

TOWN OF COTTESLOE NATURAL AREAS
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008-2013:
STRATEGY AUDIT AND UPDATE PROPOSAL

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1.0 NAMP STRATEGY AUDIT

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Natural Areas Management Plan 2008-2013 (NAMP) identifies and characterises areas within the Town of Cottesloe that are of environmental significance and outlines a strategic approach to their management and enhancement. The document is designed to provide strategic guidance for both the Town's works staff and community volunteers working in natural areas to ensure that these areas are managed in an effective and efficient manner. In addition, the NAMP provides guidance for resource allocation/annual budgets and is an essential requirement for obtaining a range of additional funding such as state and federal government grants.

The intended 5 year program timeframe of the current document has now expired and requires updating to ensure the continued effective management of natural areas and to improve on the coordination, resourcing and implementation of existing management practices.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT

The purpose of the audit has been to determine what management strategies and actions have been implemented, as outlined in the NAMP, during the period between 2008 and 2013 and their effectiveness in relation to the objectives outlined in the NAMP. This has been undertaken to rationalise a review and update of the document, which will provide management guidance and facilitate the effective allocation of resources for another 5 year period.

1.3 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXISTING NAMP

The overall guiding aim of the NAMP 2008-2013 was to identify areas in the Town of Cottesloe that are to be managed as natural areas and to provide guidelines and priorities for their management with a view to protecting, preserving and enhancing local biodiversity.

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS - NAMP 2008-2013:

1. The Town of Cottesloe ensures the social, environmental and management values of the natural areas are recognised and addressed and implemented in the Town's policies, planning and work procedures.
2. The Town of Cottesloe enacts policies to protect the defined existing natural areas and ensure they are not developed or otherwise diminished.
3. The Town of Cottesloe adopts the Management Framework outlined in this report as aid to prioritising and planning work and to assist in operational activities.
4. The Town of Cottesloe assigns highest priority to the following existing natural areas (ENAs):
 - a. Mudurup
 - b. Cottesloe Native Gardens
 - c. Vlamingh Parklands
 - d. Grant Marine Park.

5. The Town of Cottesloe assigns highest priority to develop the following potential natural areas (PNAs):
 - a. Land adjacent to the railway line
 - b. John Black Dune Park.
6. The Town of Cottesloe recognises the opportunity to naturalise verges, median strips and other grassed areas.
7. The Town of Cottesloe recognises that the protection and rehabilitation of ENAs is of higher importance than developing PNAs and that any work towards PNAs should only be conducted when it does not compromise efforts towards preserving ENAs.
8. The Town of Cottesloe adopts the implementation of works outlined in the report in regards to weed management, revegetation erosion, pest management and infrastructure.
9. The Town of Cottesloe investigates means to gain access to Bushcare experience, including the possibility of sharing the funding of a Bushcare Officer with other members of the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC).

Additional Notes:

Delegating responsibilities to particular parties for implementation of this plan was excluded on the basis that this was best determined by negotiation between stakeholders after endorsement by the Town of Cottesloe.

The objectives for the NAMP were to develop strategic recommendations, but did not include detailed implementation plans for works, nor was infrastructure (such as signs, paths and fences) a particular focus of the project.

1.4 IMPLEMENTATION 2008-2013

OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION 2008 - 2013

The following provides a general overview of how the key recommendations from the NAMP have been implemented:

