

# MINUTES

## **BRUNY ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting No. 1**

**Thursday 8 February 2018**

### **ATTENDANCE**

<b>Committee Members:</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>APOLOGY</b>
Chairperson	Cr Mike Percey	<b>X</b>	
Members	Mr Trevor Adams	<b>X</b>	
	Mr Alex Matysek	<b>X</b>	
	Mr John Kobylec	<b>X</b>	
	Mr Bill Hughes	<b>X</b>	
	Ms Siobhan Gaskell	<b>X</b>	
	Mr Gerald McAfee	<b>X</b>	
	Ms Jackie Marsh	<b>X</b>	
	Dr Rosemary Sandford	<b>X</b>	
	Mr Mathew Fagan	<b>X</b>	

<b>Council Officers:</b>	
Liaison Officer Governance & Property Services	Ms Michelle Allen
Deputy General Manager	Mr Tony Ferrier
<b>Non-Members:</b>	

### **APOLOGIES**

Nil

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mathew Fagan declared an interest in the Bruny Island Livability Study as he is the consultant and if matters pertained to the conduct of the contract he will exclude himself.

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS AGENDA**

Moved: Trevor Adams  
Seconded: Alex Matysek

**Carried unanimously**

## **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

At the first meeting of a new committee a Deputy Chairperson is to be elected. The Deputy Chairperson acts in the role in the absence of the Chairperson

**Nominated:** Trevor Adams

**Moved:** Bill Hughes

**Second:** Alex Matysek .

**Carried unanimously**

## **PRESENTATIONS & GUEST SPEAKERS:**

.Nil

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence at the time of the meeting.

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC**

At the time of the meeting there were no questions on notice from the public.

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **1. At the October meeting Brendan Schmidt asked the following question:**

At the October meeting Brendan Schmidt asked why the stormwater project in Victoria Street, Dennes Point has disappeared from Council's budget

#### **David Reeves answered the question:**

No it is still a valid project and will continue to be considered amongst all other priorities

### **2. Dr Rosemary Sandford asked the following question:**

TFS safe place locations for bushfire emergencies across Bruny getting information to everyone including residents, shackies, visitors etc. Is it Council's responsibility to put up signs directing people where to assemble, given the unreliability of phone coverage on the island? How can Council make sure that public safety is ensured at such times?

### **Answer provided by Tasmanian Fire Service:**

All information regarding Community Protection Plans with identified nearby safer places and to download plans go to the TFS website: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pagelD=colCommunityProtection> Page 2 of these documents gives detailed information for people to utilise the community protection plan as part of their bushfire survival plan.

The key message is that Nearby Safer Places (NSP) identified in the plans are places of last resort. They are often outside in open areas such as golf courses, cricket ovals etc and are not emergency assembly areas.

NSP's have been assessed under catastrophic conditions criteria to give people set back from radiant heat as the fire front passes. People are still exposed to smoke and embers so there is a degree of risk related to these places. Leaving early before the fire front is in the area is the safest and best option as a bushfire survival plan.

Emergency Assembly areas are a totally different site with its own criteria and are not related to bushfires. They are often part of a building/structure fire evacuation plan to assemble people safely well away from the burning structure.

The risk and my biggest concern is with signage identifying NSP's is that people will then rely only on the NSP as their survival option. It is up to Councils if they wish to indicate NSP's but a great deal of information about NSP's (especially being places of last resort) would have to accompany the signage to detail what the criteria of a NSP really is. Bushfire survival planning is a complex process as bushfires behave differently with different weather, terrain, conditions etc. so it is not simple black and white as like say a structure fire which is- get out, assemble there, call 000 and wait for the fire truck.

Residents and tourism operators of Bruny are encouraged to download from the website or ring 1800 000 699 and get a copy of their local protection plan and use the information to integrate it into their bushfire survival planning and emergency evacuation planning. (page 2 of plan)

Council recently formed a Community Resilience Group and is speaking with a Bruny resident in relation to being part of this Committee.

### **3. Dr Rosemary Sandford asked the following question:**

Why does Council not install a mulching machine on the island and train operators to use it (including on-island operators)?

### **Answer provided by Tony Ferrier:**

The Manager of KWS Stuart Baldwin has advised Council that the green waste day held on Bruny Island last year did not attract a lot of participants and over the past year there has been minimal green waste collected on the Island. Tony also stated that the majority of ratepayers of Kingborough have to travel to Barretta to dispose of their green waste.

