



MEMORANDUM

To	North Arm Cove Community	
From:	Ian Cook, Community Protection Planning Officer, Customer Service & Support, NSW RFS	
Subject:	North Arm Cove Community Protection Plan	
Date:	18/6/2015	File No. NAC CPP 6/2015

Dear North Arm Cove community.

At long last we have forward movement on implementing strategies identified in the Community Protection Plan. Monday we had contractors move into the Cove to commence work on the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) for the community hall. I am sure that many of you have either seen or heard the machinery and contractors in action. Once the APZ is in place we can then proceed to have the community hall listed as an Neighbourhood Safer Place.

It certainly is pleasing to see work commence as it has been a long process to get to this stage. Back in February/March we engaged independent consultants to prepare a Flora & Fauna report covering the areas that we had identified as requiring mechanical vegetation management. The report provided guidance for the environmental approval to implement the works.

Over the past couple of days a number of residents have stopped and commented to me how pleased they are to actually see something happening. Already there seems to be plenty of uses being suggested for the APZ ranging from cricket, bird watching, bike riding and even as an area to sit and have lunch. My guess is that the wildlife may very well have plans for the area as well once it is slashed and grass starts to emerge. Watching the Kookaburras, Butcher Birds and Magpies swooping down feeding on all the bugs, and including the contractors morning tea I would suggest taking plenty of food if a lunch is planned.

One thing that I would like to mention is a comment I received today from a resident during a conversation about the work that is being undertaken. The comment was merely to say that if it was not for me nothing would be happening. While I certainly appreciated the comment, I must stress that this work is the work of the community. My role is just to facilitate actions to address what the community had communicated to me through various meetings many months ago. The strategies that have been identified are a direct result of listening to the communities concerns and issues, then consulting with the various groups and residents to ensure this is what was needed.

A Community Protection Plan must be owned by the community & developed for & by the community and be relevant to the community.

The next couple of days, gods and the skies being on our side, will see the remaining area marked out for clearing. Trees for removal will be identified and marked and those that are to be retained as habitat and feed trees marked for retention. My job in doing this has been made easy by the contractor as he is a qualified Arborist, as well as having experience as a tree inspector. I am certainly grateful for his knowledge and professionalism.

The next stage of the plan is to prepare environmental approvals to carry out hazard reduction activities in the areas identified as requiring fuel to be reduced. I would like to see these prepared and ready for the brigade to implement once the opportunity to do so arises. This I anticipate to prove challenging as again we need to contact all owners and seek written approval to carry out the proposed hazard reduction.

Finally I must thank Great Lakes Council and the Great Lakes RFS District Office for their support and assistance. GLC have had their hands full with the storm recovery but have never the less provided as much assistance as possible to make the installation of this APZ happen.

Kind regards

Ian