

# **ORDINARY COUNCIL**

## **MAYORAL MINUTE**

**Wednesday 17 February 2021**

# Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 17 February 2021

## Items of Business

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>06.01</b>	<b>BONNY HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENCE - SEWAGE ISSUES IN BONNY HILLS AREA</b>	
	Attachment : Correspondence from Bonny Hills Progress Association - Sewage Issues in Bonny Hills Area.....	3



## Bonny Hills Progress Association INC.

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ABN 13 704 877 608  
PO Box 44  
BONNY HILLS NSW 2445  
[bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au](mailto:bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au)

10 February 2021

To:

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council  
Mayor  
Councillors  
General Manager  
Environmental Protection Authority  
Senior Operations Officer – Regulatory Operations

**Re: Sewage escape into Saltwater Creek and release of overflows from the Bonny Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant into Duchess Creek, December 2020**

As you will be aware, a public meeting to discuss these matters was held at Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Club on Wednesday 27 January.

It was convened by Steve Bryson, a concerned resident of Bonny Hills, in response to widespread community alarm. Many have expressed disgust, concern for the well-being of beach users, and embarrassment that the mess happened at a time of high visitor numbers. It has not escaped notice that this was a repeat of past episodes.

At Steve's request, I chaired the meeting in an independent capacity. Members of the Bonny Hills Progress Association recorded the proceedings. You may know that BHPA has a long string of correspondence with Council re continuing concerns about the various forms of damage being done to Rainbow Beach.

It has been left to BHPA to communicate the following resolution passed by acclaim at the public meeting:

*To Mayor, Councillors and General Manager, PMHC; Senior Operations Officer – Regulatory Operations, EPA:*

*"The Bonny Hills community expresses its strongest concern about the likely health hazards for beach users caused by discharges from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and associated sewage infrastructure during recent heavy rains, and the reputational damage caused to Bonny Hills and local businesses dependent on tourism.*

*The community requests your urgent advice about the actions that can be taken to prevent these hazards in future, given increasing population pressures and the likelihood of increased frequency of extreme weather events”.*

BHPA endorses this resolution and advises that it has set up a subcommittee to investigate these two separate but related issues, sewage escape and WTP overflows, in depth.

We will continue to press Council for the decisive action required to prevent these events in future. We do not believe they are insoluble – they certainly would not be acceptable at Town Beach or any others close to Port Macquarie. A former Sydney Northern Beaches resident informed the public meeting that similar problems there have been fixed. Simply because some other coastal shires have not resolved them is no excuse for our shire to find them too hard.

BHPA trusts Council will recognise just how strongly our community feels about action to safeguard and preserve our Rainbow Beach. We would urge Council to act quickly to:

- Elevate the priority of fixing these persistent sewage and stormwater problems;
- Involve the community by forming a joint action committee;
- Improve communications so residents are better informed, including annual open days at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and distribution of Fact Sheets to households and businesses.

Yours sincerely,

John Drinan  
Secretary  
Bonny Hills Progress Association