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC**

Gerard Castles emailed BIAC in relation to the speed limits on Killora Road and asked the following questions:

1. That it be dealt with as a matter of urgency and /or placed under "Questions without Notice from the Public" at your next meeting.
2. Develop an Engineer's report on the road safety of the CWA loop road circuit for larger vehicles including buses, large RV's and towed caravan vehicles to confirm our belief that the road is dangerous
3. Help us lobby for a dramatic lowering of the speed limit
4. A restriction on vehicle size.

The Group all agreed that this is a safety issue and made the following recommendation:

**Moved: Siobhan Gaskell**

**Second: Jackie Marsh**

**THAT Council approach the Department of State Growth to prepare a traffic engineering report on the Barnes Bay, Killora, Bulls Bay and Dennes Point roads (CWA Loop) and also Lighthouse Road to look at lowering speed limits, reduced/restricted vehicle sizes excluding service vehicles and erect multi users signs.**

**Carried unanimously**

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**Jackie Marsh requested clarification on the following:**

Who is responsible for the Alonnah Sheepwash Bay Track (Dray Track) as it is dangerous for users. It is overgrown and you can't see anyone when going around a corner

**Tony Ferrier answered:**

Council is responsible for this track and Council staff will be informed of these issues.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

The table on the following pages shows the General Business items.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at the Bruny Island Community Health Centre on Thursday 12 April 2018 at 10am.

### **CLOSURE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.08pm

	CURRENT ISSUES			
	1. PLANNING, STRATEGIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT			
No.	Item	Description	Status	Responsible Officer
1	New Kingborough Planning Scheme	Council is to prepare a Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) in accordance with the government's requirements, as stipulated within State Planning Provisions (SPP) and the LPS Guidelines. The SPP and Kingborough LPS will be combined to create the new scheme that will ultimately replace the existing Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015.	<p>Tony Ferrier informed the Group that there was nothing further to update. Council is continuing to work through the Local Provisions Schedule (zoning maps). Things will change a lot due to the new State Planning Provisions not including the Environmental Living zone which quite a lot of land is classified on Bruny. It will either be converted to Landscape Conservation Zone if it has environmental values or to the Rural Living Zone.</p> <p>Tony hopes to have draft maps available for the next meeting to see what is being proposed.</p>	Tony Ferrier
2	Strategic Community Planning for Bruny Island	Preparation of a strategic/community plan for Bruny Island in which tourism can develop on a long term sustainable path. The sustainable path is dependent on maintaining the cultural, environmental and social values embedded in the Bruny Island community.	Mathew will be running a workshop on the Bruny Life project for BIAC members after the meeting.	Tony Ferrier
3	Waste Management Strategy	Council is preparing a Waste Management Strategy to provide direction in relation to the many issues associated with waste disposal in the Municipal Area.	<p>Council has adopted the Waste Management Strategy and is now looking at how it will be implemented. Jackie Marsh advised that tourism rubbish be considered for Bruny as it is a large part of waste on Bruny.</p> <p>Council is about to call for new tenders for the kerbside collection and Bill asked if consideration could be given to kerbside collection on Bruny. Tony advised that this would only happen if there was community support.</p> <p>The Group requested that it be briefed more frequently on this matter, and suggested a briefing paper be provided at the next meeting.</p>	David Reeve

## 2. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Officer
4	Bruny Island Airstrip	The risk management, maintenance and inspection requirements associated with the management of the Bruny Airstrip have increased significantly in recent years. Council has been gathering information and reviewing available options in relation to the future of the airstrip.	A call for Expressions of Interest for the Airstrip has been made and will close on 9 March 2018. Letters have been sent to some potentially interested parties, a copy to BICA, on Council's website and a notice in the Bruny News and Mercury.	Tony Ferrier
5	Lunawanna Hall Public Toilets and Floor	An upgrade of the Lunawanna Hall toilet facilities is recommended to be undertaken in 2018/19  Request for resealing of the floor.	Michelle advised that she will be meeting with the Architect shortly to discuss the Lunawanna Hall Committees ideas.  It was noted that Council's Building Maintenance Coordinator has advised that he has a quote for the resealing if the floor and is checking availability with the contractor.	Michelle Allen Victor Mus
6	Nebraska Road	Coastal erosion and stabilisation works.	It was noted that a Development Application has been lodged and Council's Engineering staff are waiting for the approval before work can commence.	David Reeve

