



NEW SOUTH WALES CROWN HOLIDAY PARKS TRUST

VEGETATION CARE – BRUNSWICK HEADS

We are committed to a responsible and ethical approach to the environment while undertaking any improvements to the Holiday Parks and public recreational reserves under our management. Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) have been prepared for our Holiday Parks at Brunswick Heads and the public recreation reserves at Torakina and Ferry Reserves. These VMPs guide how we manage and care for the vegetation in the area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: March 2015

Is the large Forest Red Gum in Banner Park being removed to make way for a new playground?

The large gum tree located immediately adjacent to the existing playground in Banner Park has a number of structural defects. Despite previous works to remove decayed limbs, further inspections have been recommended by qualified arborists to assess the structural integrity of the tree and the risk to users of the reserve. Aerial inspection and sonic testing of the tree is scheduled to be completed by April 2015.

The Trust has an obligation to ensure that the risk is assessed and removal or lopping is undertaken if required to mitigate the risk. If lopping or removal is required the Trust would:

- undertake compensatory planting in suitable locations in the Brunswick Heads reserves, and select suitable native species to plant in Banner Park.
- install suitable nesting boxes as required to offset any loss of habitat.

There have been ongoing claims that the Trust is seeking to remove the tree to facilitate the upgrade of the reserve. While the tree is adjacent to the current and proposed playground, it does not have to be removed for the Banner Park upgrade to proceed.

How much of Torakina Reserve will be used for car parking?

The upgrade of the Torakina Reserve includes a new car park providing 18 spaces which is to be located over a section of Council road reserve and a portion of the Crown reserve.

The total area of the new car park is approximately 600m², with 350m² being located on Council road reserve and 250 m² of that being on Torakina Reserve.

The proposed car park will occupy approximately 0.005% of Torakina Reserve which has an area exceeding 45,000m².

As a part of the proposed car park is located on the Council road reserve, Council concurrence is required for the works to proceed.

Memorial Trees

The Trust has been provided with information indicating that some of the Coastal Cypress Trees in the Terrace Reserve were planted as part of a memorial to WW1 soldiers and also children who died from diphtheria. Byron Shire Council applied to the Office of Environment and Heritage to have an Interim Heritage Order placed over the trees.

However, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) determined not to place a heritage order over the trees.

The Brunswick Heads – Billinudgel Returned & Services League (RSL) Sub-Branch has advised the Trust that they have no information relating to the trees being designated as a war memorial.

While the Trust has not sought to determine the validity of the claim, it believes that the historical significance should be established to the satisfaction of the relevant agencies such as the RSL, the NSW Register of War Memorials or the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

If the trees are found to have heritage significance, the Trust will work with the Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL Sub-Branch to have the memorial appropriately recognised and to ensure that the ongoing management of the trees can be undertaken in a manner that recognises their historic value.

Aboriginal Heritage

Aboriginal objects have recently been identified on the foreshore area adjacent to the Terrace Reserve Holiday Park.

The Trust is working with the Office of Environment & Heritage and the Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council to ensure obligations regarding the day to day operations and future upgrade of the holiday park are identified and met. The Trust is engaging an Aboriginal Heritage Consultant to assist the process.

Are the Norfolk Pines in Banner Park tagged because the Trust is removing them?

The Norfolk Island Pine Trees have not been tagged for the purpose of removal. The Trust has a management system in place to assess tree health and risk. Each tree managed under that system has been tagged by an arborist so it can be identified.

The tags assign individual trees with a unique ID and allow trees to be easily identified in the Trust's ongoing program of 'tree-health' monitoring and 'tree-safety' evaluation checks.

What is the Trust doing to prevent any damage to the Norfolk Pines in Banner Park during construction of the community boardwalk?

The boardwalk for Banner Park has been designed specifically to protect the root zones of the Norfolk Pines. The community pathway and deck will be raised to prevent any damage to the root systems and no trees will be removed or damaged during the construction work for the project. Hailstone paths will also be used by the Trust in preference to concrete to prevent any damage to the area.

Is the Trust removing historical Coastal Cypress Pines from the southern reserve adjacent to the Terrace Reserve Holiday Park?

There are currently six Coastal Cypress Pines which have been assessed by a Level Five-qualified arborist and recommended for removal. These trees have a variety of defects ranging from cracking, wounds, decay, and defects that affect their structural integrity. It is possible that over time more trees may need to be removed or lopped for safety reasons due to decay, disease or storm damage.

Why is lopping or removal of Coastal Cypress Pines being undertaken?

The Trust has a duty of care to park guests and members of the public in holiday parks and reserves and will undertake tree removal or lopping to address unacceptable safety risks. In some cases, the lopping or removal of Coastal Cypress trees located in the Terrace Reserve Holiday Park and adjacent reserves may be required.

