



27 June 2018

10 Mile Beach Access Remains Open

Vehicle access to 10 Mile beach will remain open after Council endorsed the recommendation from the Off Road Vehicle Working Group at the June Ordinary Council Meeting.

Council resolved to keep beach access open along Twilight Beach Road between 10 Mile Beach carpark and 11 Mile Beach carpark. Council requested an assessment of the current tracks between these carparks to determine if there is potential to rationalise the number of existing tracks providing some protection to the flora, dunes and other users of these beaches.

Council called for public submissions after the Coastal Management Plan 2014 identified closing this access could avoid potential conflicts between beach users in the area and four-wheel drive vehicles, while also assisting in the prevention beach erosion.

Seven formal public submissions were received with three in favour of the potential closure and four against it. These submissions were reviewed and the Off Road Vehicle Working Group recommended that Council keep access open as there was no clear evidence supporting an issue between pedestrian and vehicle users at 10 Mile Beach. Additionally there was a concern raised that the proposed closure had the potential to create further environmental damage in the area if new tracks were made to access the beach.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "This is another one of those balancing acts where we need to protect our natural environment whilst making sure our recreational users can access these areas. Council voted to support the Off Road Vehicle Working Group's assessment and are looking forward to seeing more recommendations on how we can love being out on our beaches without loving them to death."

The Off Road Vehicle Working Group are currently determining appropriate and sustainable four wheel drive trails throughout our region for both locals and tourists to enjoy. The Group will be identifying the trails, highlighting which ones are suitable for promotion (with minimal environmental impact) and then classifying these trails in level of difficulty. Off road driving is a popular recreational activity and with robust planning around protection of natural assets and challenging driving routes can become an additional tourist experience for our region.

Ends

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