

Additional Information

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 24 August 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
8.1	POINT CARTWRIGHT RESERVE AND LA BALSA PARK MASTER PLAN	
	ATTACHMENT 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	5
	ATTACHMENT 5 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	7
8.2	QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 4, 2022/23	
	ATTACHMENT 1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	11
8.8	SUNSHINE COAST CREATIVE ARTS PLAN 2023 - 2038	
	ATTACHMENT 3 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	13
8.9	SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GALLERY BUSINESS CASE	
	ATTACHMENT 2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	15
8.12	DISPOSAL (EASEMENT) OF PART OF COUNCIL FREEHOLD LAND HELD IN TRUST AT 15 EMMA PERREN DRIVE, NAMBOUR	
	ATTACHMENT 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....	17

Related Report / Additional Information Request

Meeting:	Ordinary Meeting	Date:	24 August 2023
Requesting Councillor:	Councillor J Natoli		
Item:	8.1 – Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan		
Circulation	21 August 2023		
Officer (title):	Manager Customer Response	Approving GE (title):	Group Executive Customer & Planning Services, Group Executive Liveability and Natural Assets

In response to a question raised by Councillor Natoli, please note the following additional information for your consideration.

Question:

- Has an accurate risk assessment regarding dogs off lead been completed?
- A risk assessment that lists the risks (to the public) and then puts proper control measures in place?
- Did a competent, qualified person complete the safety risk assessment to ensure the public are safe and the environment protected?
- Did they follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure public safety?

Response:

A multi-criteria risk assessment has been completed with consideration to the activities within the reserve and park area. This assessment specifically considered the impacts dogs may have on the various environmental, cultural, and recreational values of the area.

This risk assessment was considered in the development of the Master Plan, and in accordance with Councils risk processes. The hierarchy of controls was considered in responding to risks identified throughout the design phase.

The risk assessment was undertaken by subject matter experts from across Council including representatives from the below groups who are experienced in these areas:

- Built Infrastructure Group
- Civic Governance Group
- Customer and Planning Services Group and
- Liveability and Natural Assets Group

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Requesting Councillor:	Councillor J Natoli		
Item:	8.1 Pt Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park Master Plan		
Circulation	21 August 2023		
Officer (title):	Manager Design & Placemaking Services	Approving GE (title):	Group Executive Liveability & Natural Assets

In response to a question raised by Councillor Natoli, please note the following additional information for your consideration.

Question:

Is the current plan for Point Cartwright in line with the Disability Accessibility and Inclusion strategy? Has it considered the needs of people with invisible disabilities such as Mental Health concerns for example PTSD who survive on routine and community connection?

Response:

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person, in many areas of public life, including accessing public places, because of their disability. The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* covers people who have temporary and permanent disabilities; physical, intellectual, sensory, neurological, learning and psychosocial disabilities, diseases or illnesses, physical disfigurement, medical conditions, and work-related injuries.

Council's endorsed Access and Inclusion Plan 2011 is a guide to the establishment and implementation of Council practices about access and inclusion to ensure members of the community have access to local government programs, facilities, open space, services, resources and information.

The Access and Inclusion Plan promotes compliance with Council's obligations under relevant Queensland and Commonwealth legislation, in particular the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld), *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld), *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, thereby mitigating risks to Council.

The following principles underpin Council's commitment to access and inclusion:

- **Access** – the right of residents and visitors to have reasonable access to Council facilities, open space, programs, services, resources and information.
- **Inclusion** – working in partnership with the community, other levels of government, key agencies and the private sector to address the needs of residents and visitors to build an inclusive, cohesive and strong community.
- **Equity** – equity and opportunities for all.
- **Respect** – recognise and value the contribution of the region's diverse population and respect the right of people to an inclusive community.
- **Dignity** – the right of people to independent and dignified access.
- **Participation** – the right of residents and visitors to actively participate in civic and community life; and



- **Safety** – the right of residents and visitors to safe access and participation.

Council is currently updating this Plan and is developing the Draft Inclusion Action Plan for People with Disability 2024-2028.

Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park are highly used public spaces that have unique qualities and values that are not replicated elsewhere. It should be a place of equal participation and non-discrimination.

Access and inclusion are fundamental guiding principles of the Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park master plan which proposes a plan that:

'is an inclusive place for community to connect, appreciate natural beauty, enjoy recreation activities and take part in the preservation and restoration of this valuable cultural and natural environment.' Appendix A - Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park master plan 2023, page 81 Vision.

