

7 June 2010

## Council welcomes Shoalhaven Heads golf club addition

Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club has moved a step closer to achieving an 18-hole golf course with the announcement of an agreement to transfer 64,500 square metres of land to add to the existing 15-hole golf course.

Shoalhaven City Acting Mayor Councillor Gareth Ward has welcomed the move.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club, its executive, the Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum and the Heads community for never giving up on this important project," Cllr Ward said.

"Throughout this process, Councillors have been committed to finding a way through all of the issues in a responsible and balanced manner. We are now closer than ever before to achieving a positive result for all parties involved.

"This move will ensure that the environmental issues surrounding the initial development application by the Shoalhaven Golf Club are dealt with in an independent and meaningful manner by Council and the Department of Climate Change and Water.

"I have been actively working with the Shoalhaven Heads community to ensure that we achieve an optimal outcome for both the Shoalhaven Heads Golf Club and our local environment I am now confident that we will see this amended development application considered by Council as soon as possible."

The NSW Government has announced that the transfer of land will allow the Golf Club to lodge an amended Development Application with Shoalhaven City Council with a Species Impact Statement (SIS).

The Development Application and SIS will be considered by Council's Development and Environmental Services Group. Once this application has been considered it will be reported to Council's Development Committee.

The Golf Club submitted its original development application on 16 September 2008, but the project was delayed owing to environmental concerns. Council said, following a seven-part test on the impact, that a Species Impact Statement (SIS) would be required on the Bangalay Sand Forest Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) before Council could finally determine the application.

The elected Council then decided to call the development application before the elected Council to have the environmental issues heard publicly.

Cllr Ward said he decided to call the application before Council to hear of both sides of the environmental debate. "By calling this matter before Council, Councillors will be privy to all of the information that must be considered in this important debate," Cllr Ward said. "As the original mover of this motion, I want to see Council deal with this matter as soon as possible."

The amended Development Application will be supported by a Species Impact Statement prepared by Hayes Environmental. Council staff met with representatives of the Club and Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) staff last Thursday to finalise input to the Species Impact Statement before it being placed on public exhibition to allow the public the opportunity to comment.

In the event that the Council resolves to approve of the development application, concurrence from DECCW on the Species Impact Statement would be required prior to any consent becoming operational.

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