

Huskisson Triathlon Festival held 22nd – 24th February
Post Event Analysis meeting
Shoalhaven City Council – Nowra Office

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Date: 18th March 2019

Location: Shoalhaven City Council – Nowra Office – Jervis Bay Room (Jervis Bay Room 1 & 3 Level 3)

Attendees –

Community Groups

Steven Murphy	Public Officer, Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice
Daniel Payne	President, Huskisson Chamber of Commerce
Bob Pullinger	Treasurer, Vincentia Residents & Ratepayers Association

NSW Police

Dave Cockram	Inspector, NSW Police
Ian McManus	Sergeant Shoalhaven HWP, NSW Police

NSW RFS

Chris Palmer	Inspector	NSW Rural Fire Service
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Elite Energy

Mark Emerton	CEO, Elite Energy
Kyle Anderson	Operations, Elite Energy
Sarah Hallam	Traffic, Elite Energy

Shoalhaven City Council

Tony Pearman	Unit Manager – Rangers
Shaun Clay	Compliance Supervisor – Building & Compliance
Ryleigh Bowman	Traffic Investigation Officer
Theo Prakash	Transport Engineer
Shannan Perry-Hall	Events & Investments
Paul Keech	Director – Asset & Works
Catherine Bern	Section Manager - Development
James Bonner	Unit Manager Development
Elliott Weston	Senior Development Planner
Libby Bailey	Planners Assistant – Development

Agenda:

1. Introduction – SCC
2. 2019 Event Overview / Feedback / Results – Elite Energy to respond
3. Feedback from Planning – James Bonner and/or Senior Planner
4. Feedback from Rangers – Tony Pearman
5. Feedback from Traffic – Theo Prakash, Transport Engineer, SCC
6. Feedback from Police
7. Feedback from the RMS
8. Feedback from Business Chamber and Community
9. 2019 Long Course and 2020 Event Planning –Elite Energy to respond
10. Next steps and closing remarks – SCC to respond

Elliott Weston – Senior Development Planner

- Introductions and overview of event.
- Issues with notification period due to lodgement problems (incorrect address provided).
- correct email address and consistency.
- Issues with consultation – post consent community consultation (elite website incorrect).
- Traffic control officers on the day (complaints following the event) where received.
- No noise concerns raised.
- Parking coordination on the day had some issues.

NSW Police

- No worse than previous events but could be improved.
- Illegal Parking (public).
- Traffic chaos.
- Passage for vehicles - Witches hats placed too close, difficult for traffic to drive through (narrow) - boat ramp.
- Lack of access to town (Huskisson).
- Use of JB Road for events – would be a major impact and not supported.
- Signage – no signage indicating access to Woollamia boat ramp- opening times.
- Would prefer event held at Callala (Forest Road).
- Early consultation required with Police on events. Require a minimum of 60 days notification of an event.

NSW Rural Fire Service

- No major issues.
- Concern with road closures and access for crews if needed to that area – delays.
- Only one of the fire stations had restricted access.
- Volunteers should have identification cards.
- RFS have the ability to locate crews to stations within the triathlon route.

Huskisson Chamber of Commerce

- Discussions had with Elite Energy over the last 12 months.
- New Traffic Plan refused, old Traffic Plan enacted.

- Did expect negative feed back.
- 50% businesses benefited – 50% didn't.
- Common-sense approach to road closures.
- Flexible traffic control officers – people at key junction new what they were doing.
- Rescheduling of races.
- Boat Ramp – need to advertise opening times.
- Business Community: crowds in town.
 - trade Saturday – down.
 - trade Friday & Monday – up.
- No question/problems raised from any of the business community at meetings.
- Huskisson people want the Triathlon, would not like to see it moved from Huskisson.
- Need to have ground rules – timing/road closures.
- Consider changing date of Triathlon to late March).
- Applicant should liaise with Police to identify no go roads when organising events.

