

## Planning Team Report

Bobs Farm- Additional permitted use of Recreational Facility (Outdoor) on land at 775, 777 & 781 Marsh Road in the RU 2 Rural Landscape Zone

Proposal Title:

Bobs Farm- Additional permitted use of Recreational Facility (Outdoor) on land at 775, 777 &

781 Marsh Road in the RU 2 Rural Landscape Zone

Proposal Summary:

Seeks to introduce 'Recreational Facility (outdoor)' as an additional use permissible with

consent on Lot 14 DP 1071458 and Lot 223 DP 598773 at 775, 777 and 781 Marsh Road, Bobs

Farm, in the RU 2 Rural Landscape Zone

PP Number:

PP 2016 PORTS 004 00

Dop File No:

16/08341

Proposal Details

Date Planning

13-Jul-2016

LGA covered :

**Port Stephens** 

Proposal Received:

Hunter

RPA:

**Port Stephens Council** 

State Electorate:

**PORT STEPHENS** 

Section of the Act

55 - Planning Proposal

LEP Type:

Region:

Precinct

**Location Details** 

Street:

775, 777 and 781 Marsh Road,

Suburb:

**Bobs Farm** 

City:

Postcode:

NSW, 2316

Land Parcel:

Lot 14 DP 1071458 and Lot 223 DP 598773

**DoP Planning Officer Contact Details** 

Contact Name:

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**DoP Project Manager Contact Details** 

Contact Name :

Contact Number:

Contact Email:

**Land Release Data** 

Growth Centre :

Release Area Name:

Regional / Sub

Lower Hunter Regional

Consistent with Strategy

No

Regional Strategy:

Strategy

MDP Number:

Date of Release:

Area of Release (Ha)

23.00

Type of Release (eg Residential /

**Employment Land** 

No. of Lots

^

Employment land) :
No. of Dwellings

Dwellings

(where relevant):

0

Gross Floor Area:

0

No of Jobs Created:

0

The NSW Government Yes

Lobbyists Code of Conduct has been complied with:

If No, comment:

Have there been

No

meetings or

communications with registered lobbyists?:

If Yes, comment:

### Supporting notes

Internal Supporting Notes :

**External Supporting** 

Notes:

The following reports were referred to by Council in relation to this proposal, however they relate to an earlier development application for the site. Council will be advised to clarify the material provided for exhibition and agency consultation so as to avoid public confusion:

- 1. Traffic Impact Assessment;
- 2. Ecological Assessment;
- 3. Business Plan;
- 4. Flood/Stormwater Study;
- 5. Dust and Sediment Control Plan;
- 6. Bushfire Study;
- 7. Acid Sulphate Soils Assessment;
- 8. Acoustic Report; and
- 9. Archaeological Due Diligence Assessment.

## Adequacy Assessment

## Statement of the objectives - s55(2)(a)

Is a statement of the objectives provided? Yes

Comment :

'to enable a water ski park, which is defined as a recreational facility (outdoor) to be listed as permissible with development consent at 775, 777 and 781 Marsh Road, Bobs Farm'.(p.4) While the current proposal may be for a water ski park, the term could also make permissible other outdoor recreation facilities such as paint ball facility, go-kart track or rifle range. Council will be asked to clarify this within the proposal prior to exhibition.

## Explanation of provisions provided - s55(2)(b)

Is an explanation of provisions provided? Yes

Comment :

Council has considered a number of options to achieve the intended objective including amend the zoning of the land, make the use permissible within the zone across the LGA and make the use permissible as an additional permitted use only on this site and retain

the underlying RU2 zone. The latter is the approach selected and described in the explanation of provisions.

### Justification - s55 (2)(c)

a) Has Council's strategy been agreed to by the Director General? No

b) S.117 directions identified by RPA:

1.2 Rural Zones

\* May need the Director General's agreement

1.3 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries

1.5 Rural Lands

2.2 Coastal Protection

2.3 Heritage Conservation

3.4 Integrating Land Use and Transport
3.5 Development Near Licensed Aerodromes

4.1 Acid Sulfate Soils

4.3 Flood Prone Land

4.4 Planning for Bushfire Protection

5.1 Implementation of Regional Strategies

6.3 Site Specific Provisions

Is the Director General's agreement required? No

c) Consistent with Standard Instrument (LEPs) Order 2006: Yes

d) Which SEPPs have the RPA identified?

