

**TABLE OF SUBMISSIONS – WELLSTEAD ESTUARY MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.**

The table below summarise the comments received during the advertising period of the proposal, together with Administration’s responses to each comment.

Comments Received in Support:	Administration Comment:
Support retention	Noted
Barrier fence affords protection to drying estuary from traffic	Noted
Assist protecting feeding/roosting birdlife	Noted
Fence design allows for easy removal when river levels rise	Noted – fencing materials lightweight plastic star pickets and hose wire, set out in several sections to allow for ease of removal.
Has minimal impact on other users (dog owners) due to expansive beach areas nearby	The authorised dog exercise area begins on the northern side of the Wellstead Estuary
Shire should be commended on action taken to protect the environment	Noted
Fence is easiest, cheapest, effective option to protect area	Noted
Past extensive bird surveys identified 111 bird species access the estuary which includes protected and endangered species	Noted
Education and information programs being promoted but awareness alone is not enough to protect the area	Noted – FBG and Shire’s Environmental Officer have prepared information booklets on local birdlife to be distributed from caravan parks and CRC
No alternative workable alternatives known that would provide same around the clock protection of the area	Noted
Visual presence and aesthetic considerations are subjective – view is that benefits that accrue from fence outweigh slight inconvenience that the presence of the fence may have	Noted
There has been significant increase in visitation to town with increased number of visitors owning 4WD’s etc unaware of the fragility of the environment, damage to those communities becoming increasingly evident	Noted
Use of fencing is a simple and effective tool to control access and a common method to protect sensitive coastal areas	Noted

Comments Received in Objection:	Administration Comment:
Fence erected in advance of consultation concluding	Past Council resolution regarding future management options reserved right to erect the barrier fencing as a temporary measure to preserve the integrity of the habitat in the eventuality that the bar to the Wellstead Estuary closes prior to Council making a final determination as to whether the barrier fence or alternative solution is to be reinstalled on a semi-permanent basis
Concerns regarding past management practices which resulted in fence being swept out to ocean causing environmental damage and hazards	Noted – Council has previously acknowledged situation but management practices can be implemented to ensure situation is not repeated
Suggest alternative option to fence, create windrow to be installed by grader and supplemented by signage	<p>Option not favoured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The action would create a small primary dune feature that would be highly susceptible to coastal processes and drift and likely require regular maintenance by machinery that would heavily disturb nesting and roosting birds;</li> <li>• The option would modify the natural environment that bird life has adapted to and the effects of additional sand drift onto the sand bar where birds nest is not fully understood;</li> <li>• The windrow would create a straight lineal dune extending across the full width of the sandbar that would be inconsistent with the natural landscape and its presence likely to be further emphasised by signposts placed at regular intervals along its alignment. The cumulative impact of the windrow and associated signage may serve to create a greater visual intrusion into the landscape than would the current lightweight fence option.</li> </ul>
Poor past management has left remnant sections of fence in dune system in an unsafe situation	Noted - action will be taken to rectify/make good.
Seek immediate removal of the fence	Noted – not supported. Removal of the fence in the absence of any viable alternative option would potentially expose the area to disturbance and damage from motorised vehicles/dogs etc. A number of nests have been identified on the Estuary since the fence was restored and rehabilitation works completed.
Purpose and function of fence compromised by presence of other predators	Noted – purpose of fence is to minimise threat caused by human activities which are broadly accepted and acknowledged as being a major threat to shorebird habitats.

Note: Submissions are considered and assessed by issue rather than by individual submitter.