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Officer
7	Cat Control	Council, in conjunction with the Bruny Island community and a range of partner organisations is implementing a cat management program for Bruny Island. The program aims to minimise the adverse impacts of domestic, stray and feral cats.	<p>The committee was advised that Conrad Daniels from Bruny Farming has been contracted to undertake on-ground cat control work. Brett Woodruff who was previously employed as the Field Officer is still engaged periodically to work with Conrad and pass on skills.</p> <p>A UTAS School of Biological Sciences PhD student has been approved and will commence in Feb 2018. They will undertake research on South Bruny to compliment research we are currently doing at the Neck and North Bruny specifically, feral cat distribution and density across key habitats. In addition they will: quantify prevalence of cat specific parasites (toxoplasmosis in wildlife and livestock, sarcocystosis in livestock) and how it relates to different feral cat densities across the island; further investigate cat, rabbit and quoll interactions; quantify diet of quoll &amp; cats.</p> <p>Enclosed are 2 articles on recent research undertaken as part of the project that BIAC may be interested in.</p> <p>Legal feedback has <i>finally</i> been received on the Draft Cat By-laws for cat ownership on Bruny Island. We are meeting with the lawyers to finalise the draft and then a RIS will be prepared.</p> <p>We are waiting for one more building quote for the Cat Holding Facility</p>	Kaylene Allan



#### 4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Officer
8	Bruny Island Community Aged Living survey	A consultant has been engaged to undertake a survey of stakeholders to determine accommodation needs on Bruny Island.	Dr Rosemary Sandford advised that the launch of the Bruny Island Community Aged Living report will be held on Sunday 7 March 2018 at the Alonnah Hall.	BICAL
9	Glensyn Units	A proposal has been received from IC4 Developments to develop affordable accommodation on the site of the Glensyn Units.	Michelle Allen advised that to date there has been no further communication from IC4 Developments. It was noted that no time limit has been provided on this matter.  Dr Rosemary Sandford emailed a few questions to Michelle and the answers are attached to the Minutes.	Michelle Allen
10	Dissemination of information to the Bruny Community	Rosemary suggested Kingborough Council needs to be more active in dissemination of info to Bruny community. Council should not rely primarily on internet e.g. FB/Bruny Notices, for dissemination of Council information to community. Many on Bruny cannot get internet, and not everyone uses FB. How can Council be more accessible and transparent in getting its messages across to its ratepayers?	Sarah Wilcox provided the following response to Rosemary's suggestion:  Increasing costs to print and deliver the Kingborough News to private addresses across the municipality was the catalyst to review the way Council publishes news in 2016. To ensure information is published in a variety of formats for residents, Council approved a quarterly publication (called Council News) to appear in the Kingborough Chronicle and Kingston Classifieds, which is also be available by email subscription and on Council's website and social media channels. The Snapshot on Kingborough will continue to be published in the months between the Council News. Anyone wishing to receive the email subscription can contact Council requesting to be added at <a href="mailto:communications@kingborough.tas.gov.au">communications@kingborough.tas.gov.au</a> . The publication of these news updates does not coincide with the Bruny Island News publication cycle and so Council will make sure the publication is printed and posted at the Service Centre on Bruny Island each month.  Along with the monthly updates, Council also publishes regular media releases, which are sent to all media outlets, including the Bruny Island News, for their consideration for publication. All media releases are available on Council's	Sarah Wilcox

			<p>website.</p> <p>Council is unable to provide printed communications for each township within the municipality due to limited resources.</p> <p>It was agreed that an update of the BIAC meeting should be published in the Bruny News after each meeting.</p>	
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## 5. TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Officer
11	Destination Action Plan (DAP)	Preparation and implementation of a DAP for Bruny Island to improve visitor experiences.	Tony Ferrier advised that there has not been a meeting in a while but projects are still being delivered. John Kobylec asked if anyone was chasing up the proposed funding for the future years and Tony Ferrier advised that this would need to be done by the DAP Committee.	Tony Ferrier
12	Signage at the Adventure Bay turn-off	Concern expressed at the proliferation of signs at the Adventure Bay turn-off.	Tony Ferrier advised that the Council is still pursuing the removal of all unauthorised roadside signs. Council is working with State Growth and will communicate with all the sign owners and this will take place after the election.	Tony Ferrier
13	Recreational Vehicles	Development of strategies to manage the increasing number of recreational vehicles visiting the area.	Tony Ferrier advised that Council developed a draft strategy for recreational vehicles a year or two ago and Council has decided not to adopt the strategy but will respond to any individual recreation vehicle requests or issues.	Tony Ferrier
14	Bruny Island Tourism Strategy	Update of Bruny Tourism Strategy	Tony Ferrier advised that he updates the Tourism Strategy when required (about once a year).	Tony Ferrier
15	Land on the point at Dennes Point	What is happening with the land at Dennes Point	Council has acquired the property and is currently finalising a settlement amount. There will be no tourism venture happening there and it will be public land.	Tony Ferrier