Is the Trust authorised to lop or remove any Coastal Cypress Pines?

Coastal Cypress are part of an endangered ecological community. The Trust will consult with the relevant government agencies about environmental assessments and approvals that are required prior to the removal of any coastal cypress trees.

The Trust has a program to undertake compensatory planting to offset the loss trees removed for safety reasons. Given that in some cases 10 new trees will be planted for each tree removed, replacement in the same location within the Holiday Park or reserve will not always be possible.

How will the Trust compensate when it removes trees from our public reserves?

The Trust will continue to undertake seed collection, compensatory planting and bush regeneration activities to offset any impact from the removal or lopping of native vegetation for safety reasons. The ratios for planting of new trees is based on assessments by qualified ecologists based on government guidelines and will be incorporated into the Trust's Vegetation Management Plans.

A hundred and fifty trees were planted in three reserves in December 2013 and the Trust has 250 Coastal Cypress seedlings grown from locally-collected seed available for additional compensatory planting.

Why is there not full access along the foreshores of the Brunswick River?

The adopted Plans of Management retain or improve access to and along the foreshore at the Ferry Reserve and Massey-Greene Holiday Parks.

The Trust carefully considered providing a public access corridor from the southern end of the Terrace Reserve Holiday Park to the Simpsons Creek Footbridge. The creation of a new public pathway along the foreshore at the Terrace Reserve Holiday Park was not supported due to the significant impact on vegetation, park operations, site constraints and permanent residents.

The adopted Plan of Management for Terrace Reserve Holiday Park maintains the current level of public access to and along the foreshore that currently exists. The Plan of Management also includes measures such as landscaping and continued use of security cameras be used to improve security. The Trust has made a commitment that fencing of the park will only occur as a last resort if other security measures are unsuccessful. If fencing is required, access conditions have been relaxed in the adopted Plan of Management to allow for public access to the park for longer hours throughout the entire year, while retaining the ability to apply reasonable restrictions if required.

Will the old tennis courts to the south of Terrace Reserve Holiday Park be turned into a car park instead of being revegetated or used as green space?

The Trust has not yet determined a specific use for this area. Submissions made in relation to the future use of these disused tennis courts supported revegetation, public recreation, or overflow car parking. Our Plan of Management leaves it open for any of these uses, subject to the Trust's future consideration of the best use of this space. The Trust looks forward to further positive engagement with the community to determine the future use of this land.

Does the Trust just remove trees to support their development purposes?

Our Holiday Park designs accommodate existing trees wherever possible. No removal of threatened species or trees that form part of an endangered ecological community is proposed or required for park upgrades in Brunswick Heads. Compensatory plantings are undertaken if the removal of native trees is required.

The majority of tree removals in our Holiday Parks and public reserves are due to failing tree health, the age of the tree or storm damage or if there is a threat to the safety of our guests or the public.

How can the public be assured that any tree removal by the trust is legitimate?

Any tree removal by the Trust will be strictly in accordance with the Trust's legal obligations under the Native Vegetation Act or Council's Local Environment Plan. Advance notice will also be given to the appropriate body and posted on the Trust's website at www.nswchpt.com.au.

I'm interested in being informed about when tree removal occurs. How will the Trust let the community know what is planned?

To allay community concerns, the Trust has implemented a number of options for informing the community about the tree management program. Advanced notice of tree lopping or removal is posted on the Trust's website and the sites of tree works are signposted in advance with a contact number for the public to call should they have any queries. Interested members of the public may also be emailed notification of tree works in advance.

Vegetation Management Plans for the reserves will also be published on the Trust's website. Vegetation management within the reserves and holiday parks will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Council's Tree Preservation Order and the Native Vegetation Act.

How does the Trust assess whether a tree needs to be lopped or removed?

The Trust engages AQF (Australian Qualification Framework) Level 5 qualified Arborists with a Diploma in Horticulture (Arboriculture) to seek advice on the health and safety of trees within our Holiday Parks and public reserves. The arborists regularly inspect trees and undertake risk assessments based on the species, age, and condition of the tree. Tree lopping or removal is only undertaken where the risk to safety is unacceptable.

There are many people working in the tree-care industry. The Trusts understands the importance of engaging only fully-qualified arborists to consult with and manage its 'tree-maintenance' program.

What is Arboriculture?

Arboriculture is the practice of planting and caring for urban trees. An arborist, also known as an arboriculturist, manages and maintains urban trees.

Wastewater Disposal

All facilities in Terrace Reserve Holiday Park are connected to the Council sewerage system. A dump point connected to sewer is provided for disposal of wastewater from toilets inside guest's vans. Some sites do not currently have on-site disposal points for washing up water, however dishwashing facilities are provided throughout the park. Under the adopted Plan of Management all sites in the park will be fully serviced to ensure appropriate disposal of waste water.