The development of the plan adopted an inclusive and non-discriminatory approach to community engagement. External consultation included engagement with First Nations representatives, the establishment of a Community Reference Group that included self-nominated community members chosen based on a range of interest areas and demographics ensuring the group was representative and inclusive of our diverse Sunshine Coast community.

Over the past two years, Council has sought extensive feedback from residents, community groups, experts, and key stakeholders to shape the Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park master plan. It is important to note, that all engagement activities have played a significant role in the development of the master plan.

Equitable access for all community members, including those with mobility issues, was one of the important issues that the community identified during the engagement period.

One aspect of the master plan that has generated strong opposing views from the community is the proposed changes to Dog Exercise Areas (DEA).

DEA's are inherently difficult to plan and locate due to the environmental, safety, noise, waste and management impacts associated with them. Uncontrolled dogs can cause a hazard or impede access for people with physical or cognitive disabilities. People with assistance animals can feel excluded from access to dog off-leash areas due to the varying degrees of behaviour, and unpredictability from other animals within. Designated off-leash areas can result in exclusive use of an area and inhibit equitable access.

The provision of Dog Exercise Areas (DEA) within the master plan site was guided by a multi criteria analysis to assess the impact that dog access has on the public space. The assessment included a social impact criterion that had a 25% weighting. The social criterion included an assessment of how a DEA impacts on equitable access including public safety caused by:

- fear
- intimidation or discomfort
- risk of bites or dog attack
- mobility barriers (physical, visual, sensory, psychological)
- overall sense of safety
- path user conflict / disrupt flow of traffic
- allergies or reduced immunity

All of the off-leash options that were assessed had a **very high impact** or **high impact** on equitable access and public safety. The proposed on-leash areas in the master plan provide dog owners with an enjoyable network of open space and water access, while minimising the impact that their dogs have on other people and the environment.

The Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park master plan provides a broad range of actions to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness. Some of these recommendations include:



- Prohibit off-leash dog access from the primary pathway network to improve equitable access.
- Provide on-leash dog access to areas adjoining primary pathway network to improve equitable access.
- Prepare detailed designs and costings for the Coastal Pathway Network to accommodate safe shared access. (The Coastal Pathway is designed as an accessible shared path that meets the requirements of the Australian Standard AS1428 Design for Access and Mobility).
- Prepare detailed design and costing for an accessible Coastal Pathway link between La Balsa Park and Buddina Foreshore Reserve at beach access 201 near Gulai Street. (This provides improved accessibility to the existing off-leash beach between BA199 and BA201).
- Prepare detailed design and costing for pedestrian lighting upgrade in La Balsa Park.
- Develop a wayfinding strategy that is inclusive and supports equitable access.
- Develop and implement a furniture palette that is accessible for people with disability.
- Improve the pathway network to improve equitable access for people with disability.
- Prepare designs for accessible river viewing platforms x2.
- Locate Park facilities to improve accessibility.
- Prepare a detailed design for an accessible ramp to Half Moon Bay.
- Prepare a detailed design for amenities building with improved accessibility.

The Point Cartwright Reserve and La Balsa Park master plan provides recommendations to improve access and inclusion for all people, including those with disabilities.

Related Report / Additional Information Request

Meeting:	Ordinary Meeting	Date:	24 August 2023
Requesting Councillor:	Councillor Suarez		
Item:	8.2 – Quarterly Progress Report – Quarter 4, 2022/23		
Circulation	21 August 2023		
Officer (title):	Manager Customer Response	Approving GE (title):	Group Executive Customer & Planning Services

In response to a question raised by Councillor Suarez, please note the following additional information for your consideration.

Question:

What are the current illegal dumping quantities and have these increased or decreased over recent times?

Response:

Reports relating to illegal dumping remain relatively consistent since the original funding of a compliance program. Council receives around 1500 reports about illegal dumping each year.

While report numbers are remaining consistent, with a targeted compliance program, Council is identifying more people responsible for dumping waste and taking compliance action to address this behaviour. Council undertakes a range of compliance actions including notices and infringements issuing around 70 infringements a year. Infringements vary depending on the nature of the offence between \$280 - \$3000. As an example, last financial year, the infringements amounted to \$88,244 in total.

Officers have also been able to increase the amount of waste collected by the responsible person with around 35% of illegally dumped waste reported to Council being picked up by the person who dumped it. This is a significant cost saving to our community.

Waste Services weigh the collections of illegally dumped waste and the figures below also show consistent rates of illegal dumping.

