

49 Cathcart Street,
LISMORE. 2480.

23rd February, 1979.

The Shire Clerk,
Byron Shire Council,
P.O.Box 159,
BYRON BAY. 2481.

Dear Sir,

RE PROPOSED RECREATION COMPLEX AT THE EXISTING PUBLIC
RECREATION RESERVE AT THE MOUTH OF THE BRUNSWICK RIVER (HARRY'S HILL)

The above proposed development was discussed at the last monthly meeting of this Branch of the National Parks Association, held on Thursday, 22nd February.

While the merit of this type of proposal in attracting a certain class of tourist, and in creating further local employment opportunities was recognised at the meeting, considerable concern was expressed at the proposed location of the complex, and it was resolved that, in the first instance, this concern should be conveyed to your Council.

The site proposed for the complex has considerable scientific and natural value, in spite of the degree of disturbance, both by man and nature, that it has experienced. It is regarded by this branch as a suitable future addition to the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve, gazetted on the 3rd January this year, as it contains a rainforest type not found in the existing reserve, or well represented at any other location. Any further disturbance to the site would seriously threaten the viability of this small area of unique bushland, and it is difficult to see at this stage how further disturbance could be avoided in the construction and later operation of such an intensive recreation complex. Further, even if physical disturbance did not occur (as the developers state), the nature of the proposed complex is not considered to be in keeping with the present value and character of the site.

(P.T.O.)

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We therefore ask that Council encourage and assist the developer in finding an alternative location for the complex. Alternatively, in the event of Council being sympathetic to the development of the complex at the proposed site, we ask that Council defer consideration of approval until such time that the developer has completed an Environmental Impact Study, and full public debate has taken place on the Study.

We trust that Council will give full consideration to this request in the event of the development being brought before a future meeting of Council.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. P.M. den Exter.

Hon. Secretary.

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Dr. P.M. den Exter.

Hon. Secretary.

*North Coast Advocate &
Summerland News 7/3/79*

Project needs

approvals

The Byron Shire Council will advise the developers of a proposed recreational pleasure facility at Brunswick Heads that it cannot approve an application for development consent without the written consent of the landowners.

The application from A. and D. J. Caprioli was to develop a three-stage tourist attraction on Harry's Hill and environs in the Brunswick River estuary.

The proposal included the construction of a giant chair-lift across the Brunswick River, a giant slide, a music bowl, bird sanctuary, mini zoo and restaurant.

In a report to the council, the shire engineer, Mr. G. McDonald, said the applicants had submitted a development application and a request for approval to lease for 40 years 4 ha of land on the southern and northern headland of the Brunswick River.

Mr. McDonald said that the area to be occupied by the chair-lift on the southern side of the river was within reserve number 38120, set aside for future public requirements.

On the northern side, the chair-lift and restaurant appeared to be located within reserve number 38120, which was a flora and fauna reserve. The zoo was intended to be partly on that area and partly on reserve number 89368, for public recreation.

The remaining developments, including the giant slide, would be located on reserve number 48405, which was for public recreation.

Mr. McDonald said that if the council was trustee of a Crown land

reserve, it could lease it subject to approval by the Minister for Lands.

It had not been established if the council was trustee of any of the reserve in question.

This could be checked through the records of the Department of Lands and it would need to be established if the Minister would be prepared to agree to the leasing of any or all of the reserves for the purposes intended.

Mr. McDonald said that it should be the applicants' responsibility to check these matters and obtain the necessary approvals.

He said the development could either be a tourist attraction and an asset to Brunswick Heads, or an eyesore which would detract from the natural beauty or amenity of the area.

If the development was undertaken in a proper manner to a good standard, most of it should not detract greatly from the area's natural beauty, Mr. McDonald said.

He said that the chair-lift itself would be a fairly low-key type of development that should not be visually displeasing.

Certain other parts should not visually offend either, but a gigantic brightly painted slide, right on the water's edge, could appear garish and visually displeasing.

SHIRE OF
BYRON

Proposal for Development
Recreational Pleasure
Grounds,
Brunswick River,
Brunswick Heads

Council has received a request by A. and D. J. Caprioli for its support to a proposal for the leasing of land, and development of recreational pleasure grounds, on the northern headland at the mouth of the Brunswick River.

The proposal entails a chair lift across the river, from Torakina Beach car-park, to an area known as "Harry's Hill" on the northern headland.

Development intended in the vicinity of "Harry's Hill" includes — a giant slide, mini-bikes, mini-golf, barbecues, restaurant, paddle boats, bird sanctuary, etc.