## 6. STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY ITEMS

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Agency
16	The Neck Developments	The Parks and Wildlife Service is upgrading the walkway to the lookout, as well as undertaking modifications to the carpark and the construction of new public toilets.	<p>It was noted that Shane Gregory provided the following response to the email sent in November:</p> <p>The speed limit adjacent the Neck carpark has been set at 60km/h. However, following yesterday's meeting between Minister Hidding and the Bruny Island Community Association (BICA), the Department of State Growth (Department) will review speed limits. In undertaking that review we will be seeking to establish the view of the broader Bruny Island Community and also the level of support from Council as representative of the Community.</p> <p>Trevor made the following motion and the Group debated this topic at length and it was voted upon:</p> <p><b>MOVED: Trevor Adams</b></p> <p><b>SECOND: Bill Hughes</b></p> <p><b>THAT the Bruny Island Advisory Committee through Council support the Department of State Growth with the current speed limit on the Neck.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Against Dr Rosemary Sandford</b></p>	DOSG

17	Bruny Island Ferry Contract	Renewal of the Bruny Island Ferry contract due to expire in June 2018.	<p>It was noted that Shane Gregory provided the following response to the email sent in November:</p> <p>The tender for a replacement Bruny Island Ferry service is currently live and it is inappropriate to provide specific commentary. For that reason, the Department has been consistent in its advice that tender information will not be provided to any parties other than those directly involved in the tender process.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has committed to a service at least as good as, or better than, the current service and retaining regulation of resident fare increases to CPI. The number, types and size of vessels will be dependent on the specific tender proposals and it is not possible to provide advice at this time.</p> <p>Mathew Fagan advised that he has spoken to Shane Gregory and from 1 July the new contract operator will capture details of who is going to Bruny etc.</p>	DOSG
18	Road Sealing	Program for sealing of State roads on Bruny Island	<p>It was noted that Shane Gregory provided the following response to the email sent in November:</p> <p>Kingborough Council maintains the Department's roads on Bruny Island under contract. The contract requires that the road is maintained to a minimum specification, which would require maintenance grading. On that basis Council is best placed to respond to BIAC. I also ask that Council's staff responsible for delivery of maintenance services for the Department ensure that the contractual obligations are being met.</p>	DOSG

19	Roadside trees	Concern expressed at dead trees alongside the main road to Alonnah and the question asked as to whether DOSG would be undertaking an audit of the same.	<p>Shane Gregory provided the following response to the email sent in November:</p> <p>Kingborough Council maintains the Department's roads on Bruny Island under contract. Council are required to remove dead or broken branches under the base services component of that contract. The contract also requires that weekly inspections of the road network be undertaken, including the identification, and referral to the Department, of tree works outside of the base services, i.e. dead and dangerous trees to be removed.</p> <p>Notwithstanding Council's obligations under the maintenance contract, a Tree Framework Risk Assessment is currently underway.</p> <p>Trevor Adams requested Council conduct an audit of all the dead trees on the roadsides of Bruny. This matter will be raised with Council's Works Department.</p>	DOSG
20	Road Safety Pamphlet	Request to Department of State Growth to develop a brochure to encourage safe travel on Bruny Island Roads.	<p>Michelle Allen advised the Group that the Department of State Growth has a new Road Safety campaign and the link is provided <a href="https://www.rsac.tas.gov.au/visitingdrivers/">https://www.rsac.tas.gov.au/visitingdrivers/</a></p> <p>Beck McKinney the Marketing, Communication and Project Manager for the Road Safety Tasmania Taskforce will be attending the next meeting to discuss what is happening in this space.</p>	DOSG
21	Road Safety Audit	The Department of State Growth, in conjunction with Council, has been proceeding with the implementation of the recommendations of a road safety audit.	Nothing further to report.	DOSG
22	Election Commitment from the Liberal Party	The Liberal Party have announced 8 million dollars for Bruny Island over 4 years	Mathew Fagan advised that he had spoken to Nic Street MP and that the funding to be spent over the 4 years will be for a range of priorities to be determined by the Bruny Island community and come through Council. The hope is that the Liveability Study will be able to establish priorities for use of the money.	