Vincentia Residents and Ratepayers

- Good to see people come back to the area.
- Moona Creek Bridge (witches hats /more signage for pedestrians).
- This site was very congested.
- Not aware that a complaint had been received that pedestrians were directed off the path and onto the road to cross.
- Vegetation on bike lane/path obscured view.
- Need to separate pedestrians with a clear path.
- Uncertain of the start time for bike riders.
- Applicant needs to increase consultation. There was a lack of information.
- Elite Energy website could possibly contain “Frequently Asked Questions” fact sheet (information about races, what is expected by pedestrians/drives etc.
- More electronic notification boards may be appropriate.
- Elite Energy are consulting/talking to Business Chamber
- Agree with date change.
- Communication need to be improved, more signage around town/routes required.
- Residents complain that they cannot get out or back in when events are on.
- Industrial Estate – Major impact on businesses.
- Do not like White Sands Park as the main HQ – damage should be repaired at the applicant's cost.
- Improvement in running of the event encouraged.
- DA should be finalised earlier, and all routes locked in – don't change routes a couple of weeks out from the event.
- Community only tolerating the event.

Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

- 95% of business/residents effected previously (Sussex Inlet/St Georges Basin).
- Great to be enthusiastic.

- Residents unable to leave.
- Public address sound system too loud in previous years – better for this Triathlon.

Rangers (SCC)

- Comments have been co-ordinated with Traffic Section.

Traffic (SCC)

- Due to late lodgement of applications, there is insufficient time to report the application to the Traffic Committee. This needs to be addressed in the future to ensure appropriate assessment of on road matters.

Events/Investments (SCC)

- Early delays with determining if event required a Development Application or not.
- Discussed bond arrangement regarding repairs to White Sands Park, pre & post inspection carried out by Council.

Cathy Bern – Section Manager-Development (SCC)

- Applications are lodged late with insufficient time for Council to notify and assess the applications.
- Discussion to be had for the requirement of for lodgement to be six (6) months prior to an event.

James Bonner – Unit Manager – Development

- Issues with last minute route changes, must agree on route and lock it in.
- This year there was the most interest in the event from the community and Councillors.
- Pamphlets/ information/letter drop handed out too late by Elite Energy.
- Communication with the public always an issue.
- Need to iron out all the issues early.
- Good communication needed.
- Need to get the community onside.
- Council looks at overall impact.
- Development Applications must be submitted a lot earlier than they have been.
- Discussion about pre-lodgement meeting and the need to agree on an route acceptability route before DA is lodged with full plans.

Elite Energy

- 4,500 athletes competed in this event.
- Acknowledged that course change three weeks out from the event caused issues.
- Bump-in was Wednesday to aide in minimising impact (previous years it was Tuesday)
- Barriers were not placed until Thursday night, town more accessible.
- Tried to organise the events to ensure families, etc stayed around town and had access to main street.
- Entry to industrial estate (woollamia) – kept open to allow sufficient time for workers to access businesses.

- More roads open earlier this year, willing to make adjustments to ensure less impact for future events.
- A lot less social media backlash.
- Reusable drinking cups and re-use swim caps are used as well as recyclable drink bottles – less littering.
- Most affected last year were St Georges Basin/Erowal Bay area.
- A change in dates for the event may cause issues with less daylight hours meaning races would start later.

2019 Long Course – November

- Application needs to be lodged.
- Police not in favour use of road east of Callala Beach Rd – traffic flow issues.

Next Steps

1. Traffic Unit to provide Development unit with detailed notes from the day which include issues and matters or concerns to be addressed as part of any application for the Huskisson Long Triathlon event in the last quarter on 2019. These notes are to be provided to Elite Energy.
2. Elite Energy and/or their representatives are to consult with Council's Development Services Unit in the preparation and lodgement of a development application for the 2019 Huskisson Long Triathlon event to be staged from White Sands Park.
3. Elite Energy and/or their representatives is encouraged to consult with NSW police at the preliminary stages of the event planning for the Huskisson Long Triathlon event to ensure that their support to any proposed route can be achieved.
4. Elite Energy is to review the minutes of this meeting, Traffic Unit comments to the Huskisson Triathlon Festival held over the weekend of 22 February 2019 and lodge (if they seek to restage the event for 2020) a s4.55 Modification Application to amend the dates of the event for 2020 and provide sufficient time for Council to notify and assess the application for 2020.