



# ACS

Australian Coastal Society Ltd

PO Box 65, Flinders University, Bedford Park SA 5041

---

17 December 2013

Mayor Tom Tate and Councillors  
City of Gold Coast  
PO Box 5042  
Gold Coast Mail Centre 9729

Dear Mayor Tate and Councillors,

**Re: Applications for Permanent Road Closure Sections of Pacific Parade Bilinga to Tugun**

I am writing with regard to the recent applications for road closures along the Tugun-Bilinga foreshore on the southern Gold Coast. On behalf of the Australian Coastal Society (ACS) I wish to express my support for the decision by Council on 12<sup>th</sup> December to object to this proposal. I also wish to express the objection of the ACS to any additional applications of this nature that are expected to be lodged by nearby residents in the near future, and to all similar applications across the City of Gold Coast.

The primary purpose of this application is to allow for the land to be incorporated into the adjacent freehold allotment. To allow the transfer by stealth of public land into private ownership would create a dangerous precedent and is contrary to the principles of coastal hazard management and the maintenance of public access to the coast as incorporated into the plans, policies and legislation relevant to coastal management at the local and State government levels.

The *State interest- coastal environment* detailed on page 47 of the recently formalised State Planning Policy (SPP) highlights the need for “*maintaining or enhancing opportunities for public access and use of the foreshore*” and the avoidance of adverse impacts on coastal processes, coastal resources and scenic amenity of natural coastal landscapes. Thus the loss of this public land would be in contravention of the intent of the SPP with regards to management of the coastal zone.

The SPP State interest- natural hazards is also relevant to this proposal, as the identified road reserve is located within the erosion prone area identified by the City of Gold Coast. The area in question is periodically affected by severe storm events, and was almost completely eroded during the storms of June 1998. The draft SPP Guideline for [Coastal Hazards](#) identifies walking trails and coastal reserves as preferred uses of land within erosion prone areas, and supports the use of buffer zones (Policy 5) for management of erosion hazards. The existing reserve provides such a buffer and provides for flexibility of future management options in the face of enhanced coastal hazards.

I commend Council for their foresight and am heartened by the unanimous nature of the opposition to the application in question.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter further, or if I can provide any future assistance in coastal planning matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at [nick.harvey@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:nick.harvey@adelaide.edu.au) or on 08 8313 0629.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Harvey', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR NICK HARVEY  
*President, Australian Coastal Society Ltd*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Harvey', written in a cursive style, located at the bottom of the page.