

**PORT GEOGRAPHE SEDIMENT & SEAGRASS
REFERENCE GROUP WORKSHOP #3
5:30pm to 8:30pm, Thursday 30th September 2010**

1. INTRODUCTION

The third and final planned meeting of the Port Geographe Sediment and Seagrass Working Group was held on Thursday 30th September 2010.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Agree a preferred concept;
- Agree the fundamental requirements for the proposed solution; and
- Make recommendations to the Port Geographe Community Consultative Forum (PGCCF).

This summary presents the key findings of the group. A full workshop summary will be prepared subsequently.

2. PREFERRED CONCEPT

A strong level of support for the concept shown diagrammatically below was reported at the meeting. The most significant point of concern focuses on the impacts for Moonlight Bay and the provision of a suitable beach for this community.

The preferred concept is shown as an overlay to the existing layout.



3. REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Reference Group discussed and accepted the following:

- A dramatic reduction in unnatural seagrass accumulation is expected **BUT** not total elimination;
- Wonnerup Beach erosion will be reduced or halted **BUT** not entirely and further work may be required;
- The marina entrance will be maintained with no comparatively adverse flushing or water quality outcomes **BUT** periodic dredging will be required;

- The pocket beaches will be removed **HOWEVER** the lagoon and other benefits will offset this.
- Implementation is still subject to successful negotiation and may be staged to spread cost, monitor success and manage the associated impacts.

It is important to note the following additional comments agreed by the Reference Group with regard to the expectations listed above:

- We need to work with Moonlight Bay residents to broker an acceptable solution with the inclusion of the lagoon and/or small groynes to create some beach amenity. More detailed discussion is needed to consider and discuss the finer grained detail and offer appropriate reassurances; and
- A single construction stage is seen to be beneficial due to the associated economies of scale and avoidance of potentially sunk costs and continued negative outcomes. In any event it is essential that the scope as proposed remains intact.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PGCCF

The Port Geographe Sediment and Seagrass Reference Group recommends that:

- The preferred concept is supported by this group subject to:
 - Further more detailed planning to define the finer detail at Moonlight Bay including mini groynes, boat access and parking, lagoon length, craft access, pedestrian access, amenity, maintenance, etc with reassurances and offsets for local residents with their direct involvement.
- Wider input is sought from residents of the area as part of a more direct involvement through an agreed consultative process to present and discuss the preferred solution;
- The process from this point continues to provide opportunities for local stakeholders to influence the resultant outcomes;
- The concept continues to undergo the current peer review and refinement process;
- The participants of this group continue to be informed of the ongoing development of the concept eg minutes of PGCCF, regular updates, peer review, consultant reports or other means;
- State, Local Government, EPA and other regulatory processes including approvals are well communicated to the local community as potential project milestones; and
- The PGCCF acts promptly to progress this issue and maintain the current momentum.

5. REFERENCE GROUP MEMBER FEEDBACK

Reference Group members were invited to provide individual feedback on the consultation process adopted. Fifteen Reference Group members responded immediately after the workshop.

Reference Group members responded to a number of questions including the following statements:

- The process was informative and productive;
- The process was fair and participative; and
- I support the resultant outcomes.

Reference Group members completed the assessment by selecting from the following rating scale for each statement.

Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know

The resultant feedback is recorded below.

