

## CAMERA INSTALLATION BY COASTALWATCH AT BOTH PALM COVE AND FOUR MILE BEACHES

Tanya Rutherford: 1/58/16-02 - #1834090v2

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**It is recommended that Council:**

- a) Endorse the installation of two (2) cameras by Coastalwatch at both Palm Cove and Four Mile beaches; and**
- b) Delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to finalise and negotiate on all matters and licence agreements between Coastalwatch and Cairns Regional Council.**

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

This report was deferred from the 23 October 2008 SACCS meeting, due to a request for further consultation with Palm Cove and Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Clubs. This consultation has since taken place and letters of support for the project from Surf Life Saving Queensland and Cairns Surf Life Saving Club, Palm Cove are attached, along with an email confirming support from Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club (refer Attachment 3).

Coastalwatch is a free service, linking viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. Coastalwatch has been working very closely with Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) in delivering a successful surf safety surveillance camera system on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast in Queensland and would now like to extend this service to the Cairns region.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Coastalwatch was launched in 1998 and has become Australia's most popular water sports website and is consistently ranked in the top eight sporting websites. The site displays live vision from over 110 prime coastal locations around Australia and overseas. It also provides daily surf reports, swell forecasting, predictive weather information and news; as well as video, photographic and editorial content.

Coastalwatch has also developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use and more efficient and cost effective coastal management. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia and Surfing Australia; and supports Volunteer Rescue organisations, community groups and charities such as SurfAid International and Surfrider Foundation Australia.

### **COMMENT:**

The Coastalwatch website [www.coastalwatch.com](http://www.coastalwatch.com) links viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. This site is Australia's No.1 water sports website and No.1 web camera website.

Coastalwatch provides three levels of service, free for Council, from the one camera located on each site.

- **Safety:** Coastalwatch has developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia, the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguarding Association and the many Volunteer Rescue organisations and community groups across Australia and overseas.
- **Science:** CoastalCOMS ([www.coastalcoms.com](http://www.coastalcoms.com)) assists with effective coastal management as the system recognises the need to manage the long-term impacts of natural and human activities and to protect coastal resources for future generations. Coastal management authorities require adequate and timely access to information on the health of the beach system in order to effectively manage the distribution of resources and to address community concerns regarding beach amenity and safety. CoastalCOMS offers a range of modules which provide comprehensive real-time and predictive information about beach, surf and harbour entrance conditions. The real-time data includes offshore wave height, near shore wave height, wind direction and strength, beach usage and shoreline position. Combined with data from other sources such as tide predictions and expert observations, the collected data is stored and used to train predictive algorithms. The data produced by these algorithms is then displayed in a user friendly format via CoastalCOMS facilities. CoastalCOMS will soon be able to provide real-time information on beach state, beach risk and surf quality.
- **Recreation:** The website offers free access, high quality, live, archived and still images and weather condition reports, along with Environmental, News and Editorials. In addition, the 'Local Motion' section provides the opportunity to increase interest and coverage for activities, which will be of great benefit to the Community

Coastalwatch is a community focused commercial organisation, deriving income from the sale of advertising on site and the provision of data and related services, therefore this service will be provided at NO cost to Council. Coastalwatch is currently consolidating its position as the premier provider of these services in Australia and to this end would like to use both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beach as sites for their cameras and coastal safety monitoring equipment. Refer Attachment 1 – “What is Coastalwatch?”

The cameras will be mounted to the top of the light poles which are used for Uninet operations at both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beaches. Sport and Recreation Officers have discussed the installation of these two (2) cameras with Council Electricians and they have advised it will not pose a problem to the pole or lighting operation.

The hardware drivers for these cameras would be in a rack within the Cairns Surf Life Saving Club, Palm Cove and Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club. Refer Attachment 2 - Diagram of Camera and transmitter installation.

This is a free service to Council; however Council would need to enter into a Licence Agreement for each site that sets out the terms of the arrangement between Council and Coastalwatch. Depending on the success of the camera installation, Coastalwatch may in the future extend this service to other beaches within the Cairns Region.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

#### **Corporate and Operational Plans:**

Key Goal 6.4.1 of *Future Cairns* recognises the need for Council to adopt a more integrated approach to planning within Council (with reference to the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan 2003).

Key Goal 6.4 of the *Corporate Plan* recognises the important regional role that Cairns plays, including the hosting of competitions, events and celebrations.

