

FRIENDS OF MOORE RIVER ESTUARY 2014 UPDATE

Here is

- a précis of the current position on what is happening on the south side of Moore River;
- some good news on the board walk; and
- A 'heads up' on a photographic competition proposed for summer 2015.

South Side of the Moore River

In September 2013, Gingin Shire and the WA Planning Commission endorsed the 2013 Outline Development Plan for Moore River South, despite the Foreshore Management Plan not being finalised. Moore River Company can now apply for subdivision when they wish.

While the development plan has been accepted, FOMRE and the public submission process continues to win important allowances from the Moore River Company (MRC) via Cardno (consultant planners) in the form of amendments to the Foreshore Management Plan (FMP). Namely:

1. "Revise FMP to remove northwest coastal car park; close and rehabilitate access track and expand node 6 to include option for low key facilities as per other coastal nodes". That means that the Crown Reserve will not have a road or car park cut into it! A fenced walk trail only will access the top of the hill to overlook the River and beach access from the North (of the development) will now only be from node 6.
2. "Revise FMP to include requirement for suitable vehicle control barriers to be installed along the northern boundary of the northern development road at the commencement of construction works".

Beach Access:

At present MRC is having a hard time keeping 4WDs out of their land and the Gingin Shire is also aware of this growing menace to our beaches. The FMP proposes vehicular beach access be curtailed much further south than it is at present, with the Shire talking of [setting] Wilbinga limits.

River Access:

Public sentiment indicated accessing the river foreshore should only be via a fenced road to node 8 for canoe launching. No other area is acceptable (node 8 is located on the far western side of the Desert).

- Cardno/MRC promised to "Expand FMP text as necessary to clarify design response to each vehicle exclusion area". It was suggested that NACC should be consulted for advice re 4WD control.
- The river foreshore width is now subject to 'biophysical criteria' and the latest climate change predictions which means it is mostly about 150m wide.

John Prince (GCA) reiterated the community's concerns with respect to the Riverine foreshore and access to it. Any development will inevitably incur destruction of the river's bank. A suggestion that LMRWG be consulted as the area is to be similar to Silver Creek was noted.

FOMRE and GCA were each given a copy of the endorsed ODP. If you wish to view it please contact Linda Johnson. Alternatively, the endorsed ODP can be found on the Shire of Gingin's

website in the Minutes of the September 2013 meeting. A large map of the approved ODP has been promised and will be displayed in the Visitor Centre shortly.

Board Walk

On Christmas Eve 2013 the Board walk was re-opened to the public after three years! And further to that good news GCA, in conjunction with the Shire of Gingin, have been granted funding to protect the area from further rock falls and rectify some of the environmental damage due to the restricted access to the beach!

Photographic competition – “Where Moore River Meets the Sea”

This is an advance notice that FOMRE and GCA are considering conducting a photographic competition in January 2015 titled “Where Moore River Meets the Sea”. The aim is to continue to encourage all who know, love and visit Moore River to celebrate the area through their particular lens!

Initial ideas are for the competition to be held over a 24 – 36 hour period, images to be printed and displayed near the visitor centre with prizes for four or five categories.

Anyone who is interested in assisting with coordinating this please do not hesitate to contact Diana Papenfus.

Best Wishes

In the meantime FOMRE will continue to keep you informed on the situation occurring on the south side of Moore River through 2014.

Our AGM will be on Saturday 1st March in Gabbadah Park at 10am. You are very welcome to attend and ask questions.

Linda Johnson, Convenor of FOMRE can be contacted on 0414 631 273.



