

6 01 2021

Shelly Beach to Moffat Beach Coastal Study: Update # 1- William Street Works

Council recently undertook a range of works associated with the renewal of fencing at the end of William Street, Shelly Beach. The works were primarily undertaken with a focus on the protection of turtle nesting habitat, but also to help manage the sand blow on to the adjacent pathway.

On completion of the fencing renewal works, council received a range of communications from interested members of the community.

Council gave consideration to the feedback received, and in response undertook modification works to remove the shade cloth from the fence with a view to providing vegetation screening for light spill for nesting turtles at Shelly Beach, while maintaining the visual amenity of the area from public vantage points.

Educational signage was also placed on the fence immediately adjacent to the four car parking bays at the end of William Street, asking drivers to turn off their lights to help reduce the impacts of light spill onto the beach from public spaces during the turtle nesting season.

Sunshine Coast Council CEO Emma Thomas said that given the significant community and stakeholder interest in the Shelly Beach area, that a more comprehensive engagement process would have been appropriate in this instance.

“We acknowledge that the process to date has generated a range of concerns and distress for some community members which council regrets, as this was never our intention,” Ms Thomas said.

“We want to continue our work with the community on this sensitive issue and in a way that everyone who wishes to participate can feel confident and supported in doing so.

“At the end of the day, council wants to ensure the best outcome for residents, nesting turtles and coastal biodiversity is achieved, including ensuring that light impacts on turtle nesting and hatchlings are minimised at the William Street entrance to Shelly Beach,” Ms Thomas said.

“This reflects council’s commitment to both working with our community on matters of importance to the liveability of their local areas and to ensuring our responsibilities for protecting our local fauna is managed in a balanced and informed manner.

“While council has in place extensive guidelines and plans for dune maintenance and management of the coastal environment, which have been followed in the course of this project to date, we recognise that further consultation is required to achieve the best solution for all,” Ms Thomas said.

In early 2021, Sunshine Coast Council will undertake a more detailed investigation of the coastal strip from the southern end of Shelly Beach northward to Tooway Lake. This stretch of coast includes Shelly Beach, Moffat Headland, and Moffat Beach.

Ms Thomas said the investigation seeks to better understand the values, community perspectives, challenges and opportunities associated with the management of this stretch of

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coastline and will help to inform council management of the area. The opportunities for interested members of the community to have their say on this sensitive issue will be promoted at the commencement of the investigation.

“This will be a step-by-step process and we will carefully consider potentially contrasting viewpoints and all viable options before implementing future changes,” Ms Thomas said.

While further community consultation processes take place, council will implement a number of interim measures to assist with headlight reduction and mitigate light spill to the water’s edge.

Interim measures include:

1. Raising of the garden bed and removal of the wire to support the planting of more established shrubs (*Lomandra longifolia*) directly under the wooden fence frame that is currently located directly in front of the four carpark spaces at the end of William Street
2. Placement of a traffic counter on William Street to give an indication of the level and timing of carpark use, and
3. Installation of additional educational signage at the entrance of William Street.
4. The fence and plantings east of the coastal path will remain unchanged and be a focus of discussion during the detailed investigation process.

Shown below are the proposed raised garden beds and thick *Lomandra* grass planting to act as a screen and complement the protective work already completed. All other plantings will remain unchanged during this interim time.



After – planting *Lomandra longifolia*



Before