## 7. LONG TERM ITEMS

The following issues require resolution in the longer term and are listed for reference.  
If there is any progress on any item, it will be moved to the current section of the Agenda.

No.	Item	Description	Comments / Update	Responsible Officer
23	Pedestrian Bridge at Alonnah	Request for the installation of a pedestrian bridge and connecting footpath at Main Road, Alonnah or for signage warning of narrow bridge ahead to slow vehicles and improve pedestrian safety.	Shane Gregory has provided the following response to the email sent in November:  While this bridge does not meet Australian Standards criteria for installation of narrow bridge signage, the Department will review existing pedestrian warning signage at this location.  Trevor Adams advised that there no existing pedestrian warning signs on the bridge.	DOSG/ David Reeve
24	Adventure Bay Road – Bligh Creek to East Cove	Request for provision of a footpath linking these two areas.	The project is not currently listed as a priority in Council's Capital Works program but its need will continue to be monitored in terms of numbers and types of vehicle traffic versus number of pedestrians.	David Reeve
25	Harvey Road	Request for sealing of Harvey Road	The sealing of Harvey Road has been listed for inclusion in Council's five-year Capital Works program. In the interim, it has been included in the dust suppressant trial.	David Reeve
26	Lockleys Road	Request for sealing of Lockleys Road	The project is not currently listed as a priority in Council's Capital Works program but its need will continue to be monitored, particularly in light of use by tourist buses endeavouring to show passengers the white wallabies.	David Reeve

27	Coolangatta Road	Concern at lack of maintenance on Coolangatta Road by DOSG.	<p>Shane Gregory has provided the following response to the email sent in November:</p> <p>Council's Engineering staff are mistaken in their understanding of ownership of Coolangatta Road. The Department of State Growth is responsible for the management of State Highways and subsidiary roads as proclaimed under the provisions of the Roads and Jetties Act 1935. Coolangatta Road is not one of these roads.</p> <p>Ownership of Coolangatta Road is recorded on the LIST, which shows Council as the owner between Adventure Bay and Resolution Road, and of a small section at the western end. The remainder of the road is shown as being under the ownership of DPIPWE/PWS.</p>	P&WS DOSG
28	Road swaps	Anomalies in relation to road ownership between Council and State Government and suggestion that swaps should occur to address these.	Preliminary discussions between the relevant Council and State Government Departments has occurred but the matter is ongoing and of lower priority.	DOSG
29	Road Speeds at North Bruny	Reduction of speed limits and speed bumps at the northern end of the island.	Friends of North Bruny are working with Council and State Growth in regards to speed reductions in North Bruny.	DOSG

