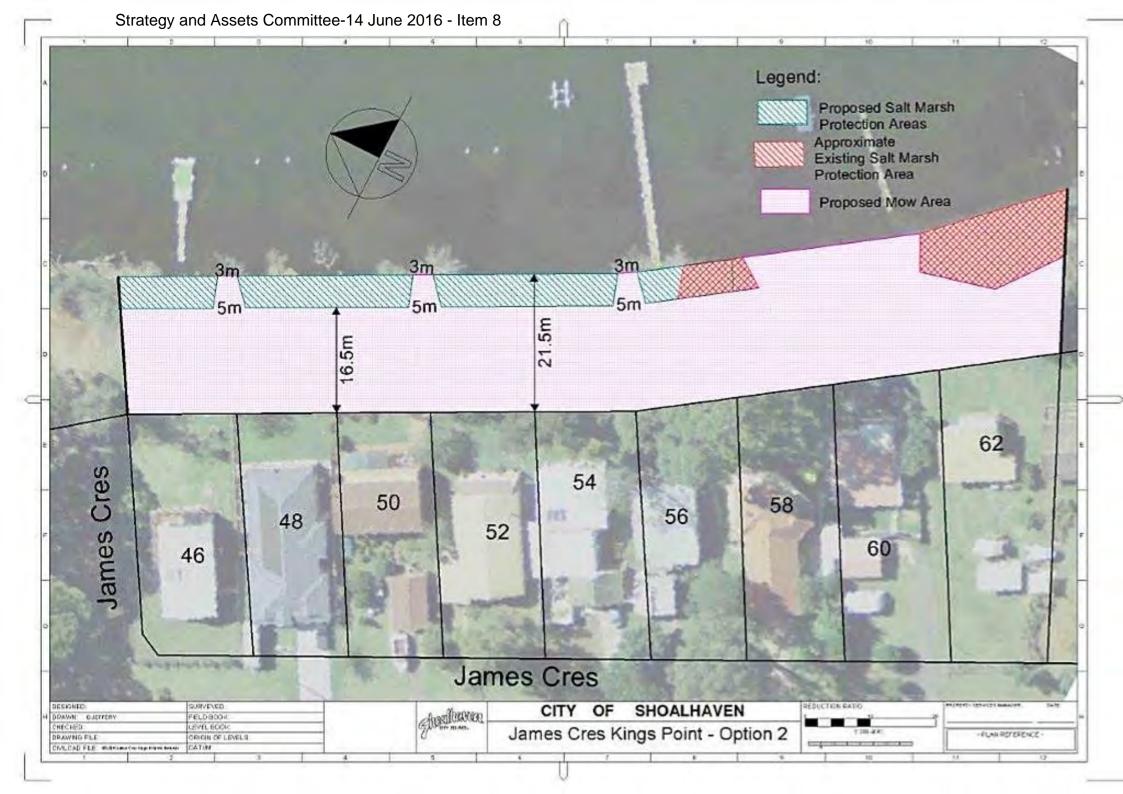
Strategy and Assets Committee-14 June 2016 - Item 8 ATTACHMENT A

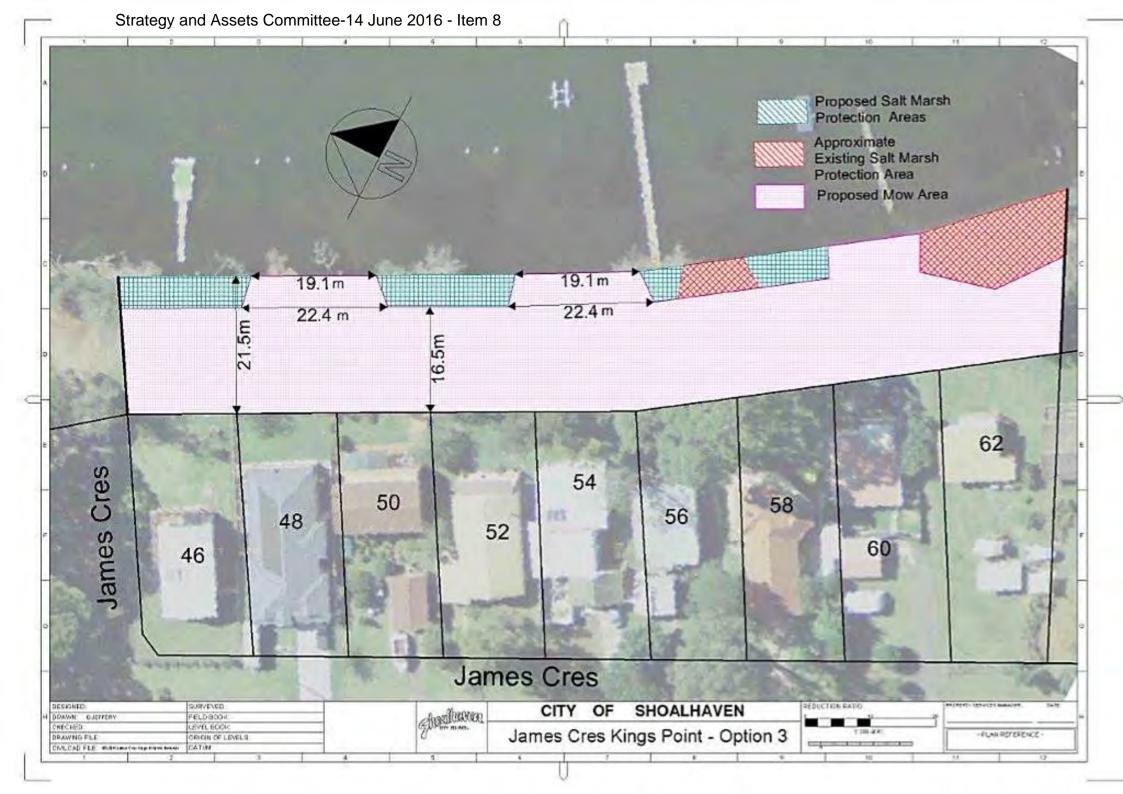


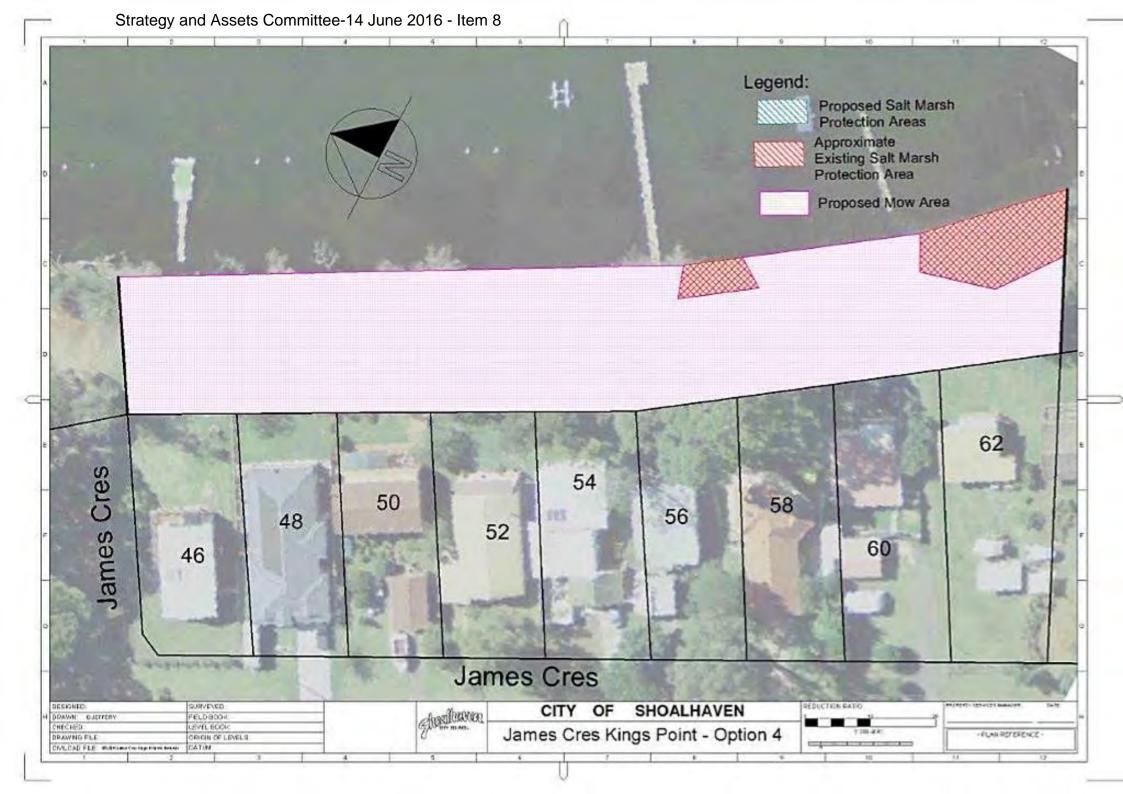
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ATTACHMENT D



Our Ref: C16/231

23 May 2016

Isabelle Ghetti Shoalhaven City Council PO Box 42 NOWRA NSW 2540

Dear Ms Ghetti,

Protection of Saltmarsh at James Crescent Public Reserve, Kings Point, Burrill Lake

DPI Fisheries would like to thank and commend the staff involved in Shoalhaven City Council's ongoing project to rehabilitate and protect saltmarsh vegetation on public land at James Crescent Reserve Kings Point, Burrill Lake.

The preservation and restoration of saltmarsh on public land has been identified as a priority by the State Government of NSW and funding has been made available for projects such as this one to protect and restore saltmarsh communities.

We note that four options for the management of the saltmarsh on the public reserve at James Crescent, Kings Point were put to the local community and 78% of respondents supported one of the 3 options that improved saltmarsh protection along the foreshore. By contrast, 22% of respondents supported option 4 which is essentially the status quo.

At the on-site meeting, options put forward by council were rejected by some residents in favour of a "protection areas of 1metre radius around the existing dead Casuarina stumps" option. This proposal is not supported by the Department for the following reasons;

- It is effectively little improvement compared to the current situation (option 4) and would not result in meaningful protection or effective regeneration of saltmarsh species.
- It is contrary to the wishes of the broader community as indicated by responses to the survey.
- It does not achieve legislative objectives relating to saltmarsh under the FM Act or the Threatened Species Conservation Act.
- It is inconsistent with saltmarsh protection arrangements implemented elsewhere around the lake at Harold Street Kings Point and Barker Reserve Burrill Lake.

Because of its important ecological function and continued environmental threats, saltmarsh is protected under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act). Any 'harm' (including mowing) caused to saltmarsh vegetation on public land requires

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a permit under Part 7 of the FM Act. The maximum penalty for harming saltmarsh without a permit is \$220,000 for a Corporation or \$110,000 for a person.

The Department is not prepared to issue a permit to Council or to individuals for broad scale, ongoing mowing of saltmarsh to the water's edge (i.e. option 4).

DPI Fisheries supports the principal that public land foreshore reserves such as this should be managed in a way that achieves environmental outcomes whilst accommodating the broader community needs and expectations in relation to waterway access and recreational enjoyment of open space.

DPI Fisheries supports the implementation of option 1. This option:

- 1. was supported by the majority of the community,
- 2. meets legislative objectives,
- 3. is supported by State Government programs and funding,
- 4. is consistent with previous project projects undertaken at Burrill Lake,
- 5. will result in a beneficial environmental outcome, and
- 6. maintains public access to the waterway and recreational use of the area.

If you require any further information, please contact Jillian Reynolds on (02) 4428 3406.

Yours sincerely

Allan Lugg

Regional Manager - South

Aquatic Ecosystems