SEPP No 44—Koala Habitat Protection SEPP No 55—Remediation of Land SEPP No 71—Coastal Protection SEPP (Rural Lands) 2008

e) List any other matters that need to

Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

be considered :

**Draft Hunter Regional Plan 2015** 

1.4 Oyster Aquaculture:

While the Planning Proposal concludes that this Direction is not applicable because oyster leases are not actually sited on the land, the Direction applies to off-site oyster leases that may be impacted (cl.(1) (b)). A tributary flowing through the site joins Tilligerry Creek about 350m offsite, an extensive area of priority oyster leases.

Have inconsistencies with items a), b) and d) being adequately justified? No

If No, explain:

This is further explained in the assessment section.

## Mapping Provided - s55(2)(d)

Is mapping provided? No

Comment:

As a text-only change to the LEP, maps are not involved.

### Community consultation - s55(2)(e)

Has community consultation been proposed? Yes

Comment:

Council proposes exhibition for 28 days during August 2016. The proposal is unique and not supported by a broader Startegy for the area. As it is likely to generate interest this

extended exhibition period is supported.

### **Additional Director General's requirements**

Are there any additional Director General's requirements? No

If Yes, reasons:

## Overall adequacy of the proposal

Does the proposal meet the adequacy criteria? Yes

If No, comment :

Information submitted for the inclusion of an additional use 'group-term' is adequate, however some reports and material refer to development details that are superseded or could be misleading to the public if placed on exhibition.

### **Proposal Assessment**

#### Principal LEP:

Due Date :

Comments in relation to Principal LEP:

Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 was Notified in December 2013

### **Assessment Criteria**

Need for planning proposal :

The Proposal has been prepared in response to a development concept for a water ski centre that would otherwise be prohibited within the zone. There is no broader strategy for this area or this type of use within the LGA.

Council identifies what it describes as a de facto cluster of outdoor recreational facilities located in this area, zoned RU2 – Rural Landscape.

This 'cluster' is a linear and diverse range of uses attracted by the exposure and access afforded by the Nelson Bay Road (State main road) corridor. Council considers the proposal consistent with the established development.

Council has explored alterative approaches to facilitating this development including rezoning the land to an alternative zone or making the use permissible within the RU2 Zone throughout the LGA. In the absence of any strategic assessment of the suitability of these alterative approaches an additional permitted use is considered appropriate.

Consistency with strategic planning framework: Strategic justification

Draft Hunter Regional Plan, 2015

Relevant development principles in the draft plan are:

Principle 1: 'Development within the existing urban footprint supports connected communities'.

The proposal is not located within or near a centre, being 14.5km west of Nelson Bay. Council should be encouraged to further consider the development pattern emerging along Nelson Bay Road in particular the linear spread of attractions and impact on the function and safety of this main road.

Principle 3: 'Protect the environment and respond to climate change impacts'
The proposal has inherent risks for water quality, the whole site being at least 300m within historically-based flood levels. The proposed additional use may concentrate large audiences or groups of visitors within the flood-prone area. It is noted that no part of the subject land is not flood-prone. Likewise, the risks from activity on the site to the Priority Oyster Leases in Tilligerry Creek 350m downstream. Extensive filling to offset these risks brings new risks and impacts.

Goal 3 of the Draft Plan is to 'Protect and Connect Natural Environments' (p.45). The portion of Lot 223 north of Upton Lane (a 'paper road' on the cadastre map) contains remnant vegetation and biodiverse areas as well as areas with potential for re-establishing linkages with nearby Koala habitat, all of which is within the Watagans to Stockton Bight biodiversity corridor.

Council should amend the planning proposal to clearly demonstrate how the proposal is consistent with the Draft Hunter Regional Plan, 2015.

#### **Lower Hunter Regional Strategy**

The land is also within the Watagans to Stockton Bight regional biodiversity corridor as identified in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy. The consistency of the proposal with these regional plans is unclear.

'Preferred Koala Habitat' such as that mapped in the portion of the site north of Upton Lane could become further fragmented and its quality compromised by certain higher-impact uses within the Recreation Facility (outdoor) group-term.

Council should amend the proposal so as to demonstrate how the proposal is consistent with these regional policies, or amend the proposal to exclude land to the north of, and including, Upton Lane.

On natural hazards the strategy states:

'Future urban development will not be located in areas of high risk from natural hazards, including sea level rise, coastal recession, rising watertable and flooding. Development in areas subject to natural hazards will be assessed according to the policies of the Floodplain Development Manual and the Coastal Protection Act 1979. Appropriate planning provisions will be incorporated in local environmental plans consistent with the Floodplain Development Manual and council's risk management plan to minimise the risk from flooding'(p.38).

Council should amend the planning proposal to clearly demonstrate how the proposal is consistent with this aspect of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.

#### Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies

#### SEPP No 44—Koala Habitat Protection

That portion of Lot 223 north of Upton Lane is approximately 50% Preferred Koala Habitat, on the Koala Habitat Planning Map of the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management, and '50m buffer over the cleared'areas. The other 50% of the portion north of Upton Lane, including Upton Lane, is designated as 'Link over Cleared'. The revised ecological assessment by Firebird consultants disputes the identification.

Office of Environment and Heritage has advised that it would be concerned if development applications relying on the additional use clause did not comply with the Port Stephens Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM). Any future development application

will be required by Council to address the requirements of the Port Stephens Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management (CKPoM).

The proposal should be referred to Office of Environment and Heritage for advice to determine the consistency of the proposal with this SEPP.

#### SEPP No 55-Remediation of Land

Council considers that the proposal would not introduce sensitive land uses and that contamination investigation may be dealt with at the development stage.

However, Clause 2 of this SEPP requires that before inclusion of a recreational use (cl.(4) (c)) in any particular zone, 'the planning authority is to obtain and have regard to a report specifying the findings of a preliminary investigation of the land carried out in accordance with the contaminated land planning guidelines' SEPP 55 cl.(2).

Any Gateway approval should be conditioned to require that a preliminary contamination investigation report be prepared and exhibited with the planning proposal.

Development applications will also be required by Council to address the provisions of the SEPP

#### SEPP No 71—Coastal Protection

The site is 1.8km north of the Stockton Bight sand dunes and 400m east of Tilligerry Creek. A tributary runs through the northern portion of the site (Lot 223), joining Tilligerry Creek about 350m north-west of the site.

The site does not currently afford access to any coastal foreshore.

The proposal should be referred to Office of Environment and Heritage for advice to determine the consistency of the proposal with this SEPP.

#### SEPP (Rural Lands) 2008

The proposal is inconsistent with this policy relative to rural planning principles. This is further discussed in relation to s117 directions below.

Consistency with Relevant Section 117 Directions

#### S.117 Direction 1.2 Rural Zones

While contrary to the objective of this Direction, the proposal involves neither the urban zones identified in the Direction nor an increase in density controls, so the Direction is not triggered.

S.117 Direction 1.3 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries
The proposal does not alter the planning status of extractive industries within the zone, or on this land, and so this Direction is not triggered.

#### S.117 Direction 1.4 Oyster Aquaculture

A tributary flowing through the site joins Tilligerry Creek about 350m offsite, in an extensive area of priority oyster leases. Any contamination or acid sulphate soils on the site could be mobilised, or turbidity increased, by works on the site. Also the use of pesticides, inappropriate erosion/ sedimentation controls, on-site burning of vegetation, sewage treatment or the release of recreational facility water dosed with chlorine or algaecide could impact the oyster lease areas. This could arise during flooding events on the land.

The proposal should be referred to Department of Primary Industries (NSW Fisheries) for advice to determine the consistency, or otherwise, of the proposal with this Direction. Council should also amend the proposal to reflect this s117 direction as applying.

### S.117 Direction 1.5 Rural Lands

The proposal is inconsistent with this Direction as it neither protects the productive value of rural land (objective (a) nor facilitates the development of rural land for a rural or related purpose. However the proposal seeks to include only a single additional permitted use that may be considered consistent with broader agricultural uses. The proposal should be referred to NSW Agriculture for advice on the significance, or otherwise, of the prospective loss of agricultural land and compatibility of the proposed use with other uses in the area. Such expert advice will enable determination of the proposal's consistency

with this Direction.

#### S.117 Direction 2.2 Coastal Protection

Inclusion of the riparian and remnant vegetation areas of Lot 223 north of Upton Lane, having regard to the strategic location of the land within the Watagans to Stockton Bight biodiversity corridor, puts the proposal in conflict with this Direction.

The Direction cites three policy documents:

- (a) NSW Coastal Policy: A Sustainable Future for the New South Wales Coast 1997, and
- (b) the Coastal Design Guidelines 2003, and
- (c) the NSW Coastline Management Manual 1990

Council should amend the planning proposal to demonstrate consistency with these policies and guidance in respect of the proposed maximum land-filling that will be required to raise the site above the design flood level adopted for developing the land for the range of additional outdoor recreation uses proposed.

The visual impact of structures as viewed from surrounding public areas will be increased by the filling of the land, potentially including views from the water in Tilligerry Creek. The proposal should be referred to Office of Environment and Heritage for advice to determine the consistency of the proposal with this Direction.