The area involved is Crown Land, which is reserved partly for preservation of flora and fauna and partly for public recreation.

The approval of the Minister for Lands and other statutory authorities is required before a development application for the proposal may be submitted to Council for its consent.

Council has decided to seek public opinion prior to deciding whether or not it will lend its support to the proposal and the applicants' requests for the approvals of the various authorities involved.

Details of the proposal may be inspected at Council's Engineering Department, Lawson Street, Byron Bay, during normal office hours.

Any person who wishes to comment on, or object to the proposal may do so in writing up to and including the 6th April, 1979.

C. J. SHEVELLAR,
Shire Clerk
Byron Shire Council,
Lawson Street,
Byron Bay, 2481

*North Coast Advocate &
Summerland News*

7/3/79

Council asked to reject private development plan

A Mullumbimby man has called on the Byron Shire Council not to allow the private development of an area known as Harry's Hill at the mouth of the Brunswick River.

Mr. B. R. Edge called on the council to set an example in conservation by disallowing the proposed development of the area.

He said the area contained one of the few remaining pockets of relatively undisturbed remnant forest within the boundaries of the shire.

"If the development proceeds past the planning stage, no amount of care and consideration for flora and fauna will save this area as it now exists," Mr. Edge said.

"I can see no need for man to infiltrate this area; if he does Harry's Hill flora and fauna will be destroyed to line pockets."

Mr. Edge said the council should educate itself to the overwhelming attitudes of the experts in relation to dollar versus environment developments.

He said public opinion was irrelevant.

The facts concerning the need to conserve and enlarge the areas of remnant forest were well known.

"Apparently the council remains uninformed," Mr. Edge said.

"The council has the ability to create a tourist attraction of Harry's Hill in its existing form."

He said this was graphically illustrated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Victoria Park nature reserve near Rous Mill and also the six State forests of the Tweed-Richmond catchment areas controlled by the Forestry Commission.

Advertising the Harry's Hill area as a remnant together with selected plantings of

indigenous trees (white beech, red cedar, black bean) and name tags on existing trees would make the area of interest to the public.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forestry Commission had initiated this type of "soft" development in their respective areas.

Also large sums of public money had been used in the adjacent North Head area by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to return the southern end of the New Brighton peninsula to its natural state.

"How can this money be well spent when Harry's Hill, the anchor area of this rejuvenation work, is to be turned into a profit-motivated fiasco," Mr. Edge said.

He said that Dr. L. Webb, in *The Great Extermination*, declared it to be "the largest area of tall sub-tropical rainforest along the East Coast".

Mr. Edge said that of the original 75,000 ha only 300 ha remained.

"To quote the attitude of the National Parks and Wildlife Service: 'Today there are only 10 remnants surviving which reflect the character of the Big Scrub, and of these, five are under 15 ha in area. We may never be able to fully appreciate the variety and extent of the Big Scrub, and so the pieces remaining require special preservation if we are to build up even a hazy picture'," Mr. Edge said.

Also the senior lecturer in biology at the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, Dr. N. McKay, said that the simple lesson from ecology was that the whole was more important than the sum of its parts, Mr. Edge said.

He said Dr. McKay said: "Like other organisms a forest could cope with some injury and recover. But push it too far, remove its protective barriers, and it could be destroyed forever."

Northern Star 16/3/79



FAR NORTH COAST
BRANCH

49 Cathcart Street,
LISMORE, 2480.

2nd April, 1979.

The Shire Clerk,
Byron Shire Council,
P.O. Box 159,
BYRON BAY, 2481.