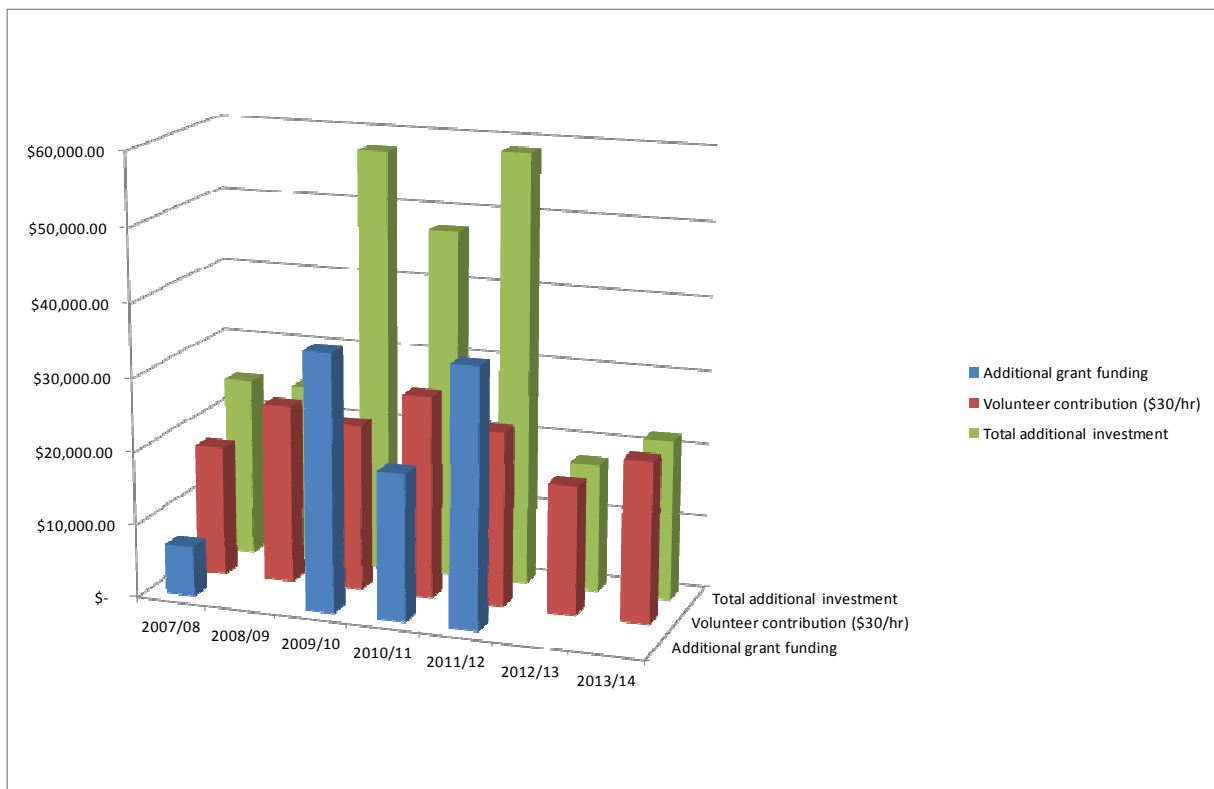
- Existing natural areas have been identified and spatially recorded. Policies recognising the Town's natural areas have been prepared and implemented at varying levels;
- The NAMP has been used to prioritise and allocate resources as part of the Town's annual budget process and operational activities. It has also been used to support numerous successful grant applications;
- Existing natural area prioritisation has been followed as per the NAMP with works focused in the areas of highest priority;
- John Black Dune Park (PNA) is in the process (concept phase) of being restored to a representative natural area including passive recreational and interpretive integration. The railway corridor (PNA) has not been investigated further and has been given a low priority;
- Verges and median strips have changed little and, due to public contention and their limited ecological value, have been considered a lower priority;

- ENAs have received significantly more resources than PNA as recommended;
- General strategies recommended in the NAMP regarding natural area management have been incorporated into works planning by both Cottesloe Coastcare and the Town’s works crew; and
- The Bushcare Officer position was implemented but was not sustained due to various reasons.

INVESTMENT IN NATURAL AREAS 2008-2013

Cottesloe Coastcare liaises with Town of Cottesloe regarding the natural areas budget annually (most years the budget is approximately \$15,000). An action plan is created for Town of Cottesloe staff and CCA volunteers, guided by the NAMP 2008-13.

In addition to the annual budget allocation from the Town of Cottesloe, financial investment from external sources for specific projects and volunteer labour contributes significantly to natural areas. The average proportion of investment from these additional sources over the period in question is approximately \$2.40 for every \$1 invested by the Town of Cottesloe.



Additional investment for natural areas 2007/08 to 2013/14

TOTAL EXTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION: \$96,850

Cottesloe Coastcare Association has leveraged significant funds to contribute to natural area management. The total value of external funding received by CCA for Cottesloe's natural areas (since 2008) is \$96,850. CCA's projects have been guided by the NAMP and this external funding is reliant on the Town of Cottesloe maintaining an up-to-date natural area management document that is endorsed by council.

