



Tuesday 13th August, 2024

Dear Madam Mayor,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 31st July 2024 keeping me updated on the Moffat Beach Seawall Reconstruction Project that the Sunshine Coast Council (Council) is undertaking.

As you are aware last week we held the Queensland Government's Community Cabinet Meeting with Ministerial Deputations and a Town Hall Meeting held at the Baringa State Primary School Hall.

The matter of the Moffat Beach Seawall Reconstruction Project was the subject of a delegation with two residents, representing the Save the Moffat Beachfront group (<https://www.facebook.com/savethemoffatbeachfront>), meeting with Minister Grace Grace MP.

As this has been an issue that myself and my office have been consistently lobbied via phone calls, emails and through our social media channels for several weeks now, I joined with Minister Grace in meeting with the Save the Moffat Beachfront representatives.

Following the Ministerial Deputations there was Town Hall Meeting and Emma Johnson, one of the key spokespeople for the Save the Moffat Beachfront group put a question to the Premier and Minister for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Minister Nikki Boyd MP.

In both the Delegation and subsequent discussions had with the group, relevant Ministers and Ministerial staff, along with myself and staff from my office, it became clear that despite our best efforts to clarify the State Government's limited role in this project there was still some sense that the State Government has some sort of decision making capacity with regards to the seawall design and the retention, or otherwise, of the beloved Norfolk Pine trees.

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Myself and my staff have made it clear to community members that while the project will be required to meet state codes, a process coordinated by the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) that Council, as both the applicant and the assessment manager, will determine how best to design the seawall.

We have also explained that it is the applicant's responsibility, in this instance Council, to undertake due diligence through the planning and design process, to identify and explore any feasible alternative locations or designs in order to comply with the relevant state codes and resolve community concerns with the project.

We have also explained that while the design needs to meet state codes the nature of the design and any resulting impacts are up to Council in the end, rather than the State Government.

Dozens of community members have reached out to me and asked me to support their cause.

They have asked whether the State Government has the authority to intervene in the project, to force the Council to conduct community consultation and/or to refuse to approve any application / submission to SARA that includes the removal of the Norfolk Pines.

I have explained that while I agree the Norfolk Pines are beautiful and an iconic part of the modern Moffat Beach landscape, and that every effort should be made to preserve them, that I have no authority to intervene in Council projects, just as Council does not have that authority with State Government projects.

I have directed residents that have contacted my office to sign up for updates via the dedicated Council webpage.

I have advised residents that to ensure they are adequately consulted it is Council they need to engage with as the responsible agency for this project.

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Despite all this, much community concern, even outrage, continues to exist and so I committed to the Save the Moffat Beachfront group to use this correspondence to convey the concerns, to Council, that they have raised with me and my office.

I believe their concerns boil down to a desire for clarity, action, transparency and genuine community consultation. I include the points provided to my office below:

Clarity & Action

- Council to clarify if there's a current tender out / work order and/or if a consultant has already been engaged for the Moffat Beach seawall reconstruction? If yes, please provide details of specifications, dates and timelines.
- Council to clarify what they define as "long term" when it talks about the seawall redevelopment needing to be for the long term? e.g. How many years do Council plan and build these projects to last for?
- Council to remove the temporary fencing at the eastern end as promised - as this area has been deemed not dangerous.
- Council to clarify for the community if they plan to decommission the Moffat Beach boat ramp.
- Council to repair the boat ramp and reopen it for pedestrian use.

Transparency:

Council to make available to the public a copy of:

- Their submission to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) for the funding that was agreed to last year (May 2023)
- Their submission to TMR for funding for the Moffat Beach boat ramp that was agreed to last year (August 2023 - \$150, 000 contributed from Department of Transport and Main Roads)

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Genuine Community Consultation:

- Council to organise a town hall meeting, with key stakeholders to attend, during which they will consult the community on what they want and value
- Council to genuinely consult with the community on the seawall design, the desire to preserve the Norfolk Pines and the design of the greenspaces.
- Council to provide an outline and timeline for the steps they intend to undertake to ensure the community is properly and fully consulted around what the community values and wants in the seawall reconstruction and design from now until the completion of the project.

The points above are a summary of points raised directly with me, my office and the State Cabinet Ministers.

On the point of the Moffat Beach boat ramp - I wish to provide some additional background. I have been advised by Maritime Safety Queensland that the Council contacted them recently to advise they (Council) would be decommissioning the Moffat Beach Boat Ramp.

My staff have since contacted two Council Officers they believed to be relevant / in charge of this but have not received a response with details about this proposed decommissioning or a timeline.

I appreciate the machinations of government and understand it may take some time for Council to review and respond to the above points.

I would appreciate a response on the above as soon as you are able so that my office can provide a response ourselves to those residents that have lobbied, and continue to lobby me on this matter.

Sincerely,

JASON HUNT MP

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