Under the *Sport and Recreation Operational Plan*, the aim is to provide a wide range of and facilitate the use of, quality and accessible sporting facilities with a professional level of management service for community use and enjoyment.

#### **Financial:**

The installation of these cameras incurs no cost to Council. However, Council would need to absorb the minimal electricity cost associated with running these two (2) cameras.

#### **Sustainability:**

The cameras will be installed and maintained by Coastalwatch and would provide an added service to Council, Surf Life Saving Queensland and the Community.

**CONSULTATION:**

Discussions have been held between Surf Life Saving Queensland, Cairns Surf Life Saving Club, Palm Cove and Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club (refer Attachment 3 letters/email of support). Council Officers have also discussed the proposal with Uninet Enclosure Systems and other various units within Council regarding the logistics and benefits the installation of these cameras would have for Council and the Community as a whole.

**OPTIONS:**

It is recommended that Council:

1. Endorse the installation of two (2) cameras by Coastalwatch at both Palm Cove and Four Mile beaches; and
2. Delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to finalise and negotiate on all matters and licence agreements between Coastalwatch and Cairns Regional Council; OR
3. Not endorse the installation of cameras by Coastalwatch.

**CONCLUSION:**

Coastalwatch provides a free service to Council and the community and would be an invaluable tool to assist with weather predictions and enhance the beach safety at both Palm Cove and Four Mile Beaches.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment 1 "What is Coastalwatch?"  
 Attachment 2 Diagram of Camera and transmitter installation (Palm Cove)  
 Attachment 3 Letters and email supporting the project (3) from Surf Life Saving Queensland and both Palm Cove and Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Clubs.

Tanya Rutherford  
**Team Leader Sport and Recreation**

Jennifer Hunter  
**Manager Sport Recreation and  
 Community Development**

Ian Lowth  
**General Manager Community and  
 Cultural Services**

## Attachment 1 – “What is Coastalwatch?”

# what is coastalwatch?

The Coastalwatch website [www.coastalwatch.com](http://www.coastalwatch.com) links viewers to live coastal images via a network of web cameras, and provides a range of information about coastal conditions as well as news about coastal issues and events. The site is Australia's No.1 Water Sports website and No.1 Web Camera website.



## COASTALWATCH.COM

**C**oastalwatch provides three cost effective levels of service, all from the one camera located on site.

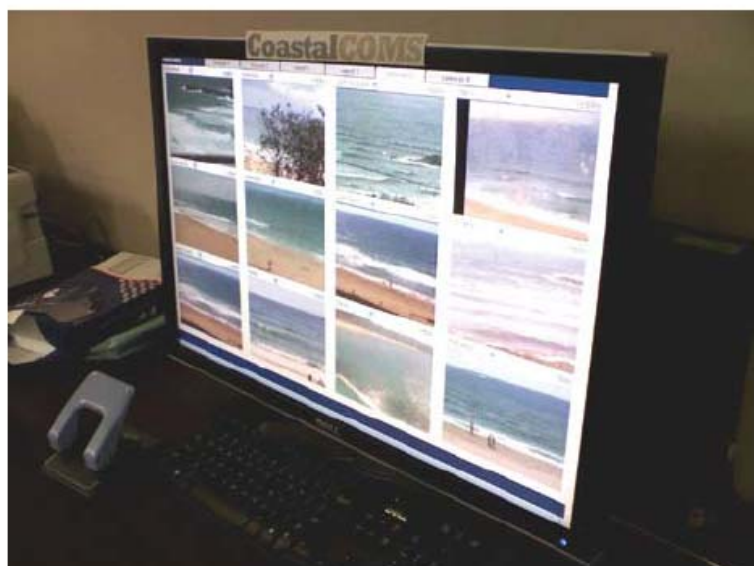
- **Recreation:** The website offers free access high quality live, archived and still images and weather condition reports, along with Environmental, News and Editorials. In addition, our 'Local Motion' section provides you with the opportunity to increase interest and coverage for your activities, which will be of great benefit to your Community.
- **Safety:** Coastalwatch has developed the Coastal Conditions Monitoring System (CoastalCOMS), which utilises the camera network to make a significant contribution to safer coastal use. To this end, Coastalwatch has partnered with Surf Life Saving Australia, the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguarding Association, and the many Volunteer Rescue organisations and community groups across Australia and overseas.
- **Science:** CoastalCOMS assists with effective coastal management as the system recognises the need to manage the long-term impacts of natural and human activities, and to protect coastal resources for future generations. Coastal management authorities require adequate and timely access to information on the health of the beach system in order to effectively manage the distribution of resources and to address community concerns regarding beach amenity and safety. CoastalCOMS offers a range of modules which provide comprehensive real-time and predictive information about beach, surf and harbour entrance conditions. The real-time data

