



BELMONT WETLANDS STATE PARK

Nine Mile Beach is still open

Monday 16th July 2018

There have been recent reports in the media of possible closures to Nine Mile Beach or the restriction of access to certain areas. Access with a current Beach Permit remains unchanged.

The reaction from Councillor John Gilbert is a misrepresentation of the cordial discussion of many issues that took place at the inspection of Nine Mile Beach last Thursday by the Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Committee. A representative of the Trust was present at the meeting.

The NSW State Government has formerly gazetted the Belmont Wetlands State Park Trust with the authority to care for, control and manage the Park including 4.5km of Nine Mile Park in the public interest. The issues discussed were wide ranging but lead to no formal conclusions. Councillor Gilbert's knee-jerk reaction in no way presents a balanced view of the discussion on site.

The actual plans of the Trust in no way reflect this knee-jerk media campaign. Since December 2015 beach users have been enjoying the benefits of the Permit system put in place to ensure better management of the coastal zone and provide for a range of recreational needs. Beach-based recreational activities will remain open.

Beach users will continue to enjoy the benefits of this safe family-friendly destination, guided by our Compliance officers who are able to serve infringements on those who choose to breach the Park regulations. An educational campaign is currently underway to assist users in reducing further impacts on the fragile foredune vegetation. Other coastal managers are undertaking similar stabilisation practices. The pending dune management strategy and recreational needs studies will inform the Trust of a range of future directions in coastal management which currently remain undetermined.

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