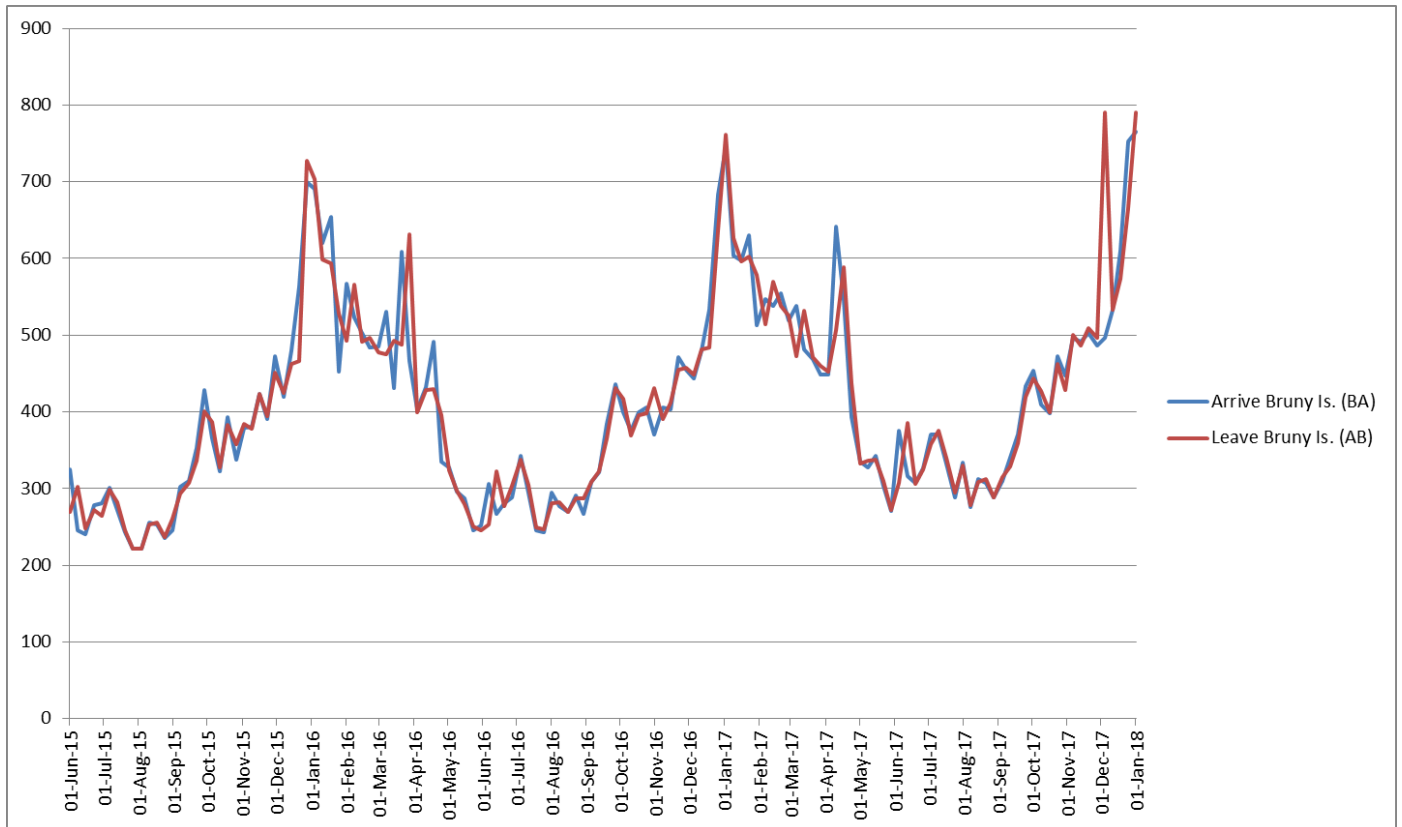


Appendix:

## Bruny Traffic Counts

### December 2017 to January 2018

Week commencing	To Bruny (BA)	From Bruny (AB)	Total number
04-Dec-17	496	491	987
11-Dec-17	533	533	1066
18-Dec-17	610	574	1184
25-Dec-17	752	665	1417
1-Jan-18	765	790	1555



5 February 2018

TO: Michelle Allen, Liaison Officer, Kingborough Council

Cc Tony Ferrier, Deputy GM

FROM: Rosemary Sandford, BIAC member

Re: BIAC Agenda 8 February 2019: Glensyn Units, Alonnah, Bruny Island.

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**Questions:**

1. I understand that the Kingborough Council is responsible for the management and infrastructure upkeep of the 4 Glensyn Units at Alonnah, and for overseeing the process for selecting Glensyn residents. These units are intended as appropriate and affordable accommodation for Bruny's elderly and disabled residents. Can the Council please confirm that this is correct?

This is correct. To be eligible an applicant must:

- Be resident on Bruny Island for at least the two years immediately prior to this application;
- Be requiring accommodation for oneself only (the units are single and cannot accommodate a couple);
- Be over 65 years of age/or have a disability;
- Be in receipt of a full Centrelink or DVA pension;
- Not own a home;
- Be able to live independently and be capable of maintaining the residence in a safe and clean condition both internally and externally.

2. Can the Council also confirm that, as manager of this site, it has a duty of care to its residents, present and future?

Yes

3. I understand that 1, and soon, 2 units will be vacated by their current residents.

Can Council confirm that essential infrastructure upgrades and maintenance works will be undertaken before new residents move into these units? For example, I understand that some aspects of the bathrooms in these units are unsafe for older residents. Given Council's duty of care to the residents, can Council confirm that the maintenance and infrastructure upgrades required to make these units safe for elderly residents, will be undertaken as a matter of urgency and before new residents move in?