#### S.117 Direction 2.3 Heritage Conservation

The submitted Aboriginal Heritage assessment is dated 15 July 2015. The development footprint assumed for the impact assessment is not clear from the maps in the report, in particular whether the northern section of Lot 223 and the riparian zone was assessed. Having regard to the frequency of archaeological 'finds' during public and commercial works along this section of the peninsula, it is likely that Aboriginal artefacts or places exist on the land in the opinion of Office of Environment and Heritage.

The proposal should be referred to the local Aboriginal Land Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife Service) for advice on the assessment of the Aboriginal Heritage of the land and any amendments required to the proposal.

The proposal's consistency or otherwise with this direction may be determined following this consultation.

## S.117 Direction 3.4- Integrating Land Use and Transport-

The proposal is located at a distance from existing centre however council argues that it is located with an area of importance to tourism more broadly and that the use is consistent with similar uses in the area. The proposal has the potential to result in increased traffic volumes on a state road. Traffic demands, based on the development concept/ footprint at that time were 137 vehicles per hour peak flow and 310 spaces for peak parking. Issues of impact on main road performance/ safety should be the subject of advice sought from Transport for NSW. Referral is conditioned.

The proposal's consistency or otherwise with this direction may be determined following this consultation.

#### S.117 Direction 3.5 Development Near Licensed Aerodromes

The site is about 16.4km away from the Williamtown civil and RAAF runways. The site is located within the Port Stephens Height Trigger Map and in turn requires referral when structures are proposed to be higher than 45m metres. Under clause 7.4 of the Port Stephens LEP any development application that will penetrate the Limitation or Operation Surface must be referred to the relevant Commonwealth Body. Given the presence of this referral requirement the inconsistency of the proposal with this direction is considered minor.

#### S.117 Direction 4.1 Acid Sulfate Soils

The site has a probability of Class 3 Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) and is located in proximity to oyster aquaculture. Council has considered an ASS assessment report in relation to the proposal however further consideration will be required under clause 7.1 of the LEP in relation to any future development proposal. The proposal is considered consistent with this direction.

#### S.117 Direction 4.3- Flood Prone Land

The site lies entirely within flood prone land. The proposed site access on Marsh Road is about 300m within the mapped flood area. Therefore no safe means of evacuation from a site exists which could, under the proposal, host significantly increased numbers of people in an outdoor recreational facility who are relying on walking to bus stops on Marsh Road (also within flood area) or accessing their cars for a means of escape. The proposal should be referred to Office of Environment and Heritage and to the State Emergency Service for advice on the potential scale of this risk to visitors and on means to avoid, mitigate and manage it across the relevant agencies. The proposal's consistency or otherwise with this direction may be determined following this consultation.

## S.117 Direction 4.4 Planning for Bushfire Protection

The north and north-western parts of Lot 223 have remnant bushland and associated fire hazard. The Direction requires Council as the relevant planning authority to consult with the Commissioner for Bush Fire Services upon receipt of a Gateway determination. The proposals consistency or otherwise with this direction may be determined following this consultation.

When a specific development footprint is submitted to Council in a development application the degree of risk will need to be further assessed.

#### S.117 Direction 5.1 Implementation of Regional Strategies

The subject site is located within the Watagans to Stockton Bight corridor in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy. Although large parts of the site are cleared the northern half of Lot 223 has the potential to be managed to retain and enhance the biodiversity and connectivity of the strategic corridor

The additional permitted use proposed will not necessarily impinge upon the sites role in this corridor which would be further resolved through any future development application. Consistency or otherwise with this direction will be determined following consultation with Office of Environment and Heritage.

#### S.117 Direction 6.3 Site Specific Provisions

The proposal which proposes an additional permitted use on the site is inconsistent with this direction. Council has explored alternative approaches to facilitating this development including rezoning the land to an alternative zone or making the use permissible within the RU2 Zone throughout the LGA. In the absence of any strategic assessment of the suitability of these alternative approaches an additional permitted use is considered appropriate.

## Environmental social economic impacts:

#### **Environmental Impacts**

The section of Lot 223 north of Upton Lane (paper road) contains Preferred Koala Habitat and riparian zone vegetation and has the potential to be impacted by future development . This site is also located within the regional biodiversity corridor in the Regional Strategy. There is a conflict between the group-term of 'Recreational Facility (outdoor)', proposed to accommodate the currently proposed use (waveboard park etc) on this land, and the other uses within the group-term such as go-kart track, paint-ball centre and rifle range having regard to the terrestrial and aquatic habitats within and near the site.

Social and Economic Impacts-

Council identifies what it describes as a 'tourist cluster' of facilities located in this area, zoned Zone RU2 – Rural Landscape.

This 'cluster' is a linear and diverse range of uses which is attracted by the exposure and access afforded by the Newcastle-to-Nelson Bay (State main road) corridor.

