



Dam Kings Beach



Community Summary Document, Version 1.2

Kings Beach Salt Runoff Containment Proposal

Prepared by Dam Kings Beach Inc. with the support of Cham's Small Meats & Preservatives
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1. Summary

Dam Kings Beach is proposing the construction of a coastal containment structure at Kings Beach, within the Broken Head area of the Byron Shire, to intercept salt runoff from beach sand before it enters the ocean.

At present there is no barrier of any kind between the sand at Kings Beach and the ocean. Salt held in the sand is carried into the water with every tide, during rainfall events, and through ordinary foot traffic. This has been occurring without monitoring or management for as long as records exist.

We recognise this is a significant proposal for a much-loved beach and we do not put it forward lightly. This document sets out the problem as we understand it, the proposed works, and how the community can be involved from here.

2. Background

Beach sand naturally contains salt. At Kings Beach, this salt is released into the ocean continuously as the sand is wetted and disturbed. Our preliminary estimates, based on beach area, average sand depth and tidal frequency, suggest the volume moving from the beach into the ocean may be in the order of 800 to 850 tonnes per year. We want to be clear that this figure is an estimate and has not yet been independently verified. Establishing an accurate baseline is one of the first things we are seeking funding for.

While this volume may appear small relative to the ocean as a whole, the impact is cumulative. Salt that enters the ocean does not leave it. Over decades, an unmanaged source of this kind adds up, and at present nobody is measuring it.

It is our view that waiting for clear evidence of harm before acting would mean acting too late. This is consistent with the precautionary approach taken in most areas of modern environmental management.

3. The proposed works

The proposal is for a reinforced concrete containment wall running the length of Kings Beach, positioned between the dry sand and the intertidal zone. The structure would be designed to prevent salt-bearing water draining from the beach into the ocean, while allowing seawater on the ocean side to continue moving as normal.

Key features include:

- A main containment wall of approximately 6 metres in height above the existing sand level, with deeper footings to prevent salt migrating beneath the structure.

- Controlled drainage channels and overflow gates on the beach side, allowing collected water to be managed and held during high rainfall.
- A salinity monitoring station mounted on the wall, with data to be made publicly available.
- Two designated coastal access points with stairs and handrails, so that beachgoers can continue to reach the water safely.
- Native landscaping at the base of the structure on the beach side, and interpretive signage explaining the salt containment program to visitors.

The artist's impressions released with this document are indicative only. Final design will be subject to engineering, geotechnical and environmental assessment.



Artist's impression: aerial view along Kings Beach. Indicative only. Subject to detailed design.



Coastal access point with stairs and handrails. Indicative only.



Beach-side view with native landscaping and signage. Indicative only.

4. Environmental considerations

We understand that any works on the coastline raise legitimate environmental questions, and we are committed to working through these properly.

The structure has been positioned to avoid the littoral rainforest and the dune vegetation behind the beach. Turtle nesting and shorebird activity will be surveyed before any works begin, and construction would be timed to avoid sensitive periods.

Salt collected behind the wall will be managed through the drainage system. Options for its long-term storage and removal are still being assessed, and we expect this to be addressed in detail through the environmental impact assessment process.

We would also note that the alternative to this proposal is not "no impact". The current situation is one in which salt continues to enter the ocean every day with no oversight at all.

5. Cost and funding

The estimated cost of the works is \$47.2 million, including design, approvals, construction, and the first ten years of monitoring and maintenance. The structure has a design life of more than 50 years.

Dam Kings Beach will be seeking funding from the NSW and Federal Governments, alongside contributions from private sector partners. We are grateful to Cham's Small Meats & Preservatives, our founding partner, for their early support of the campaign and their commitment to responsible management of the coastline.

6. Consultation

We want the community to be part of this. Over the coming months Dam Kings Beach will be holding information sessions, running stalls at local markets, and inviting written submissions through our

website.

We are aware that some members of the community have concerns about the proposal, and we welcome those conversations. We believe that most people, once they understand the issue, will agree that the salt runoff at Kings Beach needs to be dealt with. Where people disagree is on how, and that is a discussion we are happy to have.

We would ask that discussion on our social media pages remain respectful.

7. Next steps

- Commission an independent baseline study of salt runoff at Kings Beach.
- Lodge a formal request with the NSW Government for an environmental impact assessment.
- Continue collecting signatures on our petition to the NSW Parliament.
- Hold the first round of community information sessions.
- Progress concept design with our engineering consultants.

8. How you can support

- Sign the petition at damkingsbeach.org.
- Write to your local member about salt runoff at Kings Beach.
- Subscribe to our newsletter for project updates.
- Talk to your friends and family about the issue.

Dam Kings Beach Inc.

Protecting the ocean from salt runoff
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