- 2007/8 – CCA received an Australian Government Envirofund grant of \$6,850 for restoration work at Bryan Way foredune.
- 2009/10 - Synergy and Landcare sponsored a CCA and Town of Cottesloe natural areas restoration project at Mudurup Rocks. A grant of \$35,000 was awarded for plants, fencing and building a retaining wall.
- 2010/11 - CCA and Town of Cottesloe received an Australian Government 'Caring for Our Country' (CFoC) grant of \$20,000 for the Vlamingh area (weedy tea tree removal, re-planting and fencing)
- 2011/12 - CCA and Town of Cottesloe undertook a Coastwest funded restoration project at Napier St dunes. \$35,000 funding was received – 2 ramps were built plus revegetation.

CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEER LABOUR: 5,185 HOURS (\$155,550)

Hours worked on the foreshore by CCA volunteers (including school and University students and corporate volunteers). These totals only reflect on-ground activities and do not include hours provided for coordination, meetings etc. performed by volunteers. Dollar figures are assigned to volunteer hours at \$30/hr, which is used to represent an indication of volunteer contributions consistent with grant applications (Coastwest and CFoC).

- 2008 – CCA contributed 591 hours of work. - \$17,730.
- 2009 – 815 hours of voluntary work on the dunes – \$24,450
- 2010 – 756 hours of voluntary work – \$22,680
- 2011 – 920 voluntary hours – \$27,600
- 2012 - CCA volunteers worked 790 hours - \$23,700
- 2013 - CCA volunteers worked 586 hours - \$17,580
- 2014 – Hours worked until end July - 727 hours - \$21,810

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The following identifies the key areas where works have been undertaken and highlights the achievements made during the 2008 -2013 period.

GRANT MARINE PARK

Weed control – CCA volunteers regularly run hand weeding sessions, particularly in Spring (before seed sets) and in autumn (at sites to be planted in winter). A herbicide contractor (Biara Environmental) has been employed each spring to target priority bulbous weeds – Black Flag (*Ferraria crispa*), Red Soldiers (*Lachenalia bulbifera*) and couch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*).

Pest control: Rabbit (bait stations with Pindone oats) used each summer, with good results.

Revegetation – each year (since 2008) approximately 500 local native seedlings have been planted by CCA volunteers (grown from local provenance seed).

- 2009 – An area of adjacent lawn S/W of the natural area was converted to local native species. CCA volunteers planted 750 seedlings followed by regular weeding sessions. Price Waterhouse Coopers and Rio Tinto staff assisted.
- Also in 2009 – a weed infested verge on the north side of the park was weeded and planted by CCA with 750 seedlings. Scotch College students assisted at this site.

There is on-going disturbance at the site, primarily from children playing in the sand dunes.



Grant Marine Park images 2007 (inset) and 2010



Grant Marine Park Verge 2009 (inset) and 2011



Eastern side of Grant Marine Park 2009 (inset) and 2012

BRYAN WAY FOREDUNE

CCA had a revegetation project at the site in 2007. During 2008-9 hand weeding and infill planting work was carried out by CCA. Approximately 500 extra seedlings planted by CCA in 2010.



2007 removing Victorian Tea Tree



2010 after follow up planting

NAPIER STREET FOREDUNE (PETERS POOL AREA)

CCA and Town of Cottesloe undertook a Coastwest restoration project in 2011/12 (\$35,000 funding).

Infrastructure – Two beach access ramps built and beach fencing erected.

Weeds and Planting – Contractor weed spraying and removal of Victorian tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). 3000 local provenance dune seedlings planted by CCA in 2012; 1000 seedlings planted by volunteers in 2013 and 1000 more seedlings in 2014. CCA regularly have hand weeding sessions - particularly in spring (before seed sets) and in autumn (at sites to be planted in winter). Price Waterhouse Coopers and Rio Tinto staff assisted. (Blow out area around storm water drain is not improved, despite Council efforts).



