

14 November 2017

General Manager
Eurobodalla Shire Council
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**ROSEDALE ASSOCIATION INC. SUBMISSION
DRAFT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2017**

On behalf of the Rosedale Association, I welcome the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2017 and, in particular, its emphasis on removing barriers to accessing the natural environment. The draft Strategy lends weight to our ongoing requests to Council to improve beach access paths and steps in Rosedale. I have been communicating with council on this matter since 2013. Prior to this, our Rosedale Landcare group had been pressing Council to address serious erosion issues that developed on the beach track leading down from the end of Yowani Road in North Rosedale.

As the issue of safe beach access in both North and South Rosedale has been the subject of communications between our Association and Council for several years, our Committee was surprised that there was no reference to Rosedale beach access projects in the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2017.

Recommendation:

The Rosedale Association strongly recommends that Council amend the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2017 to include Rosedale beach access path projects, allocating a *high priority* to projects in both North and South Rosedale. This will provide safer walking and access to recreational spaces in Rosedale and enhanced environmental protection of the bushland reserves, at the end of Yowani Road (North Rosedale) and on the cliff leading down to Nuns Beach from the viewing platform off Cooks Crescent (South Rosedale).

Significant findings in the draft Strategy that support our recommendation:

- The draft Strategy identifies the benefits of open space to personal health, communities, the environment and the economy. Safe accessibility to open spaces is fundamental to achieving these benefits for residents and visitors.
- Residents completing the community survey in the Northern planning precinct (of which Rosedale is a part) valued the natural setting of the area and how they could interact with the natural environment.
- Respondents identified bushwalking, swimming and walking as the most popular activities. The Strategy recommends that Council focuses its resources on upgrading the facilities that support these activities.
- New and/or upgraded walking paths are highlighted by survey respondents as an open space priority for the next 10 years.
- The majority of growth in the Northern planning precinct over the next 20 years will occur in Rosedale, Malua Bay and Lilli Pilli, placing more pressure on the local environment.
- Our community is ageing, so by 2036 more than one-third of residents will be aged over 65 compared with one-quarter in 2016.

Past communications:

The issue of safe beach access paths and steps through Rosedale's natural bush environment has featured prominently in correspondence with Council and discussions at our AGMs for several years. At the 2016 AGM attended by former Mayor Brown, our members expressed their continued strong interest in having new access steps designed and installed in North Rosedale at the end of Yowani Road, in order to allow for safer bushwalking and beach access for residents and visitors and address the worsening erosion and weed infestation issues around the degraded track.

Members at our 2017 AGM voted in favour of the Rosedale Association Committee continuing to pursue beach access projects in North and South Rosedale and advise Council of the community's in principle commitment to contribute funds to the Yowani Road stair project. I subsequently wrote to Council, seeking advice on action required to progress the Yowani Road project. I also advised Council that safe access to Nuns Beach in South Rosedale continued to be raised by members as an ongoing issue of significant concern. Further, I advised that members had voted in favour of our Committee pursuing Council on options to access Nuns Beach via public land, including steps down the cliff. I note that this was previously flagged by Council as a possible Stage 2 of the Fiona Lodge track and viewing platform project.

Conclusion:

The Rosedale Association welcomes news that Council is in the process of lodging a grant application for the installation of beach access stairs in North Rosedale through the Recreational Fishing Trust. This demonstrates a commitment from Council to pursue this important project.

The projected increasing population numbers for the Northern planning precinct will place more pressure on Rosedale's natural environment, as increasing numbers of people access recreational areas. Properly designed and installed beach access paths and stairs will reduce the risk of multiple informal tracks proliferating. These tracks quickly erode and become dangerous, posing a risk to people and degrading the natural environment.

On behalf of our Committee and members, I strongly argue for the inclusion of both the Nuns Beach access project and the Yowani Road stair project in Rosedale as *high priority* projects under the Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2017.

Yours sincerely



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