Dear Sir,

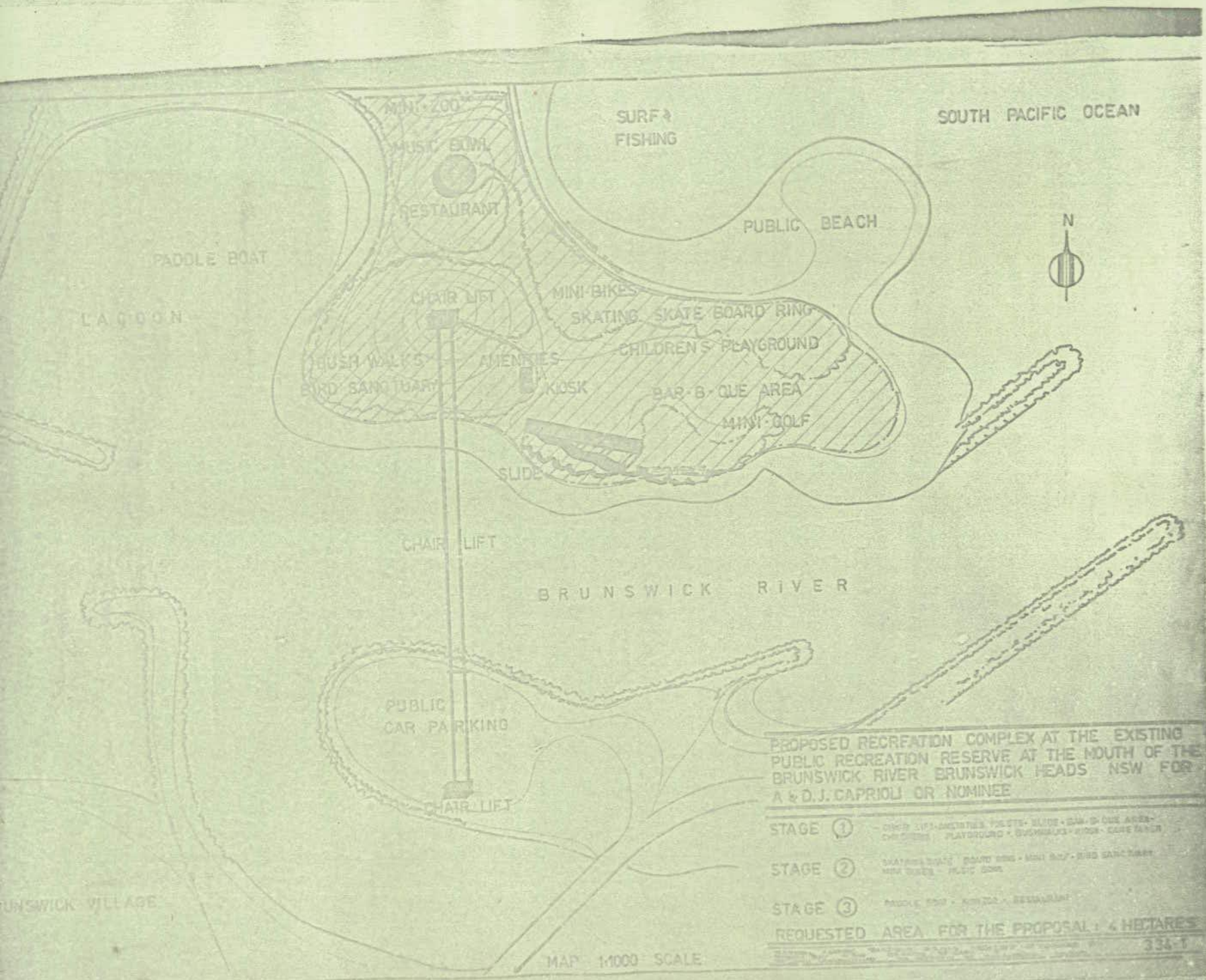
re PROPOSED RECREATION COMPLEX AT MOUTH OF BRUNSWICK RIVER BY
A & D.J. CAPRIOLI

This Branch wishes its letter to Byron Shire commenting on the above proposal (dated February 23, 1979) to be considered in response to the request by Byron Shire Council for comment on the above proposal.

We wish to add to this earlier letter that we have received information regarding a study of the flora of the area by Mr Alex Floyd of the Forestry Commission for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and a further study by Mr John Williams of the Botany Department, University of New England. We are informed that these studies substantiate points raised in our previous letter, and therefore ask that Council/^{obtain and}study these reports before coming to a decision as to whether to support the development.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) P.M. den Exter,
HON. SECRETARY.



PROPOSED RECREATION COMPLEX AT THE EXISTING
PUBLIC RECREATION RESERVE AT THE MOUTH OF THE
BRUNSWICK RIVER BRUNSWICK HEADS NSW FOR
A & D.J. CAPRIOLI OR NOMINEE

STAGE ① CHAIR LIFT - AMENITIES - RESTS - SLIDE - BAR-B-QUE AREA -
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND - BUSH WALKS - KIOSK - CAR PARK

STAGE ② SKATE BOARD RING - MINI GOLF - BIRD SANCTUARY -
BUSH WALKS - PUBLIC GOLF

STAGE ③ PADDLE BOAT - MUST BOWL - RESTAURANT

REQUESTED AREA FOR THE PROPOSAL: 4 HECTARES

334.1