Photo (L) sea spinach and tea tree 2011. Photo (R) new ramp on north side with local plant species establishing - 2012



Photo (L) new fence. Photo (R) volunteers planting at Napier St foredune 2011

MUDURUP ROCKS

Synergy and Landcare sponsored a CCA and Town of Cottesloe project at Mudurup Rocks in 2009-10. \$35,000 was spent on a limestone retaining wall and pine log fencing; 4000 local native plants were funded as was herbicide work and rabbit control. CCA volunteers collected and cleaned all the seed required, planted and weeded the site and carried out further planting in 2011 - of 1000 more plants. CCA continues weeding sessions and general maintenance at the site.

Victorian tea tree and other woody weeds were removed (pre-planting) plus weed spraying of carnation weed, black flag, rose pelargonium and couch grass. Black flag is sprayed each spring. Rabbit baiting continues each summer, as required.

Staff from Synergy and from Coca Cola assisted with planting and weeding. Quintilian and Hale School students also joined in planting sessions.



Mudurup Rocks 2009



Mudurup Rocks same site 2012



Mudurup rocks verge - new fence and weeds sprayed – (R) same site 2012



(L) – Quintilian students planting. (R) limestone retaining wall

DUTCH INN

CCA commenced low scale restoration work here in 2008. Town of Cottesloe removed some Victorian teatree and couch grass has been sprayed several times. CCA volunteers planted approximately 1000 seedlings(2008) and had summer watering and weeding sessions at the site. Some infill planting was done by CCA in 2010 and 2013,(approx 300 plants each time).

In 2012 Town of Cottesloe built a weed barrier between the playground lawns and the top of the narrow (weed infested) fore dune on the north side of Dutch Inn groyne. Woody weeds were removed in early 2014. Couch, pelargonium and sea spinach were sprayed in Oct 2013 and again in May 2014. CCA volunteers planted 600 plants on this dune in June 2014.



(L) planting south of Dutch Inn groyne 2008 (R) planting north of Dutch Inn groyne 2014

SYDNEY STREET RAMP

Early in 2014 Town of Cottesloe removed some Victorian tea trees near the ramp. CCA volunteers planted 250 local dune plants at the site in June 2014.

VLAMINGH AREA

During 2010 – 2011, CCA and Town of Cottesloe received an Australian Government 'Caring for our Country' grant of \$20,000 to remove Victorian tea tree and re-introduce local plants to an area on the north side of Vlamingh memorial. (Funds were also to be used to build a timber platform for hang gliding, to ease erosion issues but Town of Cottesloe decided not to proceed with this aspect of the project and further dune fencing was done instead).

Contractors removed and mulched Victorian tea trees. In winter 2010 CCA planted 3,500 seedlings at the site assisted by Hale School and University of WA guild. Volunteers watered seedlings by hand in spring and early summer and have regularly hand weeded the area.



Photos of Vlamingh site - before (2010) and after (2013).

In 2014 another small area of Victorian tea tree was removed nearby and CCA volunteers planted 250 plants in its place.

COTTESLOE NATIVE GARDEN

Each year since 2008 CCA volunteers have worked regularly at Cottesloe Native Garden.

CCA (And Town of Cottesloe) use the guidelines in Cottesloe's NAMP to manage work at Cottesloe Native Garden, as in CCA's other project areas.

Weed control – Town of Cottesloe remove small sections of weedy Tea trees, Sydney Wattle and Brazilian pepper trees most years, CCA volunteers plant in their stead. CCA volunteers regularly have hand weeding sessions, particularly in spring (before seed sets) and in autumn (at sites to be planted in winter). A herbicide contractor (Biara Environmental) has been employed each Spring to target priority bulbous weeds – Black Flag (*Ferraria crispa*) & *Lachenalia bulbifera* (red soldiers), also veldt grass and carnation weed.

Pest control – Rabbit baiting stations (Pindone oats) are set up each summer with good results. Town of Cottesloe has funded all herbicide work and all pest control at this site.

Revegetation – Since 2009 - each year CCA has planted approximately 500 native seedlings, using local provenance seed, collected and cleaned by CCA. Many species are specific only to this one natural area in Cottesloe – including *Lechenaultia linarioides*, *Scaevola anchusifolia* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii*.



(L) Victorian tea tree being removed 2009 (R) CCA volunteers planting (same site) 2009



The same area at Cottesloe Native Garden in July 2014

2.0 NAMP UPDATE PROPOSAL

The purpose of the review and update is not to rewrite the NAMP, but to update key elements of the plan to reflect current policy and the priorities of existing stakeholders. It also presents an opportunity to further develop management strategies and actions for priority areas based on experience gained during the implementation of the original NAMP.

The original document did not present specific empirical survey data that could be reassessed to provide evidence of management effectiveness over the period 2008 to 2013. It is therefore recommended that the update of the NAMP includes a significant component focusing on the collection of baseline data, such as vegetation mapping, so changes to the natural areas can be effectively measured.

There is also an opportunity, through the process of updating the NAMP, to improve the coordination of tasks and enhance internal procedures and processes that will facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the updated NAMP.

2.1 AIMS OF THE PROPOSED REVIEW AND UPDATE

- Provide an up-to-date version of the NAMP outlining strategic guidance and site specific management actions for a 5 year period (2014-2019);
- Record changes to natural areas that have occurred during the timeframe set out in the first iteration of the plan (2008-2013);
- Provide baseline data of measurable criteria so management success can be monitored in future;
- Continue to provide a document endorsed by council that can be used to support future grant applications and budget allocations;
- Provide a useable framework for implementation with a higher degree of specificity regarding high priority natural areas;
- Continue to focus on the management and improvement of ENAs as priority over the conceptualisation of PNAs and review the allocation of sites as PNAs;
- Create a more succinct and practical document that contains achievable and measurable goals;
- Develop improved procedures for the coordination of tasks and implementation of the NAMP.

2.2 KEY ITEMS TO BE EXAMINED IN THE UPDATE

- Review and update the statutory planning and documentation that influences the plan (2.1 Planning). This includes, but not limited to, all relevant Acts, Regulation, guidelines and local planning schemes;
- Identify any changes to Social and physical environment and update where required;
- Review the existing management framework and update where required;
- Review prioritisation framework and update prioritisation table;
- Update weed management/prioritisation to suit new guidelines;
- Include specific data collection such as weed mapping and bushland condition for all ENA;
- Revise and update PNAs;
- Expand on priority ENA with site specific management plans.

Cost estimate for NAMP review						
Task	Task Description	item	qty	rate (\$)	TOTAL	
preliminaries	initial meeting, project setup, establish timelines and procedures	hour	6	140	\$	840.00
desktop review	review existing policies, history, previous management and achievements	hour	16	140	\$	2,240.00
field survey	vegetation condition assessment, ground-truthing	hour	24	140	\$	3,360.00
stakeholder workshop	collate all data and present to stakeholder workshop	hour	16	140	\$	2,240.00
draft report preparation	prepare draft report	hour	40	140	\$	5,600.00
draft review	review draft report with stakeholder input	hour	6	140	\$	840.00
final report	incorporate feedback and submit final report	hour	12	140	\$	1,680.00
project management	On-going client liaison, financial and resource management	hour	6	140	\$	840.00
TOTAL ex. GST					\$	17,640.00
TOTAL inc. GST					\$	19,404.00

10.4.3 REQUEST FOR NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN - REVIEW AND UPDATE

File Ref: SUB/707
Attachments: [Submission from Coastcare](#)
Responsible Officer: Carl Askew
Chief Executive Officer
Author: Geoff Trigg
Manager Engineering Services
Proposed Meeting Date: 20 May 2014
Author Disclosure of Interest: Nil

SUMMARY

A Cottesloe Coastcare Submission has been received requesting a review and update of the existing Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP) which was designed to run for the period 2008 – 2013. The submission also requested the upgrading of several beach access pathways and an audit of all foreshore fencing.

The recommendation is the Council:

1. Consider the funding of a new/updated Natural Areas Management Plan for Cottesloe in the 2014/2015 budget.
2. Consider a project to improve pedestrian access routes to the beach from the foreshore dual use path in 2014/2015.

BACKGROUND

A consultant was employed by Council in 2008, to develop a management plan for all natural/bush areas in Cottesloe. The majority of that plan applied to the Cottesloe foreshore but also included other areas with remnant native vegetation. This plan was developed with considerable involvement from Cottesloe Coastcare members and Council staff.

A large range of improvements to Cottesloe's natural areas have been completed since 2008. Another five year extension of the plan is requested as are infrastructure improvements to beach access pathways and fencing.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The NAMP is listed as a strategic document on Council's webpage. Council's Strategic Community Plan 2013 to 2023, under Priority Area Three (Enhancing beach access and the foreshore), includes the Major Strategy: 3.3 Improve dune conservation outside the central foreshore zone (implement NAMP).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The request is for funding for the Plan review/update in 2014/2015 at a quoted cost of \$26,770 plus GST for the new NAMP, plus funds for beach access path upgrading and fencing improvements.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The NAMP sets a scale of effort and expected level of funding to be applied to Cottesloe's natural vegetation areas in the future and this will have a significant impact of the local natural environment.

CONSULTATION

The original NAMP was advertised for public consultation and the results were considered for inclusion in the plan. It is assumed that the same public consultation effort would apply if Council resolves to update the plan.

STAFF COMMENT

Cottesloe Coastcare has carried out a large range of improvements to the foreshore area and other sites nearby in the last five years of the first NAMP. With those works undertaken and new issues arising in relation to the protection and improvements of Cottesloe's remaining natural areas a new or updated NAMP is supported.

The comments regarding, particularly, the need for improvements to pedestrian access routes from the existing concrete dual use path to the beach are also supported. One of the projects that could be arranged from funding generated from the depot sale is the installation of new timber ramps or sets of steps at the pedestrian accesses to the beach most impacted on by sand erosion in the summer months.

VOTING

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Committee queried the quoted cost of the NAMP review and update. The Manager Engineering Services (MES) advised that if the review and update of the Plan were approved, three quotes would be obtained, as per Council policy.

Cr Jeanes commented that there were still many items in the 2008-2013 NAMP that have not been addressed and suggested funds would be better spent implementing the remaining items in the current Plan rather than creating a new NAMP. MES advised that with the potential for Council amalgamations pending, Coastcare is keen to have a new Plan in place to assist in securing the future of their projects, as well as using the Plan to apply for grant funding.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Mayor Dawkins, seconded Cr Rowell

THAT Council:

1. Consider the funding of a new/updated Natural Areas Management Plan for Cottesloe in the 2014/2015 budget.
2. Consider a project to improve pedestrian access routes to the beach from the foreshore dual use path in 2014/2015.

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Jeanes, seconded Cr Rowell

That point 1 of the recommendation be removed and the following points added:

1. Request staff, in conjunction with Coastcare, to conduct an audit of the NAMP 2008-2013.
2. Request Officers bring to Council's attention work considered necessary in the 2014/2015 financial year.
3. Consider an allocation of funds in the 2014/2015 budget to carry out necessary works.

Carried 5/0

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Rowell, seconded Cr Downes

THAT Council:

1. Request staff, in conjunction with Coastcare, to conduct an audit of the NAMP 2008-2013.
2. Request Officers bring to Council's attention work considered necessary in the 2014/2015 financial year.
3. Consider an allocation of funds in the 2014/2015 budget to carry out necessary works.
4. Consider a project to improve pedestrian access routes to the beach from the foreshore dual use path in 2014/2015.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Cr Pyvis spoke to the officer report and referred to the public statements, emphasising the importance of a new 5 year NAMP for future planning and grant applications. She referred to her circulated amendment to part 1 of the Committee recommendation.

AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Pyvis, seconded Mayor Dawkins

That item 1 of the Committee Recommendation be replaced with the following:
"Fund a review and update of the 2008-2013 Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP) to cover the period 2014-2019 in the 2014/2015 budget and request staff seek competitive quotes for this".

Carried 8/0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT Council:

- 1. Fund a review and update of the 2008-2013 Natural Areas Management Plan (NAMP) to cover the period 2014-2019 in the 2014/2015 budget and request staff seek competitive quotes for this.**
- 2. Request Officers bring to Council's attention work considered necessary in the 2014/2015 financial year.**
- 3. Consider an allocation of funds in the 2014/2015 budget to carry out necessary works.**
- 4. Consider a project to improve pedestrian access routes to the beach from the foreshore dual use path in 2014/2015.**

THE AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT

Carried 8/0