



3 January 2019

The General Manager  
Port Stephens Council

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## **DA 2018/773 – Public infrastructure works – Mambo Creek - Foreshore Drive, Salamander Bay**

TRRA welcomes Council's proposed infrastructure works at Foreshore Drive.<sup>1</sup>

The Mambo wetlands reserve is a precious environmental and community resource, and has been the centre of local and media attention in recent years, for several reasons, including:

- the recent bushfire which regrettably burnt out nearly half of the native vegetation in the wetlands, including the area immediately to the south of the eastern end of Foreshore Drive
- the controversial sale in 2016 of a 5.6ha parcel of State owned land at the western edge of the wetlands – after much community pressure, Council refused a DA and the State government has announced that it has commenced a process to re-acquire the site, which adjoins 'stinky creek' which is the subject of some of the proposed works
- a proposal from the community, now being supported by Council, for an application for RAMSAR listing of the wetlands

For all these reasons and more, any public works on or near the Mambo wetlands needs to be carefully planned having regard to all of the interests.

We are pleased to see, in the comprehensive Statement of Environmental Effects, that Council appears to have taken into account all of the relevant issues and interests.

The overall effect of the works should be to improve the environmental health of the wetlands, and the efficiency of the 'Stinky creek' drain. However, we note that Option 4 for more and wider culverts would yield even greater environmental benefits and it is disappointing that Council does not appear to see itself able to

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<sup>1</sup> the DA was unhelpfully advertised as 12 Admiral Close which would be meaningless to most potentially interested parties



finance this option. We would have thought that State or Federal government grants might have been available to allow this option to be implemented.

We are aware that the Mambo Wanda Wetlands Conservation Group is making a submission which includes some detailed suggestions on the management of the drainage channel to the south of Foreshore Drive, and on the placement of speed humps to minimise threats to wildlife crossing Foreshore Drive. We encourage Council to take heed of this local knowledge and to closely involve that Group in the implementation of the project.

The provision of a shared cyclepath/walkway separated from the road carriageway will be widely welcomed and should dramatically improve safety, as well as making this a more attractive recreational route for visitors and locals alike.

TRRA is pleased to support this Council project and looks forward to its approval and successful completion.

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