includes offshore wave height, near shore wave height, wind direction and strength, beach usage and shoreline position. Combined with data from other sources such as tide predictions and expert observations, the collected data is stored and used to train predictive algorithms. The data produced by these algorithms is then displayed in a user friendly format via CoastalCOMS facilities. CoastalCOMS will soon be able to provide real-time information on beach state, beach risk and surf quality.

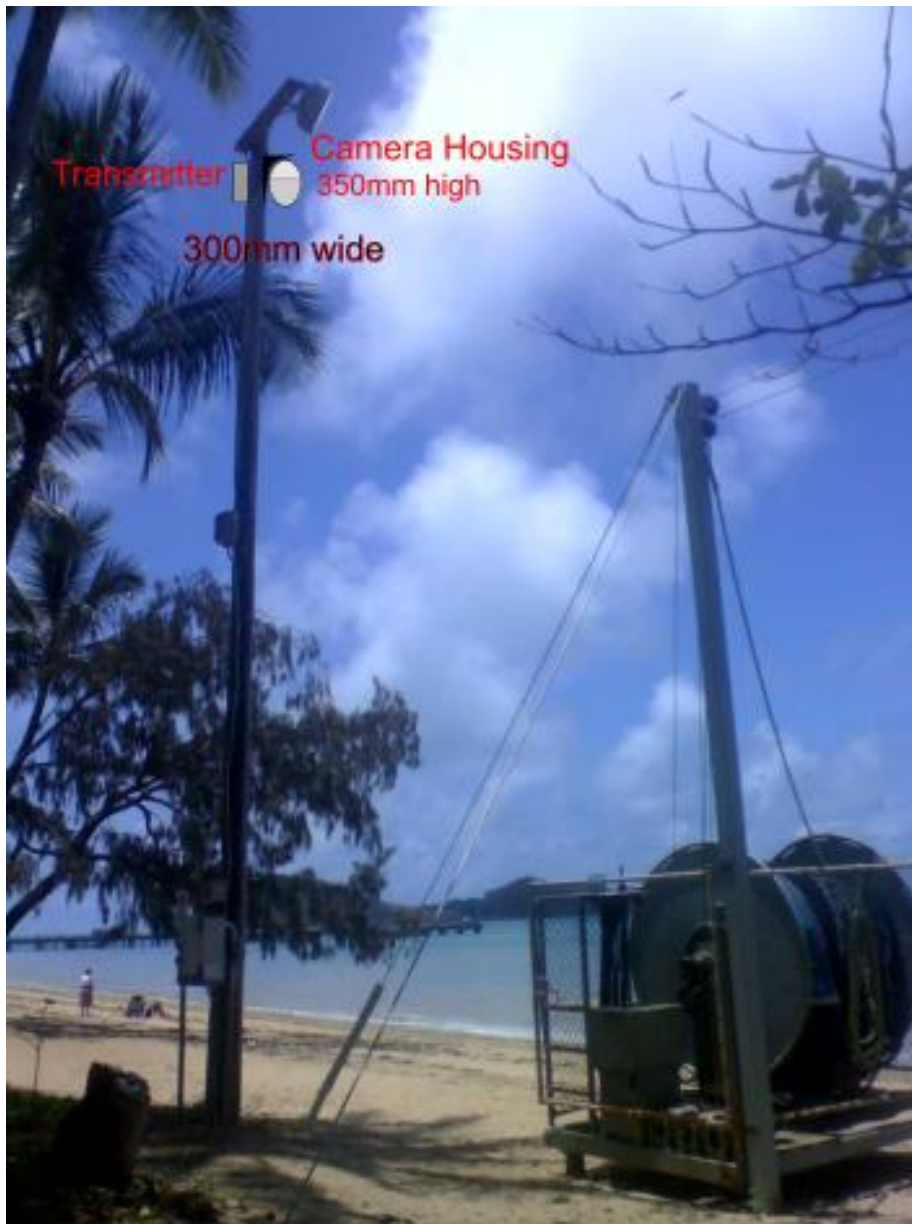
Coastalwatch is a community focused

commercial organisation, deriving income from the sale of advertising on site and the provision of data and related services. We ask that you consider Coastalwatch as a committed provider of timely and accurate services, and for a complete catalogue of modules, services and costings please contact:

Chris Tola  
Business Development Manager  
Coastalwatch  
Phone +61 02 9965 7315  
Email [chris.tola@coastalwatch.com](mailto:chris.tola@coastalwatch.com)  
[www.coastalwatch.com](http://www.coastalwatch.com)



**Attachment 2 - Diagram of Camera and transmitter installation (Palm Cove)**



### Attachment 3 – Letters of support for the project (3)

#### Letter of support - Surf Life Saving Queensland



The life of the beach.

4<sup>th</sup> November 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

**Letter of Support: Coastal Watch Cameras.**

Surf Lifesaving Queensland, North Queensland Lifeguard Service fully supports the installation and operations of coastalwatch cameras on Four Mile Beach at Port Douglas and Palm Cove beach.

In line with Surf Life Saving Queensland's vision of 'Zero Preventable Deaths and Injuries on Queensland Beaches', a number of new strategies and technologies are being introduced to assist us achieve this goal. One of these is the use of Surf Safety Surveillance Camera Systems.

Surf Life Saving Queensland has operated and tested this equipment for the past five seasons on the Gold Coast and more recently on the Sunshine Coast. We are committed to implementing the best possible surf safety surveillance camera systems, using digital IP technology and broadband radio links. Surf Life Saving Queensland has an established partnership with Coastalwatch, world leaders in camera technology.

The cameras have proven highly successful in allowing surf lifesavers to view and respond to potentially dangerous incidents before they become critical, therefore reducing risks to the public. By using this equipment we are further supporting our personnel on the beach and extending our lifesaving services beyond our normal service delivery areas.

Surf Life Saving Queensland and Coastalwatch will position a surf safety surveillance cameras on North Queensland beaches. Coastalwatch will also allow this footage to be viewed on your website for the use of your members and visitors to your beach. In order for the system to function Coastalwatch will also require permission to install and operate an internet service from the club's radio room.

The coastal watch camera information will be relayed to Surfcom office which is the radio office and is located at Cairns SLSC, Palm Cove and also Surf Rescue House (head office of Surf Life Saving Queensland).

The camera information will further our ability to protect the aquatic bathers and assist with up to date weather, data and statistics for reports etc

Yours faithfully

Ebony Keating  
North Queensland Life Saving Services Coordinator  
Surf Life Saving Queensland

Letter of support – Cairns Surf Life Saving Club, Palm Cove



## Cairns Surf Life Saving Club Inc

*Voluntarily Patrolling Palm Cove  
Vigilance and Service since 1924*

All Correspondence to be Addressed To:  
The Honorary Secretary,  
P.O. Box 80,  
Palm Cove, 4879  
Telephone: (07) 4059 1362  
Facsimile: (07) 4059 1362  
Email: cairnsurfclub@tdanet.com.au  
ABN: 73 096 592 269

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

**Letter of Support:**  
**Coastal Watch Cameras.**

Cairns Surf Life Saving Club fully supports the installation and operations of coastalwatch cameras in at Palm Cove beach.

The coastal watch camera information will be relayed to Surfcom office which is the radio office and is located in our club house and also Surf Rescue House (head office of Surf Life Saving Queensland).

The camera information will further our ability to protect the aquatic bathers and assist with up to date weather, data and statistics for reports etc.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Green".

Lawrence Green  
Club Manager  
Cairns Surf Life Saving Club



The life of the beach.  
Affiliated With Surf Life Saving QLD.



## Email of support – Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club

**From:** Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2008 4:16 PM  
**To:** Ebony Keating  
**Subject:** RE: letter of support

Hi Ebony,

Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club supports the Coastwatch Camera installation. The Club has already accepted Coastwatch's request to install a phone line on the Club's property, and we will also have the some of the computer components on site. Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club supports initiatives such as the Coastwatch Camera system to improve beach safety for public bathers, and also as a recording mechanism to provide security to volunteer Surf Life Savers and all beach users.

Thanks,

**Amina Pitt**

Development Officer  
Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club Inc  
PO Box 112  
Port Douglas 4877