At this point in time, we have only been notified of one departure from the units. Each time a unit becomes vacant, it is assessed by Council's Building Maintenance Supervisor and any required maintenance is undertaken before any new tenant moves in.

4. Can Council please advise the process for the selection of new Glensyn occupants? Can Council please describe how selectors are chosen? What are the skills sets of those responsible for the selection of new residents, in particular their expertise and experience in aged care and disability care?

The selection process involves reference to the waiting list, selection criteria and consultation with a member of BICHSAC. In recent years, this has been Geoff Byrne and is now Fran Davis. Council staff involved in the process do not have expertise or experience in aged or disability care.

5. I understand there is a waiting list for the Glensyn Units. Can Council please advise how many Bruny residents are on the current waiting list? And an estimate of how long their wait might be now that the availability 2 units is pending?

There are currently four people on the waiting list. Council can not estimate how long their wait may be as it depends on when a unit become available.

As stated above Council has only be notified of one departure at this time.

*Rosemary Sandford*

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## A 2017 study of Feral Cats and Other Predators at the Neck

Caitlan Geale, an Honours student with the School of Biological Sciences, carried out research for the Bruny Island Cat Management Project in 2017. Remote cameras were deployed from March to July to detect invasive and native predators at, and adjacent to the Neck seabird colony and at Whalebone Point seabird colony. Her research has contributed important baseline data that will help predict how different predator species may respond to feral cat control. Council has greatly appreciated the work Caitlan has put into the project and thanks her for her dedication.

Of the areas surveyed, the highest cat densities were recorded at the Neck. The density of feral cats within the Neck rookery during shearwater breeding was estimated at 51cats/km<sup>2</sup> and after shearwater breeding 47cats/km<sup>2</sup>. This indicates that feral cats use the Neck rookery as a major food source both when shearwaters are present and absent. Importantly, the study highlights that invasive rodent and penguin populations may be high enough to maintain cat presence in the rookery throughout the year.

An evaluation of feral cat densities studies across Australia has found that density varies widely and up to 100cats/km<sup>2</sup>. Numbers are estimated to be generally low in natural Australian environments and significantly higher in modified environments abundant in supplementary food sources (e.g. rubbish dumps, intensive farm sites, grain silos, areas of food waste, abundant road kill or where food is provided to stray cats)<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted however, the impact of even low densities of feral cats in Australia can have significant negative impacts, particularly on rare and threatened species<sup>1</sup>.

In addition, very high densities of feral cats often occur on islands (compared with mainland area) and especially smaller islands. This is likely due to the relative abundance of food resources on some islands (notably colonial-nesting seabirds), constant inputs of food from washed up marine-life and often, the absence of other mammal predators<sup>1</sup>. The Neck with its high density of nesting seabirds, long sections of coastline and a past history of stray cats being fed in the area would contribute to the very high cat densities observed in Caitlan's study.

In line with other studies, cats were more readily detected on camera (and thus more active) at all sites during new moon (or darker) nights. In addition, cat detection was higher when shearwaters were absent, which may indicate that cats are more likely to investigate lures when shearwaters are no longer available as prey.

In comparison to cats, the native predators, eastern quolls and water rats were detected at much lower frequencies at the Neck and Whalebone Point seabird colonies, indicating that seabirds are likely not a major food resource for these species. Taking into account a range of habitat and environmental factors, the occupancy of quolls was estimated to be higher in non-seabird colony sites than seabird colony sites. This finding supports other research that highlights quolls preference for agricultural land and dry eucalypt forest.

Caitlan suggested that any potential increase in eastern quolls and water rats as a result of feral cat control (due to lower predation and competition by cats) is unlikely to adversely impact on seabird populations.

Conversely, invasive rodents (black rats and mice) were frequently detected at all sites (including the seabird colonies), however their density was not estimated. This finding confirms that future monitoring to assess invasive rodent abundance, distribution and impact on seabirds will be important as feral cat control progresses.

The study found that the highest detections of feral cats, invasive rodents, quolls and shearwaters in the seabird colonies were recorded in medium-height vegetation (tussock grass and bracken fern), likely reflecting the preference of prey species for this habitat. This is very useful information when planning future monitoring and control activities.

Caitlan's research highlights the importance of long term monitoring of key mammal and seabird species during and after cat control to assess both beneficial and adverse impacts.

A full copy of Caitlan's thesis can be obtained from Kaylene Allan at Kingborough Council

ph 6211 8255 or [kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au](mailto:kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au).

