

## Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Reference Group

Friday 19 September 1:00PM – 3:00PM

### Notes from First Meeting

#### Site Visit

The reference group walked the site from about 20m south of Susan Street to Berry street. The following observations were made.

-there are sections of the beach with trees and other sections without trees.

-not all vegetation on the dune has been planted. Self-seeding or natural regeneration is a natural mechanism which occurs at Collingwood beach

-If many native plant species grow on the dune together, the dune is more resilient against damage. A monoculture (a community comprising only one plant species) would increase the risk of the entire vegetation being decimated by a fungus or other disease. The more diverse the plant species present, the healthier the dune environment.

-some vegetation is not endemic (naturally occurring) to the area



-some trees have high canopies and they allow for views. This shape of trees can be achieved by under pruning trees (this technique is also called crown raising)





-By consistently pruning the top of trees, particularly banksias, trees form a thick vegetated wall, as pruned trees sprout a mass of lower branches. This in turn weakens the tree and can lead to its death. The thick vegetated wall excludes many birds and mammals from accessing these plants for food source and nesting sites.

-Trees can die of natural causes especially in such harsh environment. Dead standing trees and fallen branches are a valuable source of nutrients to the environment and also provide protection for birds and other animals.



-beach access ways provide some viewing corridors





### **Terms of reference (TOR)/process**

- The group is willing to review amend the TOR so that they provide a clearer objective and framework to work with- to be discussed at next meeting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- The attached draft model approach and Council's processes were discussed
- the group recognises that this project is about forward planning and long term vision

### **Stakeholders/communication**

- The group identified that a range of stakeholders have an interest in the work of the group and they will have to be consulted/engaged in some ways
- Communication and engagement with beach front owners as one of the key stakeholders is important
- Regular update of the work of the group is to be provided through Council's website
- members of the group are to engage with other members of the community and community groups to develop a two ways flow of communication

### **Experts**

- The group is to have access to expertise on dune vegetation management and coastal risk erosion. Members to provide a list of questions they would like to pose to the experts by 3<sup>rd</sup> October