Some of these uses could better have been located within or adjacent to existing townships. Council should be encouraged to further consider the development pattern emerging along Nelson Bay Road in particular the linear spread of attractions and impact on the function and safety of this main road.

#### **Assessment Process**

Proposal type:

Precinct

Community Consultation

28 Days

Period:

Timeframe to make

12 months

Delegation:

RPA

LEP:

Public Authority

**Department of Education and Communities** 

Consultation - 56(2)(d)

Office of Environment and Heritage

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Agriculture

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fishing and Aquaculture

Transport for NSW

Office of Environment and Heritage - NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

**NSW Rural Fire Service** 

Transport for NSW - Roads and Maritime Services

State Emergency Service

Is Public Hearing by the PAC required?

No

(2)(a) Should the matter proceed?

Yes

If no, provide reasons:

Resubmission - s56(2)(b): No

If Yes, reasons:

Identify any additional studies, if required...

If Other, provide reasons

Identify any internal consultations, if required:

#### No internal consultation required

Is the provision and funding of state infrastructure relevant to this plan? No

If Yes, reasons:

The proposal is for a single use and is minor and therefore not required to be mapped as an urban release area for the purposes of a contribution to the provision and funding of state infrastructure under the provisions of clause 6.2 of the LEP. Any infrastructure requirements associated with a future development proposal will be resolved through the

development assessment process.

## **Documents**

Document File Name

DocumentType Name

Is Public

16 06 15\_PSSC to DP&E\_Gateway Request\_Marsh

**Proposal Covering Letter** 

Yes

Rd\_PP.pdf

Planning Proposal.pdf

Proposal

Yes

### Planning Team Recommendation

Preparation of the planning proposal supported at this stage: Recommended with Conditions

S.117 directions:

1.2 Rural Zones

1.3 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries

1.5 Rural Lands

2.2 Coastal Protection

2.3 Heritage Conservation 3.4 Integrating Land Use and Transport 3.5 Development Near Licensed Aerodromes 4.1 Acid Sulfate Soils 4.3 Flood Prone Land 4.4 Planning for Bushfire Protection 5.1 Implementation of Regional Strategies 6.3 Site Specific Provisions Prior to exhibition Council is to amend the planning proposal and supporting Additional Information : documentation to clarify the relationship between the proposal and an earlier development application. 2. Prior to exhibition Council is to amend the proposal to recognise that the site is located within the Watagan To Stockton Green Corridor identified in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and consider the proposal against this and the Draft Regional Strategy. 3. Prior to exhibition Council is to amend the planning proposal to clarify that the proposed explanation of provisions permits a broader range of use than that indicated within the objective of the proposal. 3. Community consultation is required under sections 56(2)(c) and 57 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ("EP&A Act") as follows: (a) the planning proposal must be made publicly available for a minimum of 28 days; and (b) the relevant planning authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in section 5.5.2 of A Guide to Preparing LEPs ( Planning & Infrastructure 2013). 4. Consultation is required with the following public authorities under section 56(2)(d) of the EP&A Act and/or to comply with the requirements of relevant S117 Directions: Office of Environment and Heritage- (S.117 Direction 2.2 Coastal Protection, 2.3 Heritage Conservation and 4.3 Flood Prone Land), NSW State Emergency Service- (s.117 Direction 4.3 Flood Prone Land and site evacuation planning) Office of Environment and Heritage (SEPP 44- Koala Habitat Protection and Watagans to Stockton Bight biodiversity corridor). NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fishing and Aquaculture re s.117 Direction 1.4 Oyster Aquaculture) NSW Department of Primary Industries (SEPP Rural Lands 2008 and Direction 1.5 Rural Lands) Transport for NSW (Roads and Maritime Services) regarding state road access NSW Rural Fire Service (S.117 Direction 4.4 Planning for Bushfire Protection) Local Aboriginal Land Council (S.117 Direction 2.3 Heritage Conservation) Each public authority is to be provided with a copy of the planning proposal and any

relevant supporting material, and given at least 21 days to comment on the proposal. Once the consultation is undertaken with the public authorities, and information is provided, Council is to update its consideration of S117 Directions.

- 5. A public hearing is not required to be held into the matter by any person or body under section 56(2)(e) of the EP&A Act. This does not discharge Council from any obligation it may otherwise have to conduct a public hearing (for example, in response to a submission or if reclassifying land).
- 6. The timeframe for completing the LEP is to be 12 months from the week following the date of the Gateway determination.

Supporting Reasons

per report

Signature:	1011	
Printed Name:	Korlaherty Date: 29/7/16	
	J.	