We would also like to thank: Brett Woodruff, who assisted Caitlan in deploying the cameras; Paul Close, Michele Daffy, Cat Davidson, and Brad Moriarty who provided Caitlan accommodation and valuable assistance in the field; and to Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Paul Davis and Bruny Island Coastal Retreats for allowing access and research on their properties.

1. Legge, S., et al., Enumerating a continental-scale threat: How many feral cats are in Australia?, Biological Conservation (2016), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2016.11.032>

Sarah Wilcox | Media and Communications Officer | Kingborough Council



Cat and Shearwater at 'The Neck'

Photo courtesy of University of Tasmania and Kingborough Council



## Tracking Feral Cats at the Neck Game Reserve

As a part of the monitoring program for the Bruny Island Cat Management Project, Matthew Pauza (Wildlife Biologist with DPIPW's Invasive Species Branch) is tracking the movement of feral cats that have been captured in the Neck area. To date three feral cats (2 males and 1 female) have been fitted with GPS collars and every 2 hours their location is logged. Some of the data is shown on the map below.

This data gives us an idea of the cat's movement routes, how far they roam and where they spend most of their time. We can also determine if these patterns change for the cats during different seasons. This information will help to identify future control sites and when best to target control efforts.

Some of the important information that the tracking data is providing, includes:

- Each cat has their clearly defined territory however all of them spend significant time in the Neck seabird colony.
- As is commonly the case, the males are ranging further than the female. The 4.2kg male cat regularly travels long distances between Cape Queen Elizabeth through the Neck and down towards Adventure Bay. His home range is estimated to be around 7km<sup>2</sup>.
- In contrast, the female stays mostly around the boardwalk area and her home range is estimated at about 0.3km<sup>2</sup>. She appears to have a few favourite spots which are probably her main refuge and breeding sites.
- Interestingly, data shows that the cats also spend time at the Neck in winter after the seabirds have left the rookery. This may be due to the presence of invasive rodents within the rookery that provide a ready food source for the cats all year round.

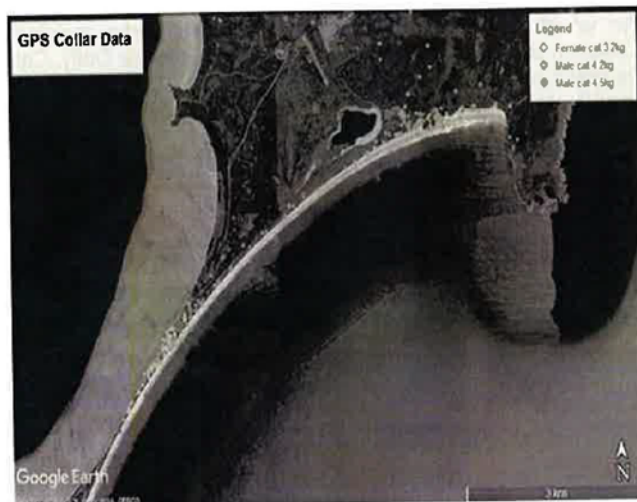
- The 3 cats commonly use the beach for travelling between their feeding and refuge sites. The data also shows that they spend time on the beach during low tides, perhaps feeding on washed up marine life such as fish, mussels, crabs, limpets, algae etc.

- The 4.2kg male cat spends a lot of time near Mars Bluff and Little Lagoon within the Neck Game Reserve, indicating the presence of important local food sources.

In addition, this tracking data in combination with photos (of individual feral cats) from remote cameras will help us to more accurately estimate the density of cats in the Neck area and on North Bruny. Recent camera data from reserve and private land up to 5km north of the Neck has found several feral cats using this area. To date these cats have not been detected on cameras located within the Neck and on adjacent land. This indicates that the density of cats on North Bruny is likely to be higher than previously assumed based on earlier research and reports of cat sightings from the community.

The preliminary tracking data also suggests that the Neck will continue to be an important control site for both feral cats that spend a lot of time in the area and those that range large distances north and south of the Neck. We are investigating if this control work will play a key role in limiting the dispersal of feral cats to North Bruny.

For more information contact Kaylene Allan, Cat Management Officer Kingborough 6211 8255 or [kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au](mailto:kallan@kingborough.tas.gov.au)



GPS data of 3 cats tracked at the Neck Game Reserve (courtesy of Matthew Pauza - DPIPW, Invasive Species Branch)



Photo of one of the GPS collared cats