

17 November 2019

The Secretary,
Prince Henry Community Association

Subject: Update on Spearfishing Public Safety Issue – Little Bay

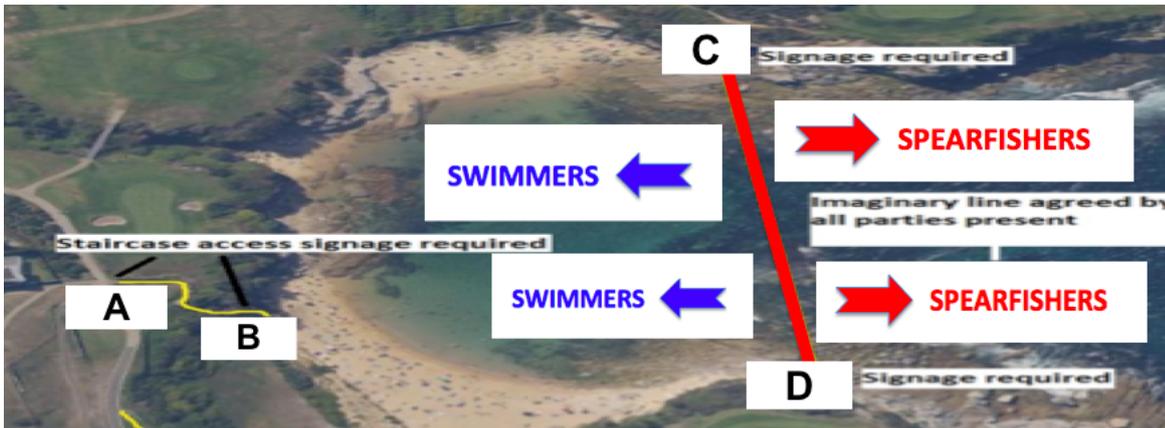
I would like to thank the members of the Prince Henry Community Association (PHCA) executive for their support of my proposal to have spearfishing banned at Little Bay.

Following representations that I made to the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales on this matter, an officer from the Department of Primary Industries arranged a meeting to discuss the spearfishing water safety issue. This meeting was held on 23 September 2019 at Little Bay.

At that meeting, strong representations were made by both the PHCA representatives and myself that, for public safety reasons, spearfishing should be banned at Little Bay. The DPI and spearfishing community representatives put forward a contrary view that the public safety issue could be best addressed by a non-regulatory approach involving the education of spearfishers about their safety responsibilities.

Importantly, what was agreed by all parties at the meeting was that, for safety reasons, spearfishers should not be entering the water in the midst of beachgoers at Little Bay or be hunting for fish in the waters of the inner bay where people are swimming and snorkelling.

Accordingly, a compromise solution was hammered out at the meeting whereby it was agreed that spearfishing activities should only be carried out east of the red line, shown in the map below. Furthermore, spearfishers should only enter and exit from the water at points within the spearfishing area shown on the map.



The DPI proposal is that responsible spearfishing signage will be installed at the top of the stairs (refer Point A above) with a map on the signage showing entry locations and the spearfishing area at Little Bay. In addition, responsible spearfishing signage will also be installed down the stairs (Point B) as well as at Points C and D as shown above.

The DPI has advised that this signage has been designed and is awaiting to be signed off by DPI communications on behalf of the Minister. The signs will then be sent to Randwick Council for mounting at the designated locations at Little Bay – this is expected to be by the end of this month.

DPI will also distribute generic pamphlets about safe and responsible spearfishing practices to appropriate retail stores, the Prince Henry Community Association, fisheries compliance officers and Randwick City Council.

In summary, I would like to finish this letter by saying that this whole matter has always been about public safety at Little Bay and although I have not achieved a ban on spearfishing at Little Bay, I feel that the compromise solution that has been agreed with DPI whereby spearfishers have to carry out their activities away from beachgoers and swimmers at Little Bay is a significant step forward in this important public safety matter.

Yours Sincerely

Allen Morris