
REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2013

ASSETS AND WORKS

ITEM TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATION OF COUNCIL

1. Feasibility - Portable Toilet at Willinga Point

File 17407E

SECTION MANAGER: Martin Upitis.

PURPOSE: Delivery Program Activity: 5.1.2.35

To consider the options of providing a portable toilet at Willinga Point, Bawley Point.

RECOMMENDED that, in accordance with the Committee's delegated authority from Council, Council provide a portable toilet at Willinga Point, Bawley Point for the summer school holiday period and that the usage levels are reviewed.

OPTIONS

1. As recommended. Council provide a portable toilet at Willinga Point, Bawley Point for the summer school holiday period and that the usage levels are reviewed.
2. Council continues current arrangement of providing no portable toilet, as less than 600 metres away is a public amenity.
3. Council provide a portable toilet at Willinga Point, Bawley Point for three annual holiday periods other than the winter break.
4. Council reprioritise Willinga Point, Bawley point from number 20 on the new public amenities priority list to number one.

DETAILS

Council resolved, at its meeting on 24 September 2013, (MIN13.982C) that

“a report on the feasibility of providing a portable toilet at Willinga Point be provided to Council.”

Shoalhaven City Council has 131 public amenities buildings. Public amenities are normally provided in conjunction with other facilities to increase their utilisation. Public amenities are provided in areas of high activity such as: near waterway facilities; commercial/shopping centres; and in parks/reserves.

Community requests for constructing new public amenities

There is considerable community pressure to provide new facilities throughout the Shoalhaven including Bawley Point. The draft Asset Management Plan (AMP) for public amenities (toilets) has recently been on public exhibition and it identifies 23 other sites that have received similar requests from the community for a new public amenity in their area, including Willinga Point, Bawley Point which is identified as priority 20. Willinga Point is less than 600 metres to the nearest public amenity.

Best practice asset management and financial sustainability principles suggest that the replacement of existing public amenities should be fully funded before any more new amenities are constructed so portable toilets are a viable option. There is considerable community pressure to provide new facilities or refurbish/replace existing facilities throughout the Shoalhaven. A methodology has been developed to determine ranking of priority based on factors, including surrounding infrastructure (CBD, parks, reserves, sporting facilities, waterway infrastructure, playgrounds, BBQs, shelters, car parks, etc).

“Port-A-Loos”

Port-A-Loos are currently provided to Wowly Creek, Callala Bay and Myola break wall, Myola for three school holiday periods except winter. The cost of this service is \$2,400 per site each financial year. It includes a weekly clean and inspection by Council officers.

The Port-A-Loo meets a need for locations that have high seasonal use and lower utilisation levels outside of holiday periods. Port-A-Loos have a 190 litre holding tank for waste water and a 100 litre fresh water tank. Previous hiring of Port-A-Loos in Wowly Creek and at Myola break wall identified usage levels below 90 litres of waste water a week.

Other recent improvements at Willinga Point

- The Works and Services Section, which undertakes the cleaning of the public amenities, has been requested to check and clean, if required, the Willinga Lake car park when undertaking cleaning of the nearby public amenities in Bawley Point.
- Works and Services Section has been requested to install signage at Willinga Point advising of the distance to the nearest public amenity.
- Rangers Services Section has added Willinga Point to its areas to inspect when in Bawley Point.

These measures will be monitored to see if signage assists users of Willinga point and the area remains clean.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs of a Port-A-Loo are:

- Fixed costs
 - Weekly hire \$30
 - Delivery cost \$66
 - Weekly pump out and clean by contractor \$66

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- Variable costs
 - Increase cleaning
 - Contractor \$50 per visit
 - Council while undertaking cleaning of other public amenities \$20 per visit
 - Council special request \$50 per visit

Total cost of hire for a 10 week period from 29 November 2013 till 7 February 2014 if:

- Supply, weekly pump out, contractor clean \$1,026
- Supply, weekly pump out, weekly Council clean \$1,226
- Supply, weekly pump out, contractor 2nd clean or Council special request clean \$1,526

Currently the cost of Port-A-Loos for Wowly Creek, Callala Bay and Myola break wall, Myola for three school holiday periods except winter is \$2,400 per site each financial year. The hire costs are slightly more for the northern towns.

The current operating budget for 131 public amenities in the Shoalhaven is \$1,400,000 which averages out for each public amenity at \$10,500 per annum so \$2,400 per annum (or \$1,226 for Willinga Point) is well below alternate costs of new public amenities.

Further implications are that if all 23 identified sites and possibly other sites not identified are to be provided with a Port-A-Loo, costs could range from \$23,600 to \$35,000 per annum.

If this service/provision level was to be increased to autumn/Easter and spring holidays the cost could range from \$37,760 to \$56,000 per annum.

Funds are available in 2013/14 for the port-a-loo at Willinga Point, Bawley Point.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Under Council's Community Engagement Policy, the provision of a Port-A-Loo at Willinga Point, Bawley Point has been assessed as 'Local Area / Low Impact'. Council last wrote to the Community Consultative Body in August 2013, in relation to this matter.