
8.0 NOTICE OF MOTION

Legislative Reference:

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015; Regulation 16

- (5) *A councillor may give written notice of a motion, together with supporting information and reasons, to be included on the agenda of the next meeting to the general manager at least 7 days before the meeting.*
- (6) *The general manager, after consultation with the chairperson, may refuse to accept a written motion that, in their opinion –*
 - (a) *is defamatory; or*
 - (b) *contains offensive language; or*
 - (c) *is unlawful.*
- (7) *A councillor who has given notice of a motion that has not been refused under subregulation (6) is to move the motion at the meeting, otherwise it lapses.*

8.1 CR CELISA EDWARDS - VIRTUAL FENCING SISTERS BEACH ROAD

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Give priority to working with the Sisters Beach Community Association to source funding for the installation of virtual fence devices on the Sisters Beach Road between Banksia Park and Lake Llewellyn to ensure this is in place prior to summer 2020; and**
- 2. Consider funding the project, should external funding not be achieved, with a report detailing costs to be provided, no later than September 2020.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Councils Corporate Strategic Plan and current Draft Integrated Community Environmental Plan (iCEP) both advocate Council's position in relation to management of the environment in our municipal area. In particular the following:

Councils Strategic Plan has the following goal

Outcome 7.5 - Stewardship of land, water and marine ecosystems respects past, present and future generations with the following specific action in the draft 20/21 Annual Plan:

- 7.5.1.2 Investigate and implement Virtual fencing in areas of high sensitivity.

Councils draft iCEP plan has an action:

- 38.6 Supporting Biodiversity - Investigate options for reducing the amount of wildlife killed on Waratah-Wynyard's roads.

This is an action which is particularly important to the Sisters Beach community with the following letter provided to me seeking Council's action:

Sisters Beach Community members have identified an area (approx. 2.5kms) between Banksia Park and Lake Llewellyn as a hot spot for Devil Road kill.

*Last year the Sisters Beach Community Association (SBCA) applied for funding for some **Virtual Fence Devices** through the Federal Government's **Communities Environment Program**. Unfortunately, due to the large number of applications, we were unable to secure funding at that time.*

With Summer fast approaching, we would like to ask Council if it would consider funding the installation of the virtual wildlife fencing on Sisters Beach Road for a cost of \$29,000 (cost of equipment \$19,000 plus council cost for installation est \$10,000).

Community members see the mitigation of the long-term effects of road kill on an endangered national icon as a whole of community responsibility and embraces the opportunity to enter a partnership relationship with council.

The aim of the project would be to reduce the number of Tasmanian Devils killed on the road through the Rocky Cape National Park leading into Sisters Beach. Our community has noticed an alarming spike in devil road kills in summer months when the population becomes active due to the 'pups /imps' leaving their birth dens and seeking new territory. During the recent summer dead devils were noticed on a weekly basis (with reports posted on the local community group Facebook page). Council was able to assist at the time via its Facebook page in educating people to slow down from dusk to dawn, however there were still many devils that were lost last summer.

Virtual Fencing is an active electronic protection system that alerts animals before crossing the road when a vehicle is approaching between dusk to dawn. It is proven to be extremely effective in preventing wildlife-vehicle collisions in Australia and around the world. The device is triggered by vehicle headlights and emits a buzzing sound and flashing light to warn nearby wildlife of approaching vehicles. The devices are not visually intrusive and are currently used in Tasmanian National Parks such as Cradle Mountain.

Sam Fox, a wildlife biologist from the Save The Tasmanian Devil Program, was part of the first Australian trial of virtual fencing from 2014 to 2017 on Tasmania's West Coast. "There was a 50 per cent decline in roadkill within the area which had the virtual fencing." – Sam Fox.

Tasmanian-based company Wildlife Safety Solutions sells the technology to local councils and a cost estimate for the equipment is \$19,000 (the cost for the supply of units with flexi-mounted post is \$7,600.00 per km from Wildlife Safety Solutions). Installation by Council and Parks & Wildlife would be in addition and has been estimated at \$10,000.

OFFICERS COMMENT

As outlined in the supporting information, the draft 20/21 Annual Plan includes an action to "Investigate and implement Virtual fencing in areas of high sensitivity." Council officers engaged with the Sisters Beach Community Association in relation to previous grant attempts and would work with the group again to identify upcoming opportunities.

The proposed motion is consistent with the annual plan and strategic direction of Council and narrows the proposed annual plan action to a priority area of focus.

It is agreed that initial actions should be to source external funding prior to consideration of Council funding the project in totality.

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