

Vehicles on Wonga Beach Community Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2022

Time: Start 5:30pm Finish 6:30pm

Venue: Council Administration Office – Mossman and Via Teams

Attendees: Shane Brumby (Douglas Shire Council)
Gaye Scott (Douglas Shire Council)
Bev Gwynne (Wonga Beach resident) – via Zoom
Mick Hogan (Wonga Beach resident)
Tony Morana (Wonga Beach resident)

Apologies: James Gulliver
Kerry & Mark Gannon (Wonga Beach residents)

Meeting Notes

1 Welcome & Introductions

Meeting was chaired by Gaye Scott who welcomed everyone and introduced Shane Brumby who has taken over from Sara Roberts as Coordinator Local Laws & Environmental Health.

2 Compliance

Council received three complaints relating to ATVs on Wonga Beach between September 2021 and September 2022. Those in attendance believe most beach users were complying with the rules and respectful of other beach users.

Council did, however, receive correspondence from an organisation which conducted 72 inspections over the first 8 months of 2022 citing the following:

- 201 instances of failure to wear helmets
- 32 of illegal seating
- 68 occasions of excessive speed
- 39 prohibited vehicle types including 4WDs and 13 motorbikes.

Council acknowledges there are people who have ongoing concerns regarding the use of vehicles on the beach and encourages people to provide information or evidence of breaches directly to Council for investigation and action.

3 Access Points

Access points continue to be a challenge for Council, particularly where private property is adjacent to the beach (the old Redbacks site and South Arm Drive). While this is not ideal, staff are looking at possible solutions and the focus is on limiting access for larger vehicles, such as 4WDs drives, which create significant damage to the beach and foreshore areas.



If residents do see prohibited vehicles on the beach, it would be useful to let Council know the vehicle type, date and time, and registration number if possible. Council will follow up and it may deter further breaches.

4 Requirement for formal training

None of the 28 permit holders have formal ATV training. It was something initially proposed however has proved to be impractical. It could also deter people from lodging the application an outcome we are not looking for.

The Application Form will be amended to take out this item from the Checklist and Supporting Documentation.

9. CHECKLIST AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	Applicant Supplied	N/A	Officer Checked
Have you read the conditions below and have all sections been completed and form signed?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach a copy of current valid QLD driving licence – (provisional or full accepted for all riders over 17 years of age)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach a copy of Conditional Vehicle Registration – <i>(Conditional registration may be sought by suitable applicants from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with the support of Douglas Shire Council and Mossman Police, to enable the vehicle to be driven on a road, to a designated access point.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach a coloured photograph of the nominated recreational vehicle – (as specified in section 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach proof applicants/riders over 17 years of age have undertaken a recognised quad bike safety training course – (e.g. Certificate of attendance, letter from service provider)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Attach copy Birth Certificate/s – (required for all minors 11-16 years of age as specified in section 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

5 Informing New Residents of requirement for permit.

The question was raised about how new residents find out about the requirement for a permit to drive on Wonga Beach. At present, Council is relying upon signs at each of the beach entrances indicating access is for Approval Holders Only. The Douglas Shire Council logo would indicate these approvals would be issued by Douglas Shire Council.

6 Pinnacle Village Caravan Park

The Pinnacle Village Caravan Park has been rebranded Daintree Beach Resort. With the new owners, it provides an opportunity to reinforce that only permanent residents are eligible to apply for a permit to drive a vehicle on designated sections of Wonga Beach. This excludes all short-term visitors/travellers who stay at the resort. An email was sent 4 January 2023 to the new owners clarifying that only permanent residents can apply for a permit.

7 Community Group Membership

The current Terms of Reference states there should be at least six and up to twelve Wonga Beach residents, a Traditional Owner and two Council officers on the Community Group. When nominations were first called 16 people responded and although all 12 who were eligible have been invited to every meeting, just three residents have attended.

Council will put the call out for new members late February, early March 2023, to attend a meeting in April 2023 with the aim of boosting membership to hear from a broader cross section of residents.