information sessions.

At this stage, private land remains in the Study (noting that WUFA has expressed strong opposition which will be reported back to Council as part of the consultation feedback).

Members of the community can sign up to be put on Council's standard email register and receive regular updates about key documents on exhibition. I understand you are already on this list, but if you'd like we would be happy to add a comment to your registration noting your association with the Warringah Urban Fringe Association. While Council has this standard email register for key updates, unfortunately we can't systematically notify property owners on every matter because it depends who it affects and how. At this stage, an entirely specific mailout list has to be created for each purpose (which was done for Narrabeen Lagoon). Accordingly, we are creating one for this project to assist with future communication.

Cheers

Todd

From: John Holman WUFA [mailto:President@WarringahUrbanFringeAssociation.org.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March 2012 8:17 PM
To: Todd Dickinson
Cc: Vincent De Luca (Mail Forwarder); Malcolm Ryan; Virginia Laugesen (Mail Forwarder)
Subject: RE: Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study

Hi Todd,

I think prior to organising an additional information session, Warringah Council has to make a decision about whether they are going to push to keep private land within the Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study or not. As far as the Warringah Urban Fringe Association (WUFA) is concerned, removing all reference to private land (including any maps that categorise private land in any way), removes the issue. If this is done, then no extension of the public exhibition period or additional information sessions are necessary. If you plan to keep the private land categorisation within the study, you will have very strong opposition from WUFA.

If you do plan to keep private land within the study, then you must address the issue of notification of residents whose land is categorised within the study. The only mechanism of notification that is acceptable to WUFA is a direct mail out (to the address for rates notices) to all residents whose land is categorised within the study, notifying them:

- About the public exhibition of the Biodiversity Conservation study and the extension of the public exhibition period.
- That they are being sent the letter because their land has been categorised within the study.
- The date of any additional information session(s).

If you do plan to keep private land within the study, we also request that two additional information sessions are held. The original public exhibition period had two information sessions (which very few people were aware of), so a precedence of two meetings has been set and should be maintained.

I look forward to your comments on this.

Kind Regards,

John Holman
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From: Todd Dickinson [<mailto:Todd.Dickinson@warringah.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 March 2012 12:10 PM
To: President@WarringahUrbanFringeAssociation.org.au
Cc: Vincent De Luca (Mail Forwarder); Malcolm Ryan; Virginia Laugesen
Subject: RE: Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study

Hi John

We will be holding an additional information session that is open to any member of the public to attend. We are working on dates and advertising details now, but will probably be sometime in early-mid April (working around the Easter Holidays of course). While the Council resolution was to publicly exhibit the draft Study for 28 days, we are also happy to accept additional submissions for 2 weeks after the information session. This is in addition to offering everyone who made a submission, a face to face meeting, which we will continue to offer.

I am still waiting for a definitive response on creating a communication list, but I'll ensure you have a response once I get it.

Cheers

Todd

From: Virginia Laugesen [<mailto:quirkmarketing@optusnet.com.au>]
Sent: Saturday, 17 March 2012 8:56 AM
To: President@WarringahUrbanFringeAssociation.org.au
Cc: Todd Dickinson; Vincent De Luca (Mail Forwarder); Malcolm Ryan
Subject: RE: Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study

Hi John,

Todd is copied. I agree, a public meeting is a good idea.

I'm not happy to hear of the mistake, but it's refreshing that it has been admitted promptly. I appears the mistake

was in the communications department's lack of understanding of the situation and giving the subject the wrong headline?

The error should warrant an extension of time and it would be ideal for the mistake to be noted in a brief report from staff to the 27 March meeting that recommends an extension to the consultation of at least four weeks, within which time there would be a public meeting, as per your group's request. That would be true consultation and would go a long way towards rectifying poor relations between council and C Ward residents.

I'd be happy with that outcome. The alternative to a report is a NoM to that effect, which risks defeat, of course.

Please let me know of any progress you make toward the above outcome, by noon on Tuesday, in case a NoM is required.

Considering the previous E3 sensitivity, it's a pity the consultation matrix was relied on in isolation for the biodiversity report, given the clear concerns of E3 residents in not receiving direct mailed advice in quite recent times. The inflexibility of the 'matrix' is a concern and I've raised before that there should be a mechanism for staff to consider incidents *outside the rigidity of the system* to prevent community unrest. I guess this is not how local government works.

But your group filled the gallery at least twice and a public meeting on a similar subject. It's unfortunate that engagement has not registered to the department of council responsible for consultation.

Regards

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From: John Holman WUFA [<mailto:President@WarringahUrbanFringeAssociation.org.au>]
Sent: Friday, 16 March 2012 6:37 PM
To: 'Virginia Laugesen'
Subject: Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study

Hi Virginia,

I just got off the phone with Todd Dickerson. He is saying the study is nothing to worry about as it doesn't affect what can be done with the private land. I told him that differs from my understanding of things after reading the documents which are on public display. If that is the case, then all of the private land should be removed from the study. As soon as there is a public document that labels or categorises private land in some way, then it raises issues about what does it all mean and is the labelling justified and accurate for each property. Categorizing private land in any way introduces a whole different level of expectations of community engagement. I have suggested there is one way to diffuse the situation and that is to remove all private land from the Warringah Biodiversity Conservation Study. Todd has said he can't do that at the moment. Todd said they were not due to report to council on the study until May and there was plenty of time. The issue of extending the public exhibition period comes back to Council staff just carrying out what was approved by a vote of Councillors.

Todd explained the title on the website was not intended to misinform, but a mistake. He said it has now been corrected. It is worth pointing out that of the 28 day exhibition period, the public has only had the benefit of having an accurate title for the study on the Council's website for less than 5 days.

Todd has suggested a meeting to discuss it further. I have said I am happy to meet with him, but if the private land is to be left in the study, then the meeting needs to take the form of a public meeting, so everyone can have the benefit of hearing what Council has to say about the study.

I have asked to be included in any communication or consultation that effects private land on the Warringah Urban Fringe. Todd wasn't sure of the process to ensure that this happens, but he will look into it. He said this currently happens with people over Narrabeen Lagoon issues, so shouldn't be a problem.

I'm happy for you to copy this email to Todd (I don't have Todd's email address) or anyone else you see fit.

Kind